

EDITORIALS

Editorial: Proposition 4: Vote yes to help children's hospitals

By [THE SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE EDITORIAL BOARD](#) SEP. 19, 2018 3:50 PM

Under state law, the children's programs at the five University of California academic medical center campuses and eight private nonprofit hospitals — including Rady Children's Hospital in San Diego — are designated as "children's hospitals" eligible for state bond funds. [Proposition 4](#) would authorize the sale of \$1.5 billion in general obligation bonds, with 90 percent going to the 13 children's hospitals for capital improvement projects. The Rady facility would be eligible for \$135 million in bond funds.

At a time when the state regularly sets aside billions of dollars in reserves, it's tough to grasp the logic of using borrowed money to fix up hospitals that will end up costing taxpayers about \$2.9 billion. Nevertheless, The San Diego Union-Tribune Editorial Board supports Proposition 4. Thanks to Gov. Jerry Brown's coolness to bonds, even if all the measures now before voters pass, the state is on track to spend less than 5 percent of its general fund budget on bond payments — a relatively small amount.

And as Zocalo Public Square columnist Joe Mathews recently [pointed out](#) on these pages, two previous state bonds helping children's hospitals were well-managed. He also makes the case that the 13 hospitals do an admirable job helping the children of California deal with potentially devastating illnesses — and that their needs for capital improvements are undeniable. Vote yes on Proposition 4.