



PROS & CONS GUIDE

San Francisco Ballot Measures

Election Day: Tuesday, November 4, 2008

PROPOSITION A

San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center Earthquake Safety Bonds, 2008

General Obligation Bond -Requires Two Thirds Majority Vote For Passage

Placed on the ballot the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors (11 ayes)

The Question:

Should the City issue \$887,400,000 in general obligation bonds for building and/or rebuilding San Francisco General Hospital to improve earthquake security?

The Background:

The Department of Public Health operates the San Francisco General Hospital (SFGH) and Trauma Center. This hospital treats almost 100,000 patients annually and contains the only trauma center in the City. In 2000, the Department of Public Health commissioned a study which concluded that the hospital might not be able to continue to provide services after a major earthquake. The hospital has been identified as one of the City's highest priority earthquake safety projects. Under state law, the hospital must show that it plans to meet seismic safety standards by 2013 or close its acute care facilities.

The Proposal:

Proposition A is a bond measure that would authorize the City to borrow \$887,400,000 by issuing general obligation bonds for building and/or rebuilding SFGH to improve earthquake safety. The bond money would fund the construction of a new building on the current SFGH site. The building, as described in the City's Environmental Impact Report, would meet the State's new higher standards for seismic safety for acute care hospitals. Construction would begin in 2010 with an estimated completion date in 2015. Patient treatment would continue during construction.

The bonds would be paid for by an increase in property tax. Landlords would be permitted to pass 50 percent of the annual property tax increase amount to tenants. Current City debt management policy is to issue new general obligation bonds only after old bond are retired keeping the impact of bonds on property taxes the approximately the same each year.

Oversight of the spending of bond funds would be provided by the Citizen's General Obligation Bond Oversight Committee. One-tenth of one percent (0.1%) of the bond funds would pay for the Committee's audit and oversight functions.

This measure requires approval by two-thirds of the voters to pass.

Fiscal Effects:

The Controller states: The best estimate of the average tax rate for these bonds from fiscal year 2009-2010 through 2033-2034 is ...\$33.70 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation. Based on these estimates, the highest estimated annual property tax cost for the owner of a home with an assessed value of \$400,000 would be \$197.77.

The highest estimated annual cost for a tenant in a unit with an assessed value of approximately \$131,000 would be \$32.96. For the complete text of the Controller's Statement on Proposition A please go to SFvotes.org.

Arguments in favor of Proposition A:

- The City needs SFGH to care for people in need of acute hospital care. The trauma center is also needed. It would be a tragedy for the City to have to close the hospital because of a failure to do this seismic upgrading.
Costs associated with the bond issue would be carefully monitored to ensure that public money is not wasted.
The property tax increase would not be excessive and would be fairly allocated between property owners and tenants.

Arguments against Proposition A:

- Costs would probably run higher than estimated.
In the past, bond issues have been carelessly monitored, so people should demand more safeguards before voting in favor of any bond issue.
An increase in property taxes would be a hardship for many San Francisco homeowners and tenants.

ONLINE ELECTION INFO
www.sfvotes.org

ELECTION DAY IS TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4

- Polls open from 7 am to 8 pm
Early voting starts October 6
October 20 is the last day to register
For more information, visit the SF Department of Elections at www.sfgov.org/election

TO VOTE IN THE JUNE ELECTION, YOU MUST:

- Be a U.S. citizen and a resident of California
Be at least 18 years old by the date of the election
Be registered to vote
Not be in prison or on parole for a felony conviction
Not have been judged mentally incompetent to vote by a court
Federal and State Law now requires that every person who registers or re-registers to vote provide either a California Driver's License (or California ID card) or the last 4 digits of your Social Security number on your registration. card.

## PROPOSITION B

### Establishing Affordable Housing Fund Charter Amendment

Placed on the Ballot by Supervisors Ammiano, Daly, Duffy, Maxwell, McGoldrick, Mirkarimi, Peskin, and Sandoval

#### The Question

Should the City Charter be amended to establish a new fund called the San Francisco Affordable Housing Fund to increase City support for affordable housing?

#### The Background

Affordable housing funds are available through various programs designed to develop, rehabilitate, or acquire affordable housing in San Francisco. The Mayor's Office of Housing administers most of the funds allocated for affordable housing programs. These programs are funded by money from the City as well as funds from the state and federal governments.

In addition, the City urges the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency, which is regulated by state law, to maximize funds made available for affordable housing. The SFRA is funded by property tax revenue. Currently, over 50% of its funds are used to provide low and moderate income housing exceeding the requirements of state redevelopment law.

#### The Proposal

This Charter Amendment would establish a fund called the San Francisco Affordable Housing Fund. It would require the City to set aside 2 ½ cents for every \$100 of assessed value from annual property taxes for this Fund for the next 15 years to use for various programs designed to give low- and moderate-income families access to affordable housing. The Fund would be governed by the Mayor's Office of Housing (MOH), which would submit a annual budget for public review. Every three years MOH will present a coordinated Affordable Housing Plan for public review. Examples of the types of programs that the Fund could spend money on include:

Acquiring land as well as buildings and maintaining affordable housing units

Developing units for at-risk populations, including the disabled, those living with HIV or AIDS, the recently homeless, transitional youth leaving foster care, etc.

Programs to promote home ownership

Providing services such as tenant counseling, eviction protection services, and legal services

Helping with urgently needed repairs of conditions that endanger residents' health and safety

Proposition B also sets a variety of specific priorities for, and limits on, how the City can spend the Fund. For example, the City must spend at least 75% of the Fund to acquire and develop new housing units, at least half of which must be two bedroom or larger units.

Proposition B would affirm the City policy of encouraging the Redevelopment Agency use over 50% of its property tax

funds for low and moderate income housing. The new Affordable Housing Fund could not be used to replace other City funding for affordable housing, including the funds from the Redevelopment Agency.

#### Fiscal Effect

The Controller states: *Should the proposed charter amendment be approved by the voters, in my opinion, it would affect the cost of government for a fifteen year period beginning in fiscal year 2009-20 10 in that it would set aside funds for affordable housing which are currently available for any public purpose. To the extent that funds are shifted to these programs, other City spending would have to be reduced or new revenues identified.*

**For the complete text of the Controller's statement, go to [SFVotes.org](http://SFVotes.org).**

#### Arguments In Favor of Proposition B:

- Proposition B would give priority to developments that could attract state and federal investment.
- Affordable housing is important for San Francisco's bottom line: it helps our workforce stay in the City and move up the economic ladder; it helps the homeless move off the streets; and it encourages outside investment.
- This proposition would help maintain the City's economic diversity.

#### Arguments Against Proposition B:

- Given the City's projected \$250 million deficit next year, Proposition B would further tie our hands in responding to the City's needs.
- Proposition B would not address the needs of many San Francisco families, especially the working middle class.
- Private developers are already required to provide thousands of low and moderate income housing in their developments.



## PROPOSITION C

### Prohibiting City Employees From Serving On Charter Boards And Commissions Charter Amendment

Placed on the ballot by Supervisors Alioto-Pier, Ammiano, Chu, Daly, Elsbernd, McGoldrick, Mirkarimi, Peskin, Sandoval

#### The Question

Should the City Charter be amended so that City employees cannot serve on certain Charter boards or commissions?

#### The Background

The Charter does not prohibit City employees from serving on City boards and commissions. Some commissions, including the Retirement Board and the Health Service Board are required by the Charter to include some City employees. Certain City officials or their representatives are required to serve in an official capacity on some commissions including the Elections Task Force and the Public Utilities Rate Fairness Board.

#### The Proposal

Proposition C is a Charter Amendment that would prohibit current City employees from serving on most boards and commissions created by the Charter. This prohibition would not apply to citizen advisory committees, the Law Library Board of Trustees, the Arts Commission, the Asian Art Commission, the Fine Arts Museums Board of Trustees, the governing board of the War Memorial and Performing Arts Center, and the Retirement Board and the Health Service Board. Proposition C would permit City officers to serve on boards and commissions when the Charter requires their participation as part of their official duties.

#### Fiscal Effect

The Controller states: *Should the proposed charter amendment be approved by the voters, in my opinion, it would have a minimal impact on the cost of government.*

**For the complete text of the Controller's statement, go to SFVotes.org.**

#### Arguments in Favor of Proposition C

- City boards and commissions are intended to allow citizens to provide input into how various activities of the City are managed. Positions on these panels should include as many private citizens as possible.
- It is important that City boards and commissions allow a broad range of citizens to participate in the governance of the City. City employees can give input through their positions and do not need to serve on boards and commissions.

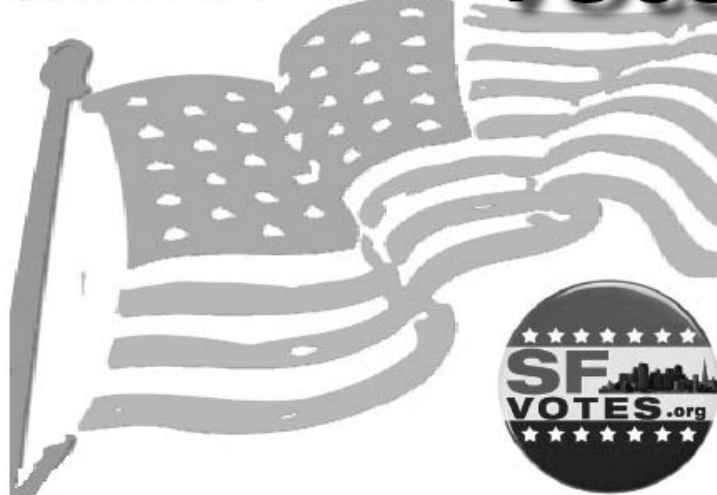
#### Arguments Against Proposition C

- Being an employee of the City should not prevent anyone from serving on boards and commissions in their capacity as private citizens.
- Many City employees, such as firefighters and police officers, could offer valuable input into decisions made in various areas of City governance.

*The League of Women Voters  
of San Francisco invites you to ...*

# Vote-By-Mail

*Register to Become  
a Permanent  
Vote-by-Mail Voter!*



*Did you know that there are at least 34 measures on the ballot on November 4?*

*Avoid long lines — fill out your ballot when it's convenient for YOU ... and don't miss an election ever again!*

*The last day to register to vote is October 20. The last day to request a Vote-By-Mail ballot is October 28.*

*Non-Partisan Voter Info: [www.SFvotes.org](http://www.SFvotes.org) \* (415) 989-8683*

## PROPOSITION D

# Financing Pier 70 Waterfront District Development Plan upon Board of Supervisors' Approval Charter Amendment

Placed on the ballot by The Board of Supervisors

### The Question

Should the proposed development Plan for Pier 70 be supported through additional hotel and payroll tax revenue? In addition, should the development plan serve as a master lease that does not require additional oversight or approval from the Board of Supervisors, once the plan is approved?

### The Background

Pier 70 is a 65-acre site in southeastern San Francisco. The Pier 70 site has approximately 40 buildings and structures eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. However, previous development plans for Pier 70 have failed because the site's conditions could not attract developers. Pier 70 was operated as a ship repair and heavy industrial maritime site, and the soil conditions at the site have varying and unknown levels of contamination. The historic structures at the site are in a deteriorated condition. The Port has received federal dollars to start a Phase 1 Environmental Site Investigation of the site to determine contamination levels and associated clean up costs. Using lease revenue and property tax growth, the Port has proposed investing \$45 million in the Union Iron Works buildings at Pier 70 and investing another \$200 million in Pier 70 infrastructure (parks, streets, utilities, etc.). The total cost for these improvements and other needed infrastructure improvements at Pier 70 are estimated at \$636 million.

### The Proposal

Proposition D would provide City funds to develop Pier 70 if the Board of Supervisors approves a financial and land use plan for Pier 70. The two main themes of this proposition are as follows:

**Optional Hotel and Payroll Tax Revenue:** The proposed development plan for Pier 70, if implemented, would generate additional hotel and payroll tax revenue. The Port is requesting to use this additional revenue stream, which would normally go to the City, if other project monies are insufficient. The Board of Supervisors has the option to approve the land use plan but not the financing plan. If the Board of Supervisors approves the financing plan, it could then appropriate to the Port up to 75% of increased payroll and hotel tax revenues attributable to the Pier 70 development for a 20-year period.

**Long-Term Lease Approval without Board of Supervisors approval.** The Charter requires the Port to seek Board of Supervisors approval for all leases, except maritime leases, that have a term of ten years or more, or provide anticipated revenue of \$1 million or more. If Proposition D is approved, Board of Supervisors approval of the Pier 70 plan would also authorize long-term Port leases in the area without any further approval required from the Board of Supervisors.

In addition, this proposition would make some changes to the Charter that are not directly related to Pier 70 development. These changes include allowing the Port to use revenue bonds not only for the initial development but also the repair and maintenance of Port facilities. This measure would insure that any indebtedness by either the Port or another agency would be guaranteed in the City budget.

### Fiscal Effect

The Controller states: *Should the proposed charter amendment be approved by the voters, in my opinion, it would in and of itself have a minimal direct impact on the cost of government. The amendment allows for creation of a development district and plan at Pier 70, a 65-acre site on the southern waterfront. A Pier 70 development plan will require significant expenditures by the Port, however, new and increased revenues resulting from the development, including property tax increment financing, lease revenues, and payroll and hotel tax increment financing would pay for these expenditures. For the complete text of the Controller's statement, go to SFVotes.org.*

### Arguments In Favor of Proposition D

- Pier 70 is a 65-acre Brownfield site on San Francisco's Waterfront. Many of Pier 70's historic structures are condemned. Without new funding these structures could be lost forever.
- Pier 70 is poised to become one of the City's vital new neighborhoods, preserving the history that helped make San Francisco a world-class waterfront city.
- Proposition D would provide the Port essential support to promote the reuse of Pier 70. This proposition could reduce the development risk for the project by removing the Board of Supervisors oversight on individual leases.

### Arguments Against Proposition D

- Proposition D could divert significant funds from the City's General Fund and could possibly impact vital services.
- This proposal would give unprecedented fiscal control to the Port without appropriate oversight.
- Proposition D would make the City financially responsible for any indebtedness on this project by either the Port or another agency.

## PROPOSITION E

### Changing The Number Of Signatures Required To Recall City Officials Charter Amendment

Placed on the ballot by Supervisors Alioto-Pier, Ammiano, Daly, Duffy, Maxwell,  
McGoldrick, Mirkarimi

#### Question

Should the City Charter be amended to adopt the signature standards set by the state to recall an official?

#### The Background

The Charter allows voters to recall elected City officials, including members of the Board of Supervisors, before their terms end. The City Administrator, Controller, and members of certain boards and commissions may also be recalled.

To recall an official, signatures must first be collected on a recall petition. For a City-wide office, the petition must be signed by at least 10% of the City's registered voters. For a member of the Board of Supervisors, the petition must be signed by 10% of the registered voters in the supervisor's district. This is a higher percentage than required by the state law scale.

When the Director of Elections receives a recall petition with a sufficient number of signatures, the director must set a special election to take place within 120 days.

#### The Proposal

Proposition E would change the Charter and adopt the requirements of state law. Under this formula, the number of signatures required on a recall petition for a city-wide office holder would continue to be 10% of City registered voters.

Adopting the state law would increase the number of signatures required to recall a supervisor. Most supervisors' districts have at least 10,000 but fewer than 50,000 registered voters. For a district of this size, state law requires signatures from 20% of the district's registered voters.

One district, District 8, currently has more than 50,000 registered voters. For a district of this size, state law requires signatures from 15% of the district's registered voters.

Under Proposition E, if the state law requirements for signatures for recall elections change, the signature requirements for the recall of City officers would also change.

#### Fiscal Effects

The Controller states: *Should the proposed charter amendment be approved by the voters, in my opinion, it would have a minimal impact on the cost of government.* **For the complete text of the Controller's statement, go to [SFVotes.org](http://SFVotes.org).**

#### Arguments in Favor of Proposition E

- The 10% requirement for signatures on a recall petition for a supervisor is too low. Adopting the state requirement would prevent frivolous attempts to remove a supervisor.
- Other cities in California use the state standards for local officials. San Francisco should make their requirements match those of other communities.

#### Arguments against Proposition E

- Citizens have the right to remove officials whom they no longer support and this effort should not be made more difficult.
- The present law is working and has not caused problems in the past. There is no need to change it now.

## EARLY VOTING AT CITY HALL

Did you know that you can vote before Election Day?

**October 6 is the First Day for Early Voting at City Hall**

Early voting is available 8 am to 5 pm, Monday through Friday, outside Room 48 in City Hall. There will also be weekend voting on:

- Saturday & Sunday, October 18-19, 10am to 4pm (enter on Grove St. only)
- Saturday & Sunday, October 25-26, 10am to 4pm (enter on Grove St. only)
- Saturday & Sunday, November 1-2, 10am to 4pm (enter on Grove St. only)





## PROPOSITION F

# Holding All Scheduled City Elections Only In Even-Numbered Years Charter Amendment

Placed on the ballot by Supervisors Daly, Dufty, Maxwell, McGoldrick, Peskin, and Sandoval

### The Question

Should all City elections, except special elections, be held in even-numbered years after the November 2011 election?

### The Background

Under the City Charter, elections for Mayor, Sheriff, District Attorney, City Attorney and Treasurer are held in odd-numbered years. Elections for Assessor-Recorder, Public Defender, Board of Supervisors, School Board, and Community College Board are held in even-numbered years. Also held in even-numbered years are elections to state or federal government offices under state and federal law.

The City must hold special elections, which may be called by the Board of Supervisors, required by an initiative, referendum or recall petition, or required by the State.

### The Proposal

Proposition F would shift all City elections, except special elections, to even-numbered years after the November 2011 election. Elections for the offices of the Mayor, Sheriff, District Attorney, City Attorney, and Treasurer would be in even-numbered years. Persons elected to the offices of City Attorney and Treasurer in 2009 would be allowed to serve five-year terms. The next election for these offices would be in 2014, and every four years thereafter.

The persons elected to the offices of Mayor, Sheriff and district Attorney in 2011 would serve five-year terms. The City would next hold an election for these offices in 2016, and thereafter every four years.

### Fiscal Effect

The Controller states: *Should the proposed charter amendment be approved by the voters, in my opinion, it would decrease the cost of government by a minimum of \$3.7 million over two years by consolidating elections and eliminating municipal elections in odd-numbered years. However, these savings would be reduced or eliminated if a special election is required in an odd-numbered year.*

For the complete text of the Controller's statement, go to [SFVotes.org](http://SFVotes.org).

### Arguments for Proposition F

- Voter turnout is larger in even-numbered years, when elections to state and national offices are held. Proposition F would lead to greater voter participation for the offices of Mayor, Sheriff, District Attorney, City Attorney, and Treasurer.
- By combining elections, this measure would save the City more than \$3 million every two years.

### Arguments Against Proposition F

- Public knowledge of candidates is greater and input into city elections is higher when local campaigns are not forced to compete with state and federal candidates and measures for the attention of the voters.
- Long lapses between elections would irreparably damage the Elections Department, which would find it even more difficult to retain competent and reliable workers than it does now with a two year election cycle.

## LEAGUE ON TV AND ONLINE!

The League of Women Voters of San Francisco partners with our San Francisco public, educational, and government cable channels to produce election programs for television and video. We are grateful to Access SF, SFGTV, and EATV for their tremendous support. In May, you will find on TV and online: Discussions of local ballot measures



Visit [www.sfvotes.org](http://www.sfvotes.org) for the TV schedule and to watch these programs as video on demand.



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## PROPOSITION G

### Allowing Retirement System Credit For Unpaid Parental Leave Charter Amendment

Placed on the ballot by Supervisors Alioto-Pier, Ammiano, Chu, Dufty, Maxwell, McGoldrick, and Mirkarimi

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#### The Question

Should the City Charter be amended to allow City employees who took unpaid parental leave before July 1, 2003 to have the ability to purchase, at their own cost, retirement service credit for their unpaid leave?

#### The Background

The San Francisco Employees' Retirement System (SFERS) provides retirement benefits for retired City employees. SFERS determines retirement benefits by multiplying a retired employee's highest annual City salary by an age factor for each year of service. Service time includes the amount of time the employee has worked as well as periods of paid leave. When calculating retirement benefits, periods of unpaid leave, including unpaid parental leave, are not counted towards years of service.

In 2003, the City Charter was amended to allow City employees to take up to 4 months of paid parental leave, without losing retirement or other benefits. Prior to this time, the City did not provide paid parental leave. If City employees wished to take parental leave it was on an unpaid basis. Employees who took unpaid parental leave before the amendment was adopted were ineligible to earn retirement credits for their unpaid time off.

#### The Proposal

This proposition would allow City employees to purchase retirement service credit for periods of unpaid parental leave taken before July 1, 2003, and have such credit count towards their service time when SFERS calculates their retirement benefits.

Employees must purchase this credit before they retire. SFERS would determine the cost to purchase service credit for unpaid parental leave so that the amount employees pay for the service credit covers all City costs.

#### Fiscal Effect

The Controller states: *Should the proposed charter amendment be approved by the voters, in my opinion, it would not increase the cost of government.*

**For the complete text of the Controller's statement, go to SFVotes.org.**

#### Arguments In Favor of Proposition G

- This measure would repair a gap in the City's retirement policy without any additional cost to taxpayers.
- City workers should not be penalized for starting families.
- Workers who took unpaid parental leave prior to July 1, 2003 are subjected to unfair and outdated rules.

#### Arguments Against Proposition G

- The City's retirement plan should not be used to remedy problems created by changes in the City's personnel policy.
- Voters have been asked to adjust City employee retirement benefits countless times and this piecemeal approach is expensive and confusing.

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## PROPOSITION H

### Setting Clean Energy Deadlines; Studying Options For Providing Energy; Changing Revenue Bond Authority To Pay For Public Utility Facilities Charter Amendment

Placed on Ballot by Supervisors Ammiano, Daly, Dufty, Maxwell, McGoldrick, Mirkarimi, Peskin, and Sandoval

#### The Question: 3 parts

Should the City Charter be amended to:

- 1) require the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission to evaluate replacing PG&E making the City the primary power provider to San Francisco residents and businesses,
- 2) establish deadlines for reliance on efficient, clean renewable energy resources and
- 3) extend the authority of the Board of Supervisors to issue revenue bonds to any public utility facilities?

#### The Background

San Francisco generates hydroelectric power at its Hetch Hetchy facility in Tuolumne County. Some of the power generated at this facility is used to serve the City's municipal and public power needs, such as for MUNI, The San Francisco Unified School District, and the Airport. The City's Public Utilities Commission (PUC) operates the electric utility for these services. PG&E, a state-regulated private utility company, operates the electric power utility that serves most San Francisco residents and businesses. The contract between the City and PG&E will expire in 2015.

Voter approval is usually required to pass revenue bonds. The Board of Supervisors with a  $\frac{3}{4}$  vote may issue revenue bonds for the purpose of reconstruction or replacement of existing water facilities or electric power facilities.

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## PROPOSITION H (CONTINUED)

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### The Proposal

Proposition H has several components: First, it would require the PUC to evaluate both the benefits of City control over of electric service, including cost savings and control over the development of efficient clean energy and the benefits of full service 100% clean public power to residents and businesses in San Francisco. Secondly, it would mandate a deadline for the City to meet 100%, or the greatest technologically feasible amount, of its energy needs through clean, renewable energy sources by 2040.

Proposition H would extend the Board of Supervisors authority to issue revenue bonds for any public utility facilities projects without voter approval. Currently, the Board may issue revenue bonds to finance acquisition, construction, installation or rehabilitation of facilities for renewable energy or energy conservation facilities.

An Office of the Independent Ratepayer Advocate would be created to make recommendations about utility rates to the City's PUC. The Ratepayer Advocate would be appointed by the City Administrator and subject to approval or removal by the Board of Supervisors.

The PUC study would evaluate different mechanisms of transmitting electric power produced at Hetch Hetchy to the City and would evaluate the electric power and distribution needs of the City. The additional resources and infrastructure required would also be outlined in the study, as well as a cost and benefit analysis.

The study would determine the most effective and expeditious plan to achieve the City's renewable energy goals. The City has a goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 20% below 1990 levels by 2012 and to procure 51% of the City's energy through renewable energy and conservation by 2017. In addition Proposition H sets the benchmark of 75% renewable energy resources be used by 2030.

The draft study would require multiple public hearings and independent expert review.

### Fiscal Effect

The Controller states: *Should the proposed Charter amendment be adopted, in my opinion, there could be costs and benefits to the City and County. The costs and benefits would vary widely depending on how the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) implements the amendment.*

*There will be estimated early costs of between \$825,000 and \$1.75 million for a comprehensive clean and renewable energy plan which includes a workforce development component as specified by the amendment.*

*The most significant cost or savings related to this or any similar power proposal would occur if the PUC buys or*

*builds power generation and/or distribution facilities. The proposal requires studies of the costs and benefits of this approach. There are several possible methods for costing the purchase or construction of power facilities and estimates range widely. Under any method, the amounts are certainly substantial—likely in the billions of dollars. The PUC would have the authority to issue revenue bonds to fund the costs of buying or building power facilities.*

*Other savings or costs to be considered would come from the avoidance of profits or from the loss of taxes paid by private power companies that would not be incurred by a publicly-owned entity, and the relative value of labor contracts and other efficiencies that might favor public or private power providers. Specific savings or costs cannot be determined at this time for other proposed objectives under the amendment such as generating renewable energy and reducing greenhouse gas production.*

**For the complete text of the Controller's statement, go to [SFVotes.org](http://SFVotes.org).**

### Arguments in Favor of Proposition H

- Public power could result in lower power bills for consumers. This is because the utility would be publicly owned and would not be answerable to stockholders.
- Residents of San Francisco currently pay millions of dollars to an unelected corporation to provide our power service (PG&E). Proposition H would provide a level of accountability that cannot be obtained from PG&E.
- This proposition would require the City to use electricity generated from clean, renewable sources. These requirements are beyond what the state of California requires of private companies like PG&E.
- Any revenue bonds issued must be approved by the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor. They must also satisfy requirements imposed by the Controller.
- To ensure that electricity bills remain affordable, this proposition would also create an independent Ratepayer Advocate.

### Arguments Against Proposition H

- This proposition could cost the City billions of dollars to build or acquire the infrastructure necessary to replace PG&E.
- New revenue bonds typically require approval by the voters. This measure essentially gives the Board of Supervisors a blank check - the power to approve any amount of revenue bonds without voter approval.
- City leaders cannot even get potholes filled or Muni to run on time, so why give them another huge responsibility.
- Proposition H would potentially create a City-owned utility which would be exempt from enforceable state regulation mandating renewable energy.



## PROPOSITION I

### Creating The Office Of An Independent Rate Payer Advocate Charter Amendment

Placed on the ballot by Supervisors Alioto-Pier, Ammiano, Chu, Dufty, Elsbernd, and McGoldrick

#### The Question

Should the City Charter be amended to create an Office of the Independent Ratepayer Advocate to make recommendations about the utility rates of the City's Public Utilities Commission (PUC)?

#### The Background

The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) supplies water and sewer services to all City residents and businesses. The SFPUC also supplies water, sewer, and electricity to municipal facilities including MUNI and the airport.

The SFPUC sets water and sewer rates; however, the Board of Supervisors has the power to reject rates set by the PUC. Rates are used to pay the cost of providing these services as well as to repay bonds issued by the City to build and improve these utilities.

Annually, the PUC must adopt a five-year forecast of its future rates. A Rate Fairness Board is a seven-member board that reviews the PUC's forecasts, holds public hearings, and makes recommendations to the PUC regarding its proposed rates. The Rate Fairness Board is comprised of two residential customers, two business customers, the City Administrator, the Controller, and the Director of the Mayor's Office of Public Finance. At least once every five years, the PUC must also hire an independent consultant to review rates and ensure that the costs are shared fairly among users.

#### The Proposal

This proposition would amend the City Charter to create an Office of the Independent Ratepayer Advocate. This Advocate would be appointed by the City Administrator and would make recommendations regarding utility rates to the City's PUC. In addition, the Advocate would have the authority to review the PUC's use of its revenues, hold public meetings, accept inquiries from PUC's customers, provide explanations about the PUC's rates, and conduct customer outreach activi-

ties. This position would be funded from the PUC's revenues.

#### Fiscal Effect

The Controller states: *Should the proposed charter amendment be approved by the voters, in my opinion, it would increase the cost of government by an estimated \$250,000 every other year, or \$125,000 on an annual basis, for independent analytical services from a ratepayer advocate and for Public Utilities Commission (PUC) staff to respond to requests from the ratepayer advocate. The amendment specifies that this cost would be included as an expense of the utilities and paid for through the charges to their customers.*

**For the complete text of the Controller's statement, go to SFVotes.org.**

#### Arguments In Favor of Proposition I

- The Independent Ratepayer Advocate would be an independent body that would advocate on behalf of rate payers.
- Previous rate increases have been excessive. This position would ensure that the utility's costs are shared fairly among all users and guarantee that rate payers have a voice.
- SFPUC is the city's largest, wealthiest, and most powerful commission overseeing an annual budget of over \$600 million. More oversight is necessary.

#### Arguments Against Proposition I

- The existing Rate Fairness Board holds public hearings and makes recommendations to the PUC regarding its proposed rates. A majority of its members represent rate payers.
- This proposition will add an additional layer of bureaucracy to a system that is overly bureaucratic.
- This is a redundant position that is a waste of taxpayer money.



### JOIN OR GIVE TO THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SAN FRANCISCO!

All are invited to become members of the League. By becoming a member, you support our efforts to educate and inform voters about their election choices. You also will become a member of the National, State and Bay Area Leagues.

**Join or Donate online:**

**[www.sfvotes.org](http://www.sfvotes.org)**

## PROPOSITION J

### Creating A Historic Preservation Commission Charter Amendment

Placed on the Ballot by the Board of Supervisors

#### The Question

Should the City create a Historic Preservation Commission to replace the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board?

#### The Background

The City's Planning Commission must approve all permits covered by the City Planning Code and conforming to the General Plan. The City Planning Code is administered by the Planning Department. The Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board assists the Planning Commission and provides review and recommendations for proposed designation of landmark or historic status for buildings, conservation districts, and historic districts. The Landmarks Board also advises and makes recommendations to the Planning Commission about requests for permits for alteration or demolition of historic buildings and for buildings in historic or conservation districts.

The Planning Department and the Planning Commission are not obligated to follow the recommendations of the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board when making decisions about permit applications for alteration, renovation, or demolition of designated landmarks, buildings in landmark districts, or other historic structures. The Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board has no specific authority under the Charter and its role is advisory. Nine members are appointed to the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board by the Mayor for four year terms. The Board may be removed without cause. Staffing and budget are provided by the Planning Department.

#### The Proposal

Proposition J would establish an independent Historic Preservation Commission with authority to recommend directly to the Board of Supervisors approval or disapproval of, the designation of buildings and districts for consideration of landmark status. The Historic Preservation Commission would have the authority to approve, reject, or modify permits for alterations or demolition of landmarks, historic buildings, and buildings in historic or conservation districts without referral to the Planning Commission.

The Historic Preservation Commission would make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors, with comments from the Planning Commission, of historic district and conservation district designations under the Planning Code. The Historic Preservation Commission would also make recommendations to the Planning

Commission concerning a Preservation Element of the General Plan.

Seven Commissioners would be appointed by the Mayor for four year terms and approved by a majority of the Board of Supervisors. Six of the Commissioners would be required to have specific architecture and historic preservation qualifications. Budget and staffing would remain with the Planning Department.

This Commission would replace the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board effective December 31, 2008.

#### Fiscal Effect

The Controller states: *Should the proposed charter amendment be approved by the voters, in my opinion, it would have a minimal impact on the cost of government.*

**For the complete text of the Controller's statement, go to [SFVotes.org](http://SFVotes.org).**

#### Arguments In Favor of Proposition J

- The Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board can only review recommendations for historic preservation and advise the Planning Commission. The Historic Preservation Commission would have the power to make enforceable planning and preservation decisions.
- Historic cities around the country like New York, Boston, and Philadelphia have independent historic preservation commissions with jurisdiction over historic buildings and neighborhoods.
- This measure ensures that Commission members would be highly qualified for each seat.

#### Arguments Against Proposition J

- Proposition J would add another layer of bureaucracy, and therefore uncertainty to the building permit process. This proposition would remove some permitting powers from the Planning Commission.
- The New Commission would bypass the Planning Commission and the Planning Department and go directly to the Board of Supervisors for approval of historic and landmark building designations.
- Qualifications for each seat on this Commission are too specific and would be difficult to keep filled. The permit process could be slowed down even more.

## PROPOSITION K

# Changing The Enforcement Of Laws Related To Prostitution And Sex Workers Ordinance

Initiative petition

### The Question

Should the City enact an ordinance which would limit police resources and procedures in prosecuting prostitution?

### The Background

In 1994 a task force was created by the Board of Supervisors to look at whether prostitution should be decriminalized. In 1996, the Task Force issued a report recommending the decriminalization of prostitution. This recommendation was never implemented. Other recommendations from the Task Force were implemented, such as the 2003 ordinance moving the oversight of massage parlors and their employees from the Police Department to the Department of Public Health.

### The Proposal

Proposition K would prevent the San Francisco Police Department and the District Attorney's Office from applying for or receiving federal or state funding for prosecuting prostitution. The measure would also prevent the Police Department from conducting investigations of human trafficking in massage parlors. Programs for prostitutes such as the Early Intervention Prostitution Program (EIPP) and the First Offender Prostitution Program would also be eliminated.

### Fiscal Effect

The Controller states: *Should the proposed ordinance be approved by the voters, in my opinion, costs could increase or decrease depending on how the City implements the ordinance. The ultimate cost or savings from the proposal would depend on decisions made in the City's budget process.*

*In general, the ordinance proposes to decriminalize prostitution by restricting the City from allocating resources to the investigation and prosecution of prostitutes for prostitution. Investigation and prosecution of other crimes related to prostitution would not be restricted.*

**For the complete text of the Controller's statement, go to [SFVotes.org](http://SFVotes.org).**

### Arguments In Favor of Proposition K

- Sex workers could report instances of rape and other abuses without the fear of prosecution.
- More money could be spent prosecuting more serious crimes.
- Sex workers would not be forced into re-education programs like the First Offenders Program.
- Sex-workers would not be subjected to life long economic discrimination associated with having a criminal record.

### Arguments Against Proposition K

- This measure would make it harder to prosecute human trafficking and would cripple funding to fight this problem.
- San Francisco could become a destination for prostitution and increase international trafficking.
- This measure would empower pimps and human traffickers, with no consequences for their actions.
- Prostitution is often associated with drug use and other illegal behavior. This measure makes it more difficult to prosecute criminal behavior.



## PROPOSITION L

### Funding The Community Justice Center Ordinance

Placed on the ballot by Mayor Newsom

#### The Question

Should the City guarantee first year funding for a Community Justice Center that handles cases in the Tenderloin, South of Market, Civic Center, and Union Square Neighborhoods?

#### The Background

The Tenderloin, South of Market, Civic Center, and Union Square Neighborhoods are plagued with over twenty five percent of all crime in the City. A large percentage of this area's residents are unemployed and living below the federal poverty level, and many crimes committed in this area are related to alcohol and drug use.

Incarceration has not been effective in preventing repeat crimes. Many individuals are in need of social services for mental health and substance abuse issues. As a result, the City has acted to establish a new Community Justice Center (CJC). Located at 575 Polk Street, the CJC would handle cases in which defendants are charged with committing crimes in the Tenderloin, South of Market, Civic Center, and Union Square neighborhoods of San Francisco. The CJC would hear some misdemeanors and non-violent felonies normally heard by the Superior Court. Defendants would be offered access to health and social services, including counseling, substance abuse treatment, mental health treatment, housing, education, job training, and other services deemed necessary by the City and the CJC.

The Board of Supervisors and the Mayor have already appropriated approximately \$2.64 million of City funds for the establishment of the CJC during the fiscal year 2008/2009.

#### The Proposal

Proposition L would guarantee first year funding for the CJC; the Board of Supervisors would not have the authority to reduce these allocations for the 2008-2009 fiscal year. Funding would be provided by the Department of Public Health and the City. The Department of Public Health has already received a federal grant of \$984,000 from the US Department of Justice Programs' Bureau of Administrative Justice for this purpose. Proposition L would guarantee City appropriations of \$1,770,000 for fiscal year 2008-2009. These funds would be used for capital costs and first year operations of the CJC.

Proposition L would also further define the CJC's scope and operations.

#### Fiscal Effect

The Controller states: *Should the proposed ordinance be approved by the voters, it would, in my opinion, have the net effect of increasing the cost of government by an amount of \$129,177 in Fiscal Year 2008-2009 to fund the Community Justice Center (CJC), a community-based collaborative court that would provide immediate social and health services to individuals charged with misdemeanors and nonviolent felonies in the Tenderloin, South of Market, Civic Center and Union Square areas.*

*The annual operating costs of the CJC are estimated to be approximately \$2.4 million after the first year. Note that an ordinance cannot bind future Mayors and Boards of Supervisors to provide funding for this or any other purpose. In future budget years, the ultimate cost of the proposal would depend on how the City implements the ordinance and on decisions made in the City's annual budget process.*

**For the complete text of the Controller's statement, go to [SFVotes.org](http://SFVotes.org).**

#### Arguments In Favor of Proposition L

- This sends a strong message to the Board of Supervisors that this project has voter support and should be funded in future years.
- The CJC would provide a more humane and effective way to deal with quality of life crimes.
- Incarceration does not always rehabilitate offenders, nor does it offer long term solutions for frequent offenders who commit misdemeanors and other non-violent offenses.

#### Arguments Against Proposition L

- The Board of Supervisors has already approved the funding for this project. This measure is unnecessary and does not need to be on the ballot.
- The CJC should be made available to all who could benefit from its services, not just those living in specific neighborhoods.
- The funding to be used for this program could be used to fund other vital services in the City, such as programs for the elderly, those with HIV/AIDS, and survivors of domestic violence.



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## PROPOSITION M

### Changing The Residential Rent Ordinance To Prohibit Specific Acts Of Harassment Of Tenants By Landlords Ordinance

Placed on the ballot by Supervisors Ammiano, Daly, Maxwell, McGoldrick, Mirkarimi, Peskin, and Sandoval

#### The Question

Should the City's Residential Rent Ordinance be amended to prohibit specific acts of tenant harassment by landlords?

#### The Background

Under the City's residential rent control law, landlords can not increase rent more than a few percent per year while the same person is living in the apartment. If the renter decides to move or gets evicted, the landlord can increase the rent up to the market rate – often much higher than what the previous person was paying. Landlords can only evict a renter for a specific reason, for example, not paying rent on time.

#### The Proposal

Proposition M would amend the City's Residential Rent Ordinance to prohibit harassment of tenants by landlords. Landlords would be prohibited from behaviors or actions designed to drive tenants out of housing without a proper eviction process. Landlords would not be allowed to request information that could violate a tenant's right to privacy, including information about residence, citizenship status, or social security number.

Violations of Proposition M would be directed to civil and/or criminal courts for enforcement and penalties. Proposition M allows for criminal and civil remedies for landlords found to be engaging in prohibited behaviors.

#### Fiscal Effect

The Controller states: *Should the proposed ordinance be approved by the voters, in my opinion, it would have a minimal impact on the cost of government. For the complete text of the Controller's statement, go to SFVotes.org.*

#### Arguments In Favor of Proposition M

- Landlords have used harassment and intimidation as a way to evict tenants.
- Discrimination and threats of physical harm often go unpunished. Proposition M would offer protection and remedies to tenants.
- Formal evictions are costly and time consuming for landlords. Proposition M would prevent backdoor attempts to remove tenants.

#### Arguments Against Proposition M

- San Francisco is already facing a housing shortage and a huge homelessness problem.
- Proposition M would create more legal stumbling blocks for both the landlord and the tenant.
- In order for a landlord to do a credit check on a tenant, it is necessary to have personal information such as a social security number.

## PROPOSITION N

### Changing Real Property Transfer Tax Rates Ordinance

Placed on the ballot by Supervisors Ammiano, Daly, Dufty, Elsbernd, Maxwell, McGoldrick, Mirkarimi, Peskin, and Sandoval

#### The Question

Should the real estate transfer tax rate be increased on certain properties and lowered on others where certain solar and seismic improvements have been made?

#### The Background

Under authority granted by state law, the City imposes a tax on the sale of real estate in San Francisco. The tax rate ranges from 0.5% to 0.75%, depending on the value of the real estate. The 0.75% rate applies to the sale of real estate worth \$1 million or more. The transfer tax also applies to real estate leases with a term of more than 50 years. Proceeds from the transfer tax go into the City's General Fund.

#### The Proposal

Proposition N would increase the tax rate to 1.5% for the sale of real estate worth \$5 million or more. The Board of Supervisors could exempt the sale of rent-restricted affordable housing from this increase. Proposition N would not increase the tax rate for the sale of real estate worth less than \$5 million.

Proposition N would extend the transfer tax to real estate leases of 35 years or more.

Proposition N would also create a new transfer tax reduction. It would reduce the transfer tax for the sale of residential property by up to a third if the person selling the real estate installed a solar energy system or made improvements to increase the seismic safety of the structure.



## PROPOSITION N (CONTINUED)

### Fiscal Effect

The Controller states: *Should this ordinance be approved, in my opinion, it would result in a net annual tax revenue increase to the City of approximately \$29 million. The ordinance would change the property transfer tax rate for properties with a sale price of over \$5 million from 0.75% to 1.5%.*

**For the complete text of the Controller's statement, go to [SFVotes.org](http://SFVotes.org).**

### Arguments in Favor of Proposition N

- Proposition N would close tax loopholes that are being exploited by real estate interests at the cost of tens of millions of dollars. The revenue generated from Proposition N could fund vital services for San Franciscans.
- This is a progressive reform measure that would ensure that City services are funded in the most equitable and fair manner possible.

### Arguments Against Proposition N

- Raising taxes is no way to encourage a diverse and robust economy.
- If this measure passes, businesses and individuals may choose not to buy or sell property because of the associated costs.
- We do not need another tax; we need to fix the structural problems with our budget.

## PROPOSITION O

### Replacing The Emergency Response Fee With An Access Line Tax And Revising The Telephone Users Tax Ordinance

Placed on the ballot by the Mayor and The Board of Supervisors

### The Question

Should the City amend the Business and Tax Regulations Code to change certain fees and taxes currently charged on telephone lines?

### The Background

For the past 15 years, San Francisco has collected an "Emergency Response Fee" of \$2.75 per month on local telephone lines. This money is dedicated to improving and operating the City and County 911 emergency response system.

Since 1970, the City has collected a Telephone Users Tax (TUT) for telephone communication services. . . Residential landlines and some other certain services are exempt from this tax.

## PROPOSITION O (CONTINUED)

### The Proposal

Proposition O would change the name of the Emergency Response Fee to the Access Line Tax. The tax would stay at its current rate, but the revenue would go into the City's General Fund. Lifeline (low-income) subscribers would continue to be exempt from this tax.

Proposition O would also revise the TUT. The tax rate would remain unchanged at 7.5% for telephone communications services. Residential landlines would continue to be exempt from this tax. However, Proposition O would more clearly define the types of services which would be subject to the TUT. Many new communications technologies, such as voice over internet protocol (VOIP) services, are not addressed in the tax code as written.

Finally, since some other cities have faced legal challenges for imposing telephone taxes, a yes vote for Proposition O would include ratification by the voters of the Emergency Response Fee and Telephone Utility Tax collections from past years.

### Fiscal Effect

The Controller states: *Should the proposed ordinance be approved by the voters, in my opinion, it would have a minimal impact on the cost of government.*

**For the complete text of the Controller's statement, go to [SFVotes.org](http://SFVotes.org).**

### Arguments in Favor of Proposition O

- Proposition O would allow more flexibility in the City budget process by directing tax money to the General Fund and not earmarking the taxes for 911 uses only.
- This proposition would update the definition of taxable telephone communication services to keep current with modern technologies.
- The ratification of past telephone tax collection could protect the City from costly lawsuits.

### Arguments Against Proposition O

- The City's 911 emergency response service could be subject to budget cuts if the dedicated funds are sent to the General Fund instead.
- Should voters ratify past tax collections which may not have been legal?
- Although the tax rates defined in this proposition would not increase, more services would be taxed if this measure passes.

## PROPOSITION P

# Changing The Composition Of The San Francisco County Transportation Authority Board Ordinance

Placed on the ballot by the Mayor Newsom

### The Question

Should the composition of the San Francisco County Transportation Authority Board (TA) be changed? Should the TA be urged to use City staff to perform its functions rather than outside staff?

### The Background

The San Francisco County Transportation Authority (TA) is a state agency separate from the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Authority (MTA). The MTA operates MUNI and other local transportation services. San Franciscans voted in 1989 to create the TA as the independent oversight agency for the allocation of the local transportation sales tax fund. The TA has three distinct duties: (1) to administer the City's sales tax revenues, (2) to distribute funds from the Air Quality Management District, and (3) serve as the congestion management agency. As the congestion management agency for the county of San Francisco, the TA performs an oversight role over transportation spending in the City by making crucial decisions on the allocation of funding between BART, Caltrain, Golden Gate Transit, Sam Trans, ferries, bikes, pedestrians, highway and road improvement including funding for MTA's capital projects.

MTA is governed by a board appointed by the Mayor, while the board of the TA is composed of the Board of Supervisors. There is currently some tension between the TA and MTA over local capital projects.

### The Proposal

The proposed ordinance would change the composition of the TA Board. The existing board consists of the eleven members of the Board of Supervisors. This structure would be replaced with a five member board consisted of (1) the Mayor, (2) an elected official appointed by the Mayor, (3) the President of the Board of Supervisors, (4) an elected official appointed by the Board President, and (5) the City Treasurer.

The proposed ordinance would urge the TA to have work performed where possible by agencies and departments of the City and County. The proposed ordinance would also require that the TA obtain expert financial review before adopting budgets and to adopt the ethics and public records laws that apply to the City and County.

### Fiscal Effect

The Controller states: *Should the proposed ordinance be approved by the voters, in my opinion, it would not increase the cost of government.* **For the complete text of the Controller's statement, go to SFVotes.org.**

### Arguments In Favor of Proposition P

- Proposition P would eliminate the overlap, duplication, and waste of having two authorities engaged in transportation projects.
- Proposition P would require the TA to adopt higher standards of transparency and accountability.

### Arguments Against Proposition P

- Changing the composition of the TA Board would eliminate the voter-mandated oversight of the MTA.
- The TA is already subject to state laws on ethics, public records, and financial and budget review. The same auditors that review the City's Controller regularly audit the TA's financial records and have given the TA clean audits for years.

## PROPOSITION Q

### Modifying The Payroll Expense Tax Ordinance

Placed on the Ballot by the Board of Supervisors

### The Question

Should the City amend the Payroll Expense Tax Ordinance by expanding tax liability to include certain entities not previously subject to the tax?

### The Background

Currently, the payroll tax for companies operating in the City of San Francisco is 1.5% for employee compensation exceeding \$166,667 annually. The City collects payroll information from companies and bills them for the payroll tax.

### The Proposal

Proposition Q would expand the types of businesses and other entities which would be subject to the payroll tax. These would include partnerships, limited liability companies, and professional corporations, among others. These types of entities often utilize methods other than paychecks to distribute compensation to members, shareholders or partners.

In addition, Proposition Q would also amend the Business and Tax Exemption Code to exempt businesses whose annual payroll outlay falls below \$250,000 from payroll taxes. This amount would be adjusted every two years to account for inflation.

### Fiscal Effect

The Controller states: *Should this ordinance be approved, in my opinion, it would result in a net annual tax revenue increase to the City of approximately \$10.5 million. The ordinance would change the number and types of businesses in the City that pay the payroll tax.* **For the complete text of the Controller's statement, go to SFVotes.org.**

### Arguments in Favor of Proposition Q

- Including more types of business entities subject to payroll tax collection would expand City revenues for use in the General Fund.
- Small businesses would be protected from excessive taxation under this proposal.

### Arguments Against Proposition Q

- The cost of doing business in San Francisco is already high enough. Adding new taxes could drive more businesses out of the City.

## PROPOSITION R

### Renaming The Oceanside Water Treatment Plant Ordinance Initiative Petition

#### The Question

Should the City rename the Oceanside Wastewater Treatment Facility the George W. Bush Sewage Plant, effective immediately upon the inauguration of the next US President?

#### The Background

The Oceanside Water Pollution Control Plant is located near the San Francisco Zoo. It treats sewage and storm water from the west side of the City and discharges the treated water into the Pacific Ocean. It is one of three plants that combined work to treat wastewater and storm water in San Francisco.

#### The Proposal

Proposition R would permanently change the name of the Oceanside Wastewater Treatment Facility to the George W. Bush Sewage Plant. This would result in the need to change the building's signage and website, as well as stationary, business cards, city maps and other public references to the facility.

#### Arguments In Favor of Proposition R

- The renaming of this plant would aptly reflect the Presidency of George W. Bush.
- The renaming of the plant would be the world's first presidential sewage plant and potentially attract tourists.

#### Arguments Against Proposition R

- This proposition makes a mockery of a well-functioning award-winning city water plant through this renaming process.
- This proposition is a waste of time and taxpayer money.

## PROPOSITION S

### Policy Regarding Budget Set-Asides And Identification Of Replacement Funds Ordinance

Placed on the Ballot by Mayor Newsom

#### The Question

Should it be City policy that voters approve ballot measures authorizing new budget set-asides only if a new source of funding is identified?

#### The Background

A budget set-aside requires that a specific amount of revenue be spent for a specific purpose each year. Over the years, voters have approved numerous set-aside amendments changing the City Charter to dedicate portions of San

## PROPOSITION S (CONTINUED)

Francisco's budget for specific programs. Once approved, only the voters have the power to change these Charter set-asides. Various voter-approved ordinances also require the City to set aside funds, but these ordinances are binding for only the first fiscal year.

For the 2007-2008 fiscal year, the City's total revenue was \$6.07 billion. After subtracting funding restricted because of state and federal requirements and the revenue set-asides required by the Charter and urged by ordinances, only \$1.1 billion remained for the Mayor and Board of Supervisors to spend on all other City purposes.

#### The Proposal

Proposition S would make it City policy that the voters would approve new set-aside measures only if the measure also identifies a new source of funding. It would also make it City policy that voters will not approve: New set-asides with a cost-of-living adjustment or other annual increase of more than 2% New or extended set-asides that do not automatically expire after 10 years

When a set-aside appears on the ballot, the City's Voter Information Pamphlet would include a statement from the Controller which would analyze the impact of the proposed set-aside alone, and in combination with existing set-asides.

#### Fiscal Effect

The Controller states: *Should the proposed ordinance be approved by the voters, in my opinion, it would in and of itself have a minimal impact on the cost of government.*

**For the complete text of the Controller's statement, go to [SFVotes.org](http://SFVotes.org).**

#### Arguments for Proposition S

- Voters elect the Mayor and Board of Supervisors to make decisions about the City's budget priorities; they should have flexibility to respond to changing City needs without being restricted by excessive or outdated set-asides.
- Voters should be given the information they need at the ballot box to understand how set-asides would affect spending on other City programs.

#### Arguments against Proposition S

- Voters should have the right to express their budget priorities at the ballot box exactly as they do now.
- The Mayor and Board of Supervisors would still have the ability to submit set-aside measures that would not identify new funding sources.

## PROPOSITION T

### Free And Low-Cost Substance Abuse Treatment Programs Ordinance

Placed on ballot by Supervisors Daly, Peskin, Mirkarimi, and McGoldrick

#### The Question

Should the San Francisco Department of Public Health be required to report on the demands for substance abuse treatment, develop a plan for meeting such a demand, and maintain sufficient levels of treatment services to meet the existing demand?

#### The Background

Over the last several years, funding cuts and reallocation of funding have reduced the number of spaces and beds available in the City's community's substance abuse treatment programs.

The cost of treatment for substance abuse is estimated to be \$25,000 per year, per individual. Although the demand for treatment spaces has grown, the availability of services has been restricted by budget cuts and reallocated funds. Presently, individuals seeking substance abuse treatment may be forced to wait for space in a program despite their instability.

The Department of Public Health estimates that 60 percent of homeless people in San Francisco have substance abuse problems. The cost of emergency care to treat homeless individuals experiencing substance-related emergencies is approximately \$75,000 per year, per individual.

#### The Proposal

Passage of this proposition would amend City Administrative Code to ensure that free and low-cost substance abuse services are available to meet the demands of any number of individuals requiring them.

This Ordinance would require the Department of Public Health to report annually to the Board of Supervisors with an assessment of substance abuse needs in the City. Additionally, the Department of Public Health must present a plan to meet such needs. For as long as substance abuse treatment services are being fully utilized, or remain in demand by any number of individuals, the City would be prevented from reducing funding, staffing, and availability of substance abuse treatment. The Department of Public Health's plan for meeting any unmet substance abuse treatment needs will be reflected in the City budget.

#### Fiscal Effect

The Controller estimates that: *Should the proposed ordinance be approved by the voters, in my opinion, it would increase the cost of government by between \$7 million and \$13 million annually in order to fund additional free and low cost medical substance abuse services.*

**For the complete text of the Controller's statement, go to SFVotes.org.**

#### Arguments In Favor of Proposition T

- Medical studies show that every dollar spent on substance abuse treatment saves \$7- \$13 in public costs.
- San Francisco has established a good community-based treatment system that should be available for all who need it when they are ready.
- Substance abuse treatment is less expensive than substance abuse related emergency care.

#### Arguments Against Proposition T

- This ordinance cannot commit future Mayors or Boards of Supervisors to providing funding for the proposals.
- San Francisco currently spends \$50 million in free and low-cost substance abuse treatment. The cost to meet the demands for substance abuse treatment is estimated by Department of Public Health to range from \$7 million to \$13 million in additional funding. The additional funding required to fulfill the funding obligations of this proposition could result in budget cuts for other vital services in the City.

## PROPOSITION U

### Policy Against Funding The Deployment Of Armed Forces In Iraq Declaration of Policy

Placed on the ballot by Supervisors Daly, Peskin, Mirkarimi, and McGoldrick

#### The Question

Should it be City policy that City's elected representatives in the United States Senate and House of Representatives vote against any further funding for the deployment of United States Armed Forces in Iraq, except for funds specifically earmarked for troop withdrawal?

#### The Background

In November 2004, San Francisco voters adopted a policy urging the United States government to 'withdraw all troops from Iraq and bring all military personnel in Iraq back to the United States'. Since that time, the number of troops in Iraq has increased rather than decreased. There is no definitive time line for the withdrawal of troops from Iraq.

#### Arguments In Favor of Proposition U

- In 2004 it became City policy to urge the United States Government to withdraw all military personnel from Iraq. Since that time troop levels have increased. It is time for San Francisco voters again to speak out against the war in Iraq, and this time more forcibly.

## PROPOSITION U (CONTINUED)

### Arguments In Favor of Proposition U (continued)

- The Iraq War has cost the State of California \$68 billion and the City \$1.8 billion during a time when health care, education, and other vital services are sorely underfunded.

### Arguments Against Proposition U

- Funding for the Iraq war will be not be influenced by a declaration of policy by San Francisco voters; this is a waste of taxpayer time and money.
- The time of San Francisco officials would be better spent working on the myriad of issues affecting San Francisco over which they have control.

## PROPOSITION V

### Policy Against Terminating Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) Programs In Public High Schools Declaration of Policy

Initiative petition

### The Question

Should it be City policy to encourage the Board of Education to reverse its decision to terminate the JROTC program and to continue to offer the program in San Francisco public high schools?

## PROPOSITION V (CONTINUED)

### The Background

The San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) has participated in JROTC for 90 years and has offered Army and Navy JROTC at seven public high schools. In November of 2006, the San Francisco Board of Education passed a resolution to phase out all JROTC program in the school district by the end of the 2007-2008 school year. As part of this resolution, the School Board created a task force to develop alternative career programs. The JROTC phase out has now been extended to 2008-2009.

### Arguments In Favor of Proposition V

- JROTC provides students and families a choice to participate in a diverse leadership program with 90% of participants from minority groups and with over 50% female participants. Over 90% of JROTC graduates go on to attend college and banning this program would be a disservice to the students.
- JROTC provides San Francisco high school students with physical education. Eliminating this program means that schools would have to provide additional sources of physical education.

### Arguments Against Proposition V

- In 2005, San Franciscans voted overwhelmingly to prohibit military recruitment in our schools.
- The military's policy of discrimination against the LGBT community is in direct violation of San Francisco School District policies.
- Targeting students at fourteen years old for military recruitment is too young.



### ABOUT THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

The League of Women Voters of San Francisco, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government. The League also influences public policy through action and advocacy.

The League does not support or oppose candidates or political parties.

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### OUR THANKS

The League's voter education programs were made possible with the generous support of our members and the following sponsors:

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