



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SAN FRANCISCO

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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

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 Projects NO

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 YES
Community Services in Certain Neighborhoods

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.