582 Market Street, Suite 615 • San Francisco, CA 94104 • T: (415) 989-8683 • F: (415) 989-8685 • lwvsf@lwvsf.org • www.lwvsf.org

RECOMMENDS

November 8, 2016 General Election

Prop A School Bonds

YES

Would authorize the San Francisco Unified School District to issue up to \$744,250,000 in general obligation bonds. These funds may be used to repair and upgrade any School District site. The League's positions support adequate funding for public schools, and the use of bond financing for expenses of this type.

Prop B City College Parcel Tax

YES

Would, beginning in 2017, replace the current parcel tax of \$79 per year expiring in 2021 with a parcel tax of \$99 per year expiring in 2032. The additional funds would offset reductions in State funding and help City College of San Francisco to maintain current services. The League's positions support adequate funding for public schools, and the use of a parcel tax to fund expenses of this type.

Prop C Loans to Finance Acquisition and Rehabilitation of Affordable Housing

YES

This measure is an amendment to an existing general obligation bond approved by the voters in 1992 in support of seismic upgrading for both affordable housing stock and market rate buildings. 66 2/3% of the voters must approve this measure in order for it to take effect. If the proposition is approved approximately \$261 million of borrowing authority would be redirected to acquire, improve and rehabilitate at-risk multi-unit residential buildings and convert those buildings to permanent affordable housing in the City. The San Francisco, California and National Leagues favor measures that either promote effective and equitable methods of paying for City services, such as through a bond, or supports providing affordable housing. The LWVSF enthusiastically supports Proposition C.

Prop D Vacancy Appointments

YES

Proposition D returns the power of selecting their own representative to the voters, encourages grassroots participation, and enables candidates to compete more equitably for public office. Currently, if a Supervisor seat becomes vacant, the Mayor appoints the replacement who could serve as Supervisor up to two years before facing an election. This deprives the voters in that district of the right to select their own representative and places an appointee beholden to the Mayor within the legislative body. This also gives the appointee the advantage of running as an established incumbent in the next election. Proposition D simply requires that the Mayor appoint a temporary supervisor within 28 days and that the City then hold a special district election for that office. The appointee may not run in the special election for that position, although they can run at a future date or for a different office. The League urges you to support this strengthening of our democratic process.

Prop G Police Oversight

YES

Given the issues and questions that have been raised around police policies, practices and accountability, separating the Office of Citizen Complaints from SFPD and authorizing bi-annual audits is a major step forward. San Franciscans

deserve police oversight that is independent and more transparent. This measure would also rename OCC to Department of Police Accountability (DPA) and remove their budget from SFPD's.

Prop H Public Advocate

YES

Prop H creates the Office of the Public Advocate. This new Office can review the administration of City programs, management practices & contracting procedures and make improvement recommendations. The Office of Citizen Complaints (or the Department of Police Accountability, if Prop G passes) will report to the Public Advocate affording it even more independence from SFPD. While LWVSF believes the positive aspects of this measure, accountability and transparency, make it one we can support, concerns were raised regarding the staffing. We will be closely watching the implementation of this measure, should it pass.

Prop I Funding for Seniors and Adults with Disabilities

Neutral

Proposition I establishes a new fund that would support programs and services for seniors and adults with disabilities. The City would contribute \$38 million in the first year, increasing over a period of 10 years until it reached an annual maximum of \$71 million. Under Proposition I, this fund would pay for many of the same types of programs and services currently provided by the Department of Aging and Adult Services. The League has a strong position against set-asides at all levels of the government but recognizes the intention of the measure as an effort to secure funding to meet basic human needs of seniors and disabled adults of the city of San Francisco.

Prop J Funding for Homelessness and Transportation

NO

Proposition J establishes two new funds. The first fund allocates \$50 million each year to provide services and support programs to benefit the homeless population. Services may include providing housing, supporting programs to prevent homelessness and assist in transitioning out of homelessness. The second fund allocates \$101.6 million to be distributed between the SFMTA, CTA and DPW for improvements to the public transit system. While the League has positions that support the maintenance public transit and meeting basic human needs, the League has a strong position against set-asides at all levels of the government. Additionally, the clause in the proposition granting the mayor the authority to terminate either fund based on "his or her review of the City's financial condition," has the potential for abuse.

Prop K General Sales Tax

NEUTRAL

The San Francisco sales tax is currently 8.75%. After December 31, 2016, the overall sales tax will be reduced to 8.5%. Proposition K proposes increasing the sales tax 0.75% to a total of 9.25%. The 0.75% tax would increase the revenue of the General Fund.

Prop L MTA Appointments and Budgets

NO

Prop L would split appointment power between the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors for SFMTA Directors and reduce to a simple majority, the vote needed to reject an SFMTA budget. The League's position is that the Mayor should retain his powers of appointment.

Prop M Housing and Development Commission

NO

This Charter amendment would replace two existing departments that deal with housing issues (staffed with 200+ employees) with two new departments (also staffed with 200+ employees). It is anticipated the eliminated and new departments' work would be the same. In addition the Proposition would create a new seven-member Housing and Development Commission to oversee the two renamed departments. The Mayor currently appoints the heads of the two departments, with power to remove them. The Mayor would lose all authority over the departments, and would have no authority over the Commission. Decreasing responsibility from the Mayor's Office is contrary to the San Francisco

League's position favoring a strong Mayor. In addition and importantly, this Proposition also would invalidate ALL rules pertaining to the City's competitive bidding process for developing affordable housing previously approved by the voters, including any measures passed on November 8, 2016. Such indiscriminate obliteration of voter-approved rules lacks a democratic character.

Prop O Office Development in Candlestick Point and Hunters Point NO

Prop O would amend the Planning Code permanently exempting new office space construction in Candlestick and Hunters Points from the 1986 Prop M mandated 950K sq. ft. per year annual limit. Prop G, approved by voters in 2008, allowed for 330 acres of public parks and open spaces, up to 10,500 homes and up to 5.15M sq. ft. of office space. Prop O only serves to exempt office space from the annual limit and does not provide for additional open space or housing over what was approved in 2008.

Prop S Allocation of Hotel Tax Funds

NEUTRAL

Would allocate part of the current hotel base tax for two different areas: arts programs and family homeless services. The League's positions oppose earmarks, especially if the earmark has neither an automatic sunset date nor provisions for mandatory review and reauthorization. However, the hotel tax has historically included earmarks similar to those proposed by Proposition S and there is a significant social benefit in arts programs and family homeless services.

Prop T Restricting Gifts and Campaign Contributions from Lobbyists YES

Currently, there is no restriction on anyone from the practice of "bundling," which is a practice of collecting campaign contributions from others and giving them to a City elected official or candidate for City elective office. Along with requiring lobbyists to register the agencies they plan to lobby, Proposition T would restrict any lobbyist from providing direct and bundled campaign contributions to a City elected official or candidate for City elective office if a lobbyist is registered to lobby a City elected official's agency or agency for which the candidate is seeking office. Furthermore, the measure would restrict lobbyists from providing gifts to any City officials. The League is in favor of this measure as it provides for increase transparency in the funding of our local political process and limits the undue influence of lobbyists on local decision-makers.

Prop U Affordable Housing Requirements for Market Rate Development NO Projects

Proposition U would drastically change the definition of households eligible for "affordable" housing. Single person households with income up to \$82,950 and two-person households with income up to \$94,750 could qualify for "affordable" housing. (Currently \$41,450 and \$47,400, respectively.) The increased income ceilings could further disadvantage households that struggle to compete for the dedicated housing stock for them. These households are the most vulnerable in San Francisco. If approved, this proposal inevitably would reduce the chances for lower income households, as traditionally measured, to obtain an "affordable" unit in San Francisco.

Prop V Tax on Distributing Sugar-Sweetened Beverages YES

Would place a tax of one cent per ounce on the distribution of sugar-sweetened beverages. The distributor (the business that sells the beverages) has the choice of absorbing the extra cost, raising the price of the beverages to cover the cost, raising its prices generally to cover the cost, or a combination of these. Soda and other sugar-sweetened beverages are the number one source of added sugar in the American diet, and there is evidence that imposing a tax of this type reduces the consumption of these beverages. The League's positions support policies which promote the health and safety of all Americans.

Prop W Real Estate Transfer Tax on Properties over \$5 Million YES

Would increase the transfer tax rate for real estate with a sale price of at least \$5 million, starting at 2.25% and increasing to 3% for sales of at least \$25 million. Revenues from this tax would go to the City's General Fund. The League's positions support a progressive tax structure that provides revenue that grows with the economy. This is that unusual thing a progressive sales tax

Prop X Preserving Space for Neighborhood Arts, Small Business and Community Services in Certain Neighborhoods

YES

Proposition X requires developers of projects in parts of the Mission and South of Market neighborhoods to build replacement space if they remove production, distribution and repair (PDR) uses of 5,000 square feet or more, institutional community (IC) uses of 2,500 square feet or more, or arts activities uses of any size, and to obtain a conditional use authorization before changing the property's use. PDRs and IC spaces support the needs of low, moderate and middle-income groups in the South of Market Neighborhoods. The League supports incorporation of mixed-use space in these neighborhoods.

Prop RR BART Safety, Reliability and Traffic Relief

Yes

The League of Women Voters of the Bay Area voted to support BART's Measure RR. The \$3.5 billion general obligation bond will make the system safer and more reliable. Upgrades and repair of the 90 miles of track, the damaged tunnels, the overhaul of the electrical system and modernization of the traffic control system will modernize the infrastructure. A seven member bond oversight committee will ensure that funds are spent appropriately with an annual audit. Funds can only be spent for infrastructure improvements and cannot be used for operating expenses. Estimates for an average cost to a typical homeowner range from \$35 to \$55 annually.

NO POSITION

Because League positions do not cover the issues in the following measures, LWVSF is taking **no stand** on **Prop E**(Responsibility for Maintaining Street Trees and Surrounding Sidewalks), **Prop F** (Youth Voting in Local Elections), **Prop P** (Competitive Bidding for Affordable Housing Projects on City-Owned Property), **Prop Q** (Prohibiting Tents on Public Sidewalks), and **Prop R** (Neighborhood Crime Unit).

The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan political organization, encourages the informed and ACTIVE participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues and influences public policy through education and advocacy.