

# General Obligation Bonds

The Plan anticipates \$1.8 billion in general obligation (G.O.) bonds over the next 10 years. G.O. bonds are backed by the City's property tax revenue and are repaid directly out of property taxes through a fund held by the Treasurer's Office. As a result of the successful passage of several large bonds in the past few years, the capacity of the G.O. Bond Program is limited in the near term.

Table 1.5 shows the Capital Plan's G.O. Bond Program for the next 10 years.

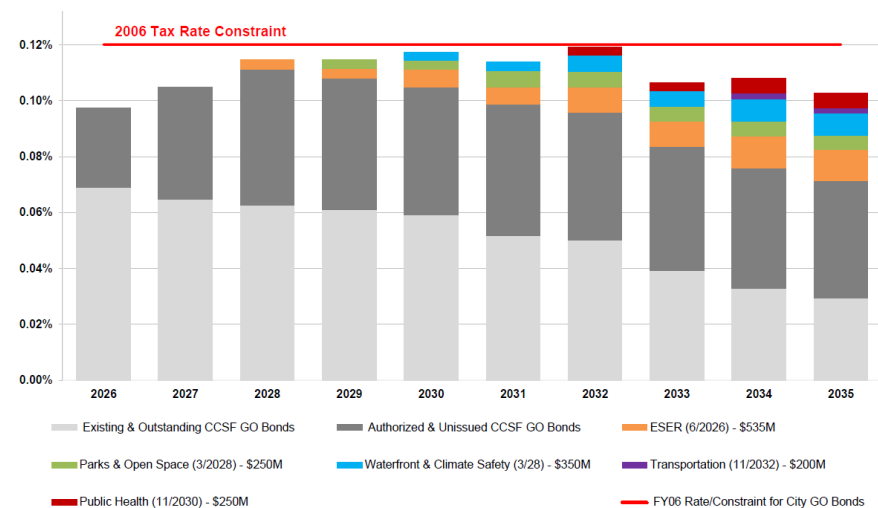
Chart 1.1 illustrates the relationship between the G.O. Bond Program and the local property tax rate, including existing and outstanding issuance and voter-approved bonds. This view shows the City's policy constraint that G.O. bonds will not increase the property tax rate above 2006 levels.

All amounts attributed to future debt programs are estimates and may need to be adjusted.

TABLE 1.5

<b>Amended G.O. Bond Debt Program</b>		
(Dollars in Millions)		
<b>Election Date</b>	<b>Bond Program</b>	<b>Amount</b>
<b>Jun 2026</b>	<b>Earthquake Safety &amp; Emergency Response</b>	<b>535</b>
<b>Mar 2028</b>	<b>Parks &amp; Open Space</b>	<b>250</b>
<b>Nov 2028</b>	<b>Waterfront &amp; Climate Safety</b>	<b>350</b>
Nov 2030	Public Health	250
Nov 2032	Transportation	200
Nov 2034	Affordable Housing	200
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,785</b>

Amended Capital Plan G.O. Debt Program FY2026-35



Adopted Capital Plan AV assumptions from Nov 2024  
Assumes AAB reserves in FY26, and growth of 0.52% in FY27, 2.63% in FY28, 3.18% in FY29, 3.28% in FY30, and 3% per year thereafter

Revised 11-7-25

CHART 1.1

# Debt Programs

Many of San Francisco's capital improvements are funded with voter-approved general obligation bonds (G.O. bonds) and General Fund debt called Certificates of Participation (COPs), or revenue bonds. Issuing debt is a typical method for financing capital enhancements with long useful lives and high upfront costs, which the City would not be able to cover through the Pay-Go Program. The use of debt also spreads the financial burden of paying for facilities between current residents and future generations who will also benefit from the projects.

## General Obligation Bonds

G.O. bonds are backed by the City's property tax revenue and are repaid directly out of property taxes through a fund held by the Treasurer's Office.

The Plan structures the G.O. bond schedule around the notion of rotating bond programs across areas of capital need, although the City's debt capacity, election schedules, and capital needs



Merced Heights Playground

also inform these levels. This approach was established in the original Capital Plan and has been maintained ever since.

Priority areas of capital investment include Earthquake Safety & Emergency Response, Parks & Open Space, Affordable Housing, Transportation, Public Health, and the Waterfront. The Plan occasionally recommends bonds outside these categories if there is a

demonstrated capital need that the City would otherwise not be able to afford. Table 5.1 lays out the planned G.O. bond schedule for upcoming elections.

Chart 5.1 illustrates the impact on the local tax rate of issued, expected, and planned G.O. bond debt. The red line represents the property tax limit policy established in 2006 that sets the annual level of bond debt repayment. The space

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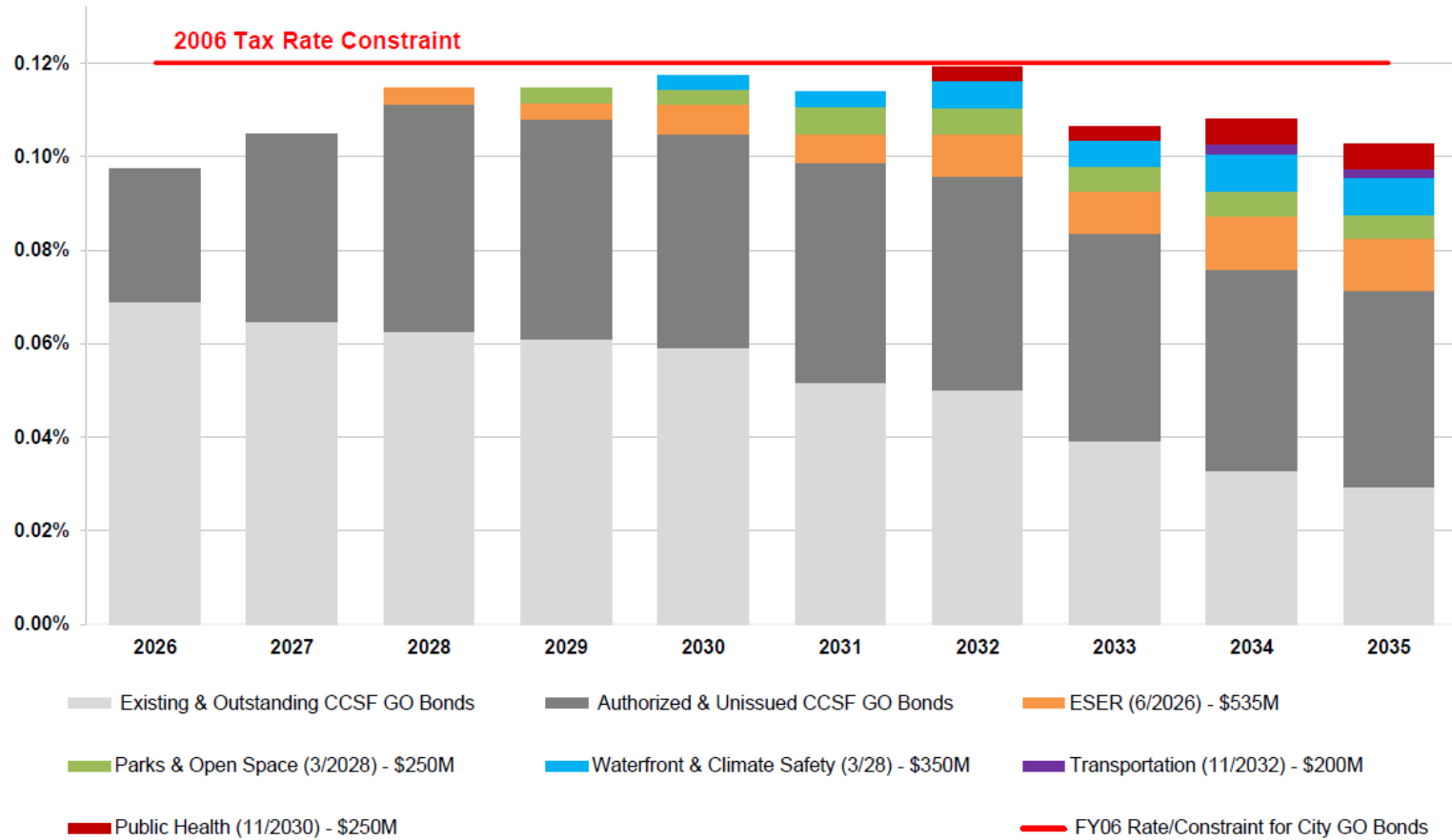
between the red line and the bars on the chart illustrates the projected capacity for bond debt for each year. All amounts attributed to future bonds are estimates and may need to be adjusted to account for new federal and state laws, programmatic changes, site acquisition, alternate delivery methods, changing rates of construction cost escalation, and/or newly emerged City needs.

The G.O. Bond Program's capacity is largely driven by changes in assessed value and associated property tax

revenues within the city. While the passage of recent bonds is a sign of the effectiveness of the capital planning process, it also impacts the available bond capacity going forward. The passage of six bonds for a total of \$2.8 billion since 2018 means there is considerably less capacity for this 10-year capital planning cycle compared to previous ones. For more information on the G.O. bond policies and past bonds, please see the **Introduction**.

CHART 5.1

## Amended Capital Plan G.O. Debt Program FY2026-35



*Adopted Capital Plan AV assumptions from Nov 2024*

*Assumes AAB reserves in FY26, and growth of 0.52% in FY27, 2.63% in FY28, 3.18% in FY29, 3.28% in FY30, and 3% per year thereafter*

*Revised 11-7-25*