

Voter Guide

November 6, 2018 :: San Francisco Election
League of Women Voters San Francisco

Prop A

Yes

Embarcadero Seawall Earthquake Safety Support

Proposition A is new legislation to fund life-safety upgrades to San Francisco's 100-year-old seawall, which extends three miles from Fisherman's Wharf to Mission Creek (the Embarcadero Seawall). The Embarcadero Seawall is the only structure holding back Bay waters, protecting lower Financial District buildings and lands, BART and SF Muni transit lines and utilities infrastructure serving residents, businesses and visitors. The Embarcadero Seawall is deteriorating due to age and increased battering by weather and rising seas. It is not expected to withstand damage caused by a major earthquake.

In brief, the Embarcadero Seawall must be upgraded. The bond proceeds will be supplemented by State and Federal resources. The measure requires audits of the bond, conducted by the San Francisco Citizens General Bond Oversight Committee and public access to information about proceeds management and use.

Prop B

No

City Privacy Guidelines Don't Support

Proposition B would endanger existing open government policies that maintain the transparency and accountability of San Francisco government. The privacy guidelines in Prop B are non-binding. The only legal effect this measure will have is assigning an additional duty to the City Administrator and increasing the broadness of the Board of Supervisors' authority to amend voter-amended ordinances.

LWVSF believes that the Charter should prohibit the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors from interfering in the operation of administrative affairs. Prop B would require the City Administrator to write and propose an ordinance to the Board of Supervisors on the implementation of the privacy guidelines in the measure. This measure attempts to set employment policy by ordinance, which the League opposes. Prop B would give the Board of Supervisors more authority to amend the existing provisions of the Sunshine Ordinance. The League believes that this has the potential to negatively impact and weaken the Sunshine Ordinance. While the Board of Supervisors should be applauded for this attempt to enshrine a Privacy First statement of policy into the Charter, Prop B also falls short on its intended purpose of protecting San Franciscans' privacy.

Prop C
Neutral

Additional Business Taxes to Fund Homeless Services

Neutral

Proposition C, seeks to raise funds for programs for homeless residents by imposing an additional 0.175%-0.690% gross receipts tax on San Francisco businesses with gross revenues of over \$50 million, and an additional tax of 1.5 percent on payroll expenses on San Francisco businesses that pay the administrative office tax. Funds are to be set aside in the Our City Our Home fund for use on permanent housing, mental health services, prevention, and short-term shelter for homeless residents.

While these programs do conform with the League's positions on providing housing for homeless individuals, the League's state and local positions discourage the use of earmarks, especially as there is no mechanism to review and reassess the set-asides at a future date. In line with the precedent set on previous similar propositions, LWVSF is neutral on Proposition C.

Prop D
No
Position

Additional Tax on Cannabis Businesses; Expanding the Businesses Subject to Business Taxes

No Position

The League has not studied cannabis and therefore has no policy position on cannabis.

Prop E
Neutral

Partial Allocation of Hotel Tax for Arts and Cultural Purposes

Neutral

Proposition E proposes to distribute up to 1.5% of the current 8% base hotel tax for arts and cultural purposes. The League supports tax measures that have the flexibility to meet the changing needs of local government services. The League recognizes that the arts contribute to the vibrancy of our city, however, the League's positions on earmarks, requires that measures contain an automatic sunset date and provisions for mandatory government body review and reauthorization. For this reason, the League is neutral on Proposition E.