Pros & Cons Guide

Nonpartisan information on election ballot measures

Election Day is Tuesday, June 7, 2022
Polls are open from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm on Election Day

Early voting starts May 9
Register to vote or update your registration online or by mail by May 23
Registered voters will automatically receive their vote-by-mail ballot in May

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This guide was made by volunteers for the League of Women Voters of San Francisco, a nonpartisan political nonprofit that defends democracy. We provide education to encourage people to vote in elections and participate in government. We also engage in advocacy to influence public policy that benefits the community.

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Proposition A – Muni Reliability and Street Safety Bond

Bond measure placed on the ballot by the Board of Supervisors and Mayor Breed. Requires a 2/3 majority vote to pass.

The question

Shall the City issue up to $400 million in general obligation bonds for the construction, acquisition, and improvement of certain transportation, street safety and transit related capital improvements, to be paid for by a property tax assessment of approximately $0.010 on each $100 of assessed property value?

Background

The City's current street, transit, and transportation infrastructure is unable to meet current and future demands. The reliability, efficiency, and safety of the City's street, transit, and transportation infrastructure require modernization and new investment to maintain a state of good repair and to meet future demands.

The funding sources for City transportation infrastructure projects include federal and state grants, local transportation sales taxes, and general obligation and revenue bonds. The City has a policy to keep the property tax rate from City general obligation bonds below the 2006 rate by issuing new bonds as older ones are retired and the tax base grows.

The proposal

Proposition A is a bond measure that would authorize the City to borrow up to $400 million by issuing general obligation bonds. This bond money could be spent on City transportation infrastructure projects, including:

- $250 million on the repair and renovation of San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency bus yards, facilities, and equipment.
- $26 million on traffic improvements, such as new traffic signals, wider sidewalks at bus stops, and dedicated traffic lanes.
- $10 million on improvements to the Muni train system, including the train communication and control systems.
- $42 million on traffic signal and street crossing improvements, such as more visible traffic and pedestrian signals, curb ramps, and signs.
- $42 million on street redesigns, including wider sidewalks, raised crosswalks, protected bicycle lanes, bus lanes, boarding islands, and better lighting.
- $30 million on projects to manage traffic speeds, including lowered speed limits and speed radar signs.
Proposition A would allow an increase in the property tax to pay for the bonds, if needed. Landlords would be permitted to pass through up to 50% of any resulting property tax increase to tenants, subject to individual hardship waivers.

Projected average annual revenues from the bonds are $30,000,000. Proposition A would require the Citizens’ General Obligation Bond Oversight Committee to review how the funds are spent. Under this proposal, bond funds can be used only for projects that have a project labor agreement.

Controller’s statement: https://sfgov.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=10522770&GUID=F4643FB7-7D6D-485A-9C3C-84FF297F8513 (PDF, 36.7 MB), located on page 27

A “Yes” vote means: If you vote “yes,” you want to authorize the City to borrow up to $400 million by issuing general obligation bonds for City transportation infrastructure projects.

A “No” vote means: If you vote "no," you do not want to authorize the City to issue these bonds.

Summary of arguments for Prop A
- Transit upgrades provide faster commutes with fewer delays, and reduce congestion for those who drive.
- Intersection safety and access improvements increase accessibility for people with disabilities and move the City closer to its Vision Zero goal to eliminate pedestrian fatalities.
- This bond measure would not raise taxes because the City’s capital plan retires old bonds as new bonds take their place, keeping the tax rate the same.
- Access to federal matching funds will help the City make needed improvements now at a lower cost.

Summary of arguments against Prop A
- Muni ridership has plummeted for the past two years and the City does not need to spend more money on Muni. The City has enough revenue for upgrades, improvements, and maintenance.
- This bond measure could impose higher taxes on all property, with 50% of the taxes passed to the renters.
- Project labor agreements end competitive bidding in most cases.
Proposition B – Building Inspection Commission

Charter amendment placed on the ballot by Supervisors Chan, Haney, Mandelman, Mar, Melgar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Safai, Stefani, and Walton. Requires a simple majority vote to pass.

The question

Shall the City amend the Charter of the City and County of San Francisco to revise the duties, composition, and method of appointment for members of the Building Inspection Commission and affirm the Planning Department’s determination under the California Environmental Quality Act?

Background

The Building Inspection Commission (BIC) oversees the Department of Building Inspection (DBI). DBI is responsible for enforcing, administering, and interpreting the City's housing, building, mechanical, electrical, and plumbing codes. Today BIC has seven members, with four appointed by the mayor and three appointed by the president of the Board of Supervisors (Board president). BIC members serve two-year terms and must meet specific industry qualifications. Vacancies are filled by the appointing officer. The mayor’s appointees must include a structural engineer, a licensed architect, a residential builder, and a representative of a nonprofit housing developer. The Board president’s appointees must include a residential tenant, a residential landlord, and a member of the public. BIC appointees are not subject to approval by the Board of Supervisors. Currently, the BIC has the sole authority to appoint and remove the DBI director.

On September 16, 2021, the San Francisco Controller released a Public Integrity Review (PDF, 1,150 KB) for the DBI’s Permitting and Inspections Processes. This report detailed the issues around projects at 555 Fulton and 2867 San Bruno, including allegations against former senior inspector Bernard “Bernie” Curran in which he was alleged to have taken an $180,000 loan from developer Freydoon Ghassemzadeh and failed to disclose it. Curran was subsequently federally charged in a bribery scheme for allegedly signing off on the projects of building inspector Rodrigo Santos’ clients, so long as they donated to Curran’s preferred youth sports nonprofit.

The proposal

Proposition B is a Charter amendment that would change the composition of the BIC by eliminating the requirement that each seat have a specific professional, background, or industry affiliation. Instead, the proposed amendments would mandate that at least three members (two of the four mayoral appointments, and one of the three of the Board president’s appointments) have qualifications as an engineer, architect, or residential builder and/or work for a nonprofit housing organization.

Proposition B would preserve the mayor and Board president as the nominating officers for the BIC, but would make the nominations subject to public hearing and approval by the Board of Supervisors within 60 days.
Proposition B would remove the ability of the BIC to directly appoint the DBI director. Instead, the BIC would provide names of at least three qualified candidates to the mayor, who would make the appointment.

Proposition B would eliminate the ability of the DBI director to appoint one deputy superintendent and two assistant superintendents who are exempt from civil service.

Proposition B would also eliminate redundant language in the City Charter that was originally added in 1996.

Controller’s statement: https://sfgov.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=10421419&GUID=EC0A3547-1F44-4B8B-AB3D-9CA307D4E185 (PDF, 44.4 KB)

A “Yes” vote means: If you vote “yes,” you want the mayor to appoint the director of the Department of Building Inspection and to change the appointment process and qualifications for Building Inspection Commission members.

A “No” vote means: If you vote “no,” you do not want to make these changes.

Summary of arguments for Prop B

- Reforming the appointment processes for BIC members and the DBI director ensures accountability and transparency.
- Reforms will reduce bureaucracy and eliminate corruption.
- Reforms will make it easier to build affordable housing in San Francisco.

Summary of arguments against Prop B

- There are no public arguments paid or otherwise against Proposition B.
### Proposition C – Recall Timelines and Vacancy Process

*Charter amendment placed on the ballot by Supervisors Chan, Haney, Mar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, and Walton. Requires a simple majority vote to pass.*

#### The question

Shall the City amend the Charter to change the recall process by prohibiting starting a recall before an official has served 12 months in office, change the recall process to prohibit starting a recall when an official has less than 12 months until the next scheduled election for that office, and change the recall vacancy appointment process to prohibit an interim officer appointed to a vacancy created by recall from running for that vacant seat in the next election?

#### Background

Under current law, a recall is started by gathering signatures from eligible voters, and no person may start a recall if the official has held office for less than 6 months or there are less than 6 months left before the next scheduled election for their seat.

So far in 2022, a budget of $12 million has been requested for the recalls of three members of the San Francisco Unified School District Board of Education (school board) and District Attorney. For a period of time, the school district was going to be responsible for a large percentage of the cost of the school board recalls. Ultimately, the Board of Supervisors voted to cover the entire cost of the school board recall, and the cost of these recalls came out of the City budget.

Under current law, there are no restrictions on appointed officers running in any local elections. Interim officers are appointed by the mayor (or by the Board of Supervisors if the mayor’s position is vacant). Appointed interim officers are more likely to be elected because they have name recognition, easier access to campaign finance, and voters may feel they would be “firing” the appointed officer by voting for another candidate. Mayoral appointments have helped expand the diversity of the Board of Supervisors because, prior to the current Board, over half of the African American, Latino, Asian American, and female supervisors were appointed.

#### The proposal

Proposition C is a Charter amendment that would change the local San Francisco recall process. The amendment would prevent voters from starting a recall petition before an officer has served 12 months in their position or if the officer has less than 12 months left before the next scheduled election for that office.

Additionally, the Charter amendment would prohibit interim officers appointed to a vacancy created through a recall election from running for that vacant seat in the following election. This amendment would apply for all recalls, including the potential recall of District Attorney Chesa Boudin.
Controller’s statement:
https://sfgov.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=10522634&GUID=BE0717A1-4082-4C54-9466-C80B262CFEE8 (PDF, 2.6 MB), located on page 9

A “Yes” vote means: If you vote "yes," you want to change the recall process and also the appointment process for vacancies created by a recall.

A “No” vote means: If you vote "no," you do not want to make these changes.

Summary of arguments for Prop C

- Restricting interim appointed officers from running in the next election could level the playing field by removing the advantages these appointed officials have over other candidates.
- Shortening the timeframe for starting recalls could stop wealthy donors and individuals in the political minority from starting unnecessary recalls that support their personal agendas.

Summary of arguments against Prop C

- Changing recall timelines could prevent voters from having enough time to organize a recall.
- Restricting interim officers who were appointed to fill recall vacancies from running in the next election, when this rule does not apply to other interim officers, could create an unfair exception when there is arguably no need.
- Restricting the timeframe for starting recalls could allow failed politicians to stay in office for longer.

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Proposition D – Victims and Witness Rights

Ordinance placed on the ballot by Supervisors Haney, Mandelman, Safai, and Stefani. Requires a simple majority vote to pass.

The question

Shall the City create an Office of Victim and Witness Rights that would provide or coordinate existing City services and seek to establish programs that provide free legal services for domestic violence victims starting July 1, 2023?

Background

San Francisco provides services to victims of violent and nonviolent crime, survivors of sexual violence, and victims of gender-based violence and discrimination through many agencies and departments.

Currently, victims and witnesses of violent crime have recourse for compensation and assistance through several City agencies and departments. The District Attorney (DA) coordinates with and administers this assistance through the California Victim Compensation Board. The current DA has extended this coverage to those who experience law enforcement violence, including those hurt during lawful protests. Victims also have access to University of California, San Francisco’s Trauma Recovery program through the DA. Victim services are also available through the Sheriff’s Office, Adult Probation, and several other City departments and agencies. Publicly, there does not seem to be any type of official inter-agency coordination.

The proposal

Proposition D would create an Office of Victim and Witness Rights (Office) as a new City department. The Office would provide or coordinate existing services for victims and witnesses of all types of crimes. The Office would introduce an ordinance establishing a one-year pilot program to provide free legal services for domestic violence victims, starting by July 1, 2023.

The Office would seek to establish a permanent program to provide free legal services for domestic violence victims, subject to further legislation. The domestic violence victim must either reside in the City or be the victim of a domestic violence incident that occurred in the City.

Controller’s statement:
https://sfgov.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=10524350&GUID=8F2E6321-B77B-45F2-82E7-E227972FCEE6 (PDF, 151 KB)
A “Yes” vote means: If you vote "yes," you want to create an Office of Victim and Witness Rights that would provide or coordinate existing City services and seek to establish programs that provide free legal services for domestic violence victims.

A “No” vote means: If you vote “no,” you do not want to establish this Office.

Summary of arguments for Prop D

- The current system forces victims and witnesses who are traumatized to navigate a complicated and bureaucratic system.
- A central coordinating body could provide help connecting victims with civil legal resources, as well as financial assistance, housing, medical reimbursement, and mental health support.

Summary of arguments against Prop D

- This could add bureaucracy, without directly improving victim and witness rights.
- The process for creating this proposition did not involve enough public comment or stakeholders.
Proposition E – Behested Payments

Ordinance placed on the ballot by Supervisors Chan, Mar, Peskin, Preston, and Walton. Requires a simple majority vote to pass.

The question

Do you want to amend the City’s law regarding behested payments?

Background

A behested payment is a donation solicited by a public official to benefit either a government agency or a private organization. City law generally prohibits elected officials, commissioners, department heads, and other City employees who have decision-making authority from seeking these behested payments from any of the following:

- Businesses and individuals contracting with or seeking to contract with the public official’s department.
- People who attempted to influence the public official with respect to governmental actions.
- Lobbyists registered to lobby the public official’s department.
- Permit expediters who have contacted the public official’s department during the previous 12 months; or people involved in the public official’s department’s proceedings about administrative enforcement, a license, or a permit.

The Board of Supervisors (Board) can amend this law by a majority vote.

The proposal

Proposition E would add two things to existing City law regarding behested payments:

1. Members of the Board could not seek behested payments from contractors if the Board had approved their contracts.
2. The Board could amend the City’s law regarding behested payments only if the City’s Ethics Commission approves the proposed amendments by a majority vote and the Board then approves the amendments by a two-thirds vote of its members.

Controller’s statement:
https://sfgov.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=10524353&GUID=56E0B3B0-8687-4D70-9BD0-8013ADDC96D9 (PDF, 133 KB)

A “Yes” vote means: If you vote "yes," you want to amend the City’s behested payments law.

A “No” vote means: If you vote “no,” you do not want to make these changes.
Summary of arguments for Prop E

- This would not stop all City fundraising, but would instead exclude government officials from raising money from those who are seeking contracts directly from them or whose contracts they have just approved.
- Bested payments are a loophole that should be closed. The loophole gets around existing laws prohibiting gifts and bribes by using external sources of funding that indirectly enrich public officials.

Summary of arguments against Prop E

- This could hinder the ability of the City to work with nonprofit partners. The City needs to allow charitable giving to help residents and communities recover from the pandemic.
- This could disproportionately impact disenfranchised groups, such as communities of color and the LGBTQ+ community.

Voters can request a replacement ballot at sfelections.org/voterportal

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Proposition F – Refuse Collection and Disposal

Ordinance placed on the ballot by Mayor Breed and Supervisors Chan, Haney, Mandelman, Mar, Melgar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Safai, Stefani, and Walton. Requires a simple majority vote to pass.

The question
Shall the City change the membership of the Refuse Rate Board, how refuse rates and regulations are set, and the rules governing future changes?

Background
As part of a widespread investigation into corruption within the Public Works Department, it was discovered that, for several years, Recology had given substantial gifts to and for the benefit of City employees in order to influence decisions and allow the company to overcharge customers. City employees pled guilty to charges in the scandal. Recology was required to lower rates, reimburse ratepayers almost $100 million, pay criminal penalties, and agree to specific reporting and disclosure remedies.

After the scandal was uncovered, the public and City officials agreed that stronger regulations were needed to prevent further systemic problems from occurring. A Refuse Working Group of ratepayers helped draft this ballot measure, Proposition F, to revise the existing rules.

Under current law, the City is authorized to regulate the collection, transport, and disposal of refuse and also require refuse collectors to obtain permits from the Department of Public Health. The City’s Refuse Rate Board (Rate Board) sets refuse collection rates for residential customers. The Rate Board has three members: the City Administrator, the General Manager of the Public Utilities Commission, and the City Controller. When the Rate Board receives an application to change refuse rates, the application is referred to the director of Public Works, who holds a public hearing. Then the director makes a recommendation to the Rate Board and, if no one objects, the recommendation becomes final. If someone objects, the Rate Board holds a public hearing and can modify the director’s recommendation. Only the voters can amend these laws.

The proposal
Proposition F would restructure of the Rate Board. It would also change the process by which rates and regulations are set for both residential and commercial customers, and the rules governing how future changes are made. The Rate Board members would be the City Administrator, the General Manager of the Public Utilities Commission, and a new Ratepayer Representative. The City Controller would assume new duties as Refuse Rate Administrator (RRA).

Proposition F would make other changes, including:

- The Ratepayer Representative would be recommended by The Utility Reform Network (TURN) or another organization recognized by the Board of Supervisors as dedicated to
protecting ratepayers. The mayor would appoint the Ratepayer Representative subject to
the Board of Supervisors’ approval.

■ As the RRA, the City Controller would be responsible for oversight and accountability for
the rate-setting process and for monitoring rates and proposing new rates. Any new rates
would be in effect for at least two years, but not longer than five years.

■ Prior to any rate changes, the RRA would present at public hearings of the Commission on
the Environment and Commission on Streets and Sanitation. Then the Rate Board would
hold an additional public hearing and issue a final decision.

■ Only the voters can change the Rate Board’s membership or its authority over setting rates.
The Board of Supervisors may change other parts of the ordinance by a two-thirds vote, if
those changes are recommended by the mayor, Rate Board, and the RRA.

■ Applicants for refuse collection permits would be required to include information in their
applications establishing their ability to avoid disruptions in service

Controller’s statement:
https://sfgov.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=10559919&GUID=FA61B13E-8A8B-4627-90D2-
B6A2FDD38BD1 (PDF, 840 KB), located on page 20

A “Yes” vote means: If you vote “yes,” you want to change the membership of the Refuse Rate
Board, how refuse rates and regulations are set, and the rules governing future changes.

A “No” vote means: If you vote “no,” you do not want to make these changes.

Summary of arguments for Prop F

■ Professionals will be responsible for providing anti-corruption safeguards by regularly auditing to detect waste, fraud, or abuse, and making fair and reasonable rate recommendations.

■ A Ratepayer Representative will serve the public interest on the Rate Board.

■ The changes may provide customer savings and reduce overcharges.

■ The changes create greater transparency and accountability without creating a new department.

■ The current rules are nearly 100 years old and need updating.

■ The refuse collectors’ union, mayor, and all Supervisors support this proposition.

Summary of arguments against Prop F

■ The current process is complicated, yet works well because existing resources, advocates, and oversight mechanisms are more effective than those proposed.

■ Anti-corruption safeguards are in place by law and court order.

■ Current costs are reasonable.

■ This proposition causes uncertainty, and more bureaucracy and spending.

■ Changing powers and duties is not helpful to collection or ratepayers because bills could go up and services down.

■ This proposition was developed without substantial public involvement.
Proposition G – Public Health Emergency Leave

Ordinance placed on the ballot by Supervisors Chan, Haney, Mandelman, Mar, Melgar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Safai, Stefani, and Walton. Requires a simple majority vote to pass.

The question

Shall the City require employers with more than 100 employees worldwide to provide paid public health emergency leave, not to exceed 80 hours a year, for their employees in San Francisco?

Background

Currently, the City requires private businesses to provide paid sick leave to employees based on the number of hours worked in San Francisco. City employees also receive paid sick leave. Currently, there is no required paid sick leave for Spare the Air days.

COVID-19 and worsening fire seasons have revealed significant public health emergencies that can negatively impact the health of workers, and their families and neighbors. Through this new law, the City’s Board of Supervisors is proposing to address public health threats such as these by specifically requiring additional paid leave when official public health emergencies arise.

The proposal

Beginning on October 1, 2022, Proposition G would require the City and private employers with more than 100 employees worldwide to provide up to 80 hours per year of paid leave in the event of an official public health emergency. The law would only apply to San Francisco workers. Certain nonprofit employers would be exempt from the law.

The hours of paid public health emergency leave would be based on the number of hours worked in a two-week period, with a maximum of 80 hours covered. Public health emergency leave can only be taken during an officially declared public health emergency. These public health emergencies would include:

- A San Francisco or California emergency relating to any infectious disease, as declared by a local or state public health official.
- When a Spare the Air Alert is in effect.

Under Proposition G, public health emergency leave could be used under the following circumstances (includes telework):

- When an employee is unable to work due to public health officials’ orders in response to the emergency, or due to the employee’s health care provider’s advice to isolate or quarantine.
- When the employee or a family member in the same household tests positive for, or becomes ill with the infectious disease.
- When the employee must care for a family member who has become ill with the disease.
When a Spare the Air Alert is in effect and the employee works outdoors and is pregnant, older than 60, or has a heart, lung, or respiratory condition that makes them sensitive to poor air quality.

An employee may choose whether to use public health emergency leave or paid sick leave when both forms of leave apply. Unused public health emergency leave does not roll over to the next year. Because the law would take effect on October 1, 2022, only one week (up to 40 hours) of public health emergency leave would be available for the remainder of 2022.


A “Yes” vote means: If you vote “yes,” you want the City and private, for-profit businesses with over 100 employees worldwide to provide up to 80 hours of paid leave to San Francisco workers in the event of a public health emergency or Spare the Air Alert. This would be in addition to regular paid sick leave.

A “No” vote means: If you vote “no,” you do not want to require Public Health Emergency paid sick leave.

Summary of arguments for Prop G

- Emergency paid leave will help protect workers and the general population, and will minimize the need for closure of essential businesses and services due to sick workers.
- No one should have to choose between earning a living and protecting themselves and others from an infectious disease or life-threatening air quality.
- By providing public health emergency paid leave, we will be prepared for any future pandemics.
- Public health emergency leave will be available upfront, without having to be accrued.

Summary of arguments against Prop G

- Requiring private businesses that are already struggling to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic to provide 2 weeks of public health emergency leave to workers is an expensive burden.
- Taxpayers will ultimately be responsible for funding public health emergency leave for thousands of City employees.
- Proposition G does not apply to nonprofits, so those workers would not benefit from additional paid leave.
Proposition H – District Attorney

Initiative placed on the ballot by public petition. Requires a simple majority vote to pass.

The question
Shall Chesa Boudin be recalled (removed) from the Office of District Attorney?

Background
The district attorney is responsible for investigating and prosecuting violations of state and local criminal laws.

The recall, if successful, would remove incumbent District Attorney Chesa Boudin, who was elected in 2019 with a term ending on January 8, 2024. If Boudin is removed, the mayor would appoint a replacement interim district attorney. Under current law, the interim appointee could then run for district attorney in the next election.

A recall effort was started on April 28, 2021, by a group called the San Franciscans for Public Safety. Organizers had until October 25, 2021, to gather the required signatures in order to move the recall forward. On November 9, 2021, the San Francisco Department of Elections determined the recall petition contained enough valid signatures to be included on the ballot.

Note: A proposed amendment to the City Charter on this ballot (Proposition C: Recall Timelines and Vacancy Appointments) may alter the replacement process.

The proposal
Proposition H is a recall measure that would remove Chesa Boudin from the Office of District Attorney. If voters approve the recall measure, Boudin would be removed from office 10 days after the Board of Supervisors declares the election results and the mayor would appoint a replacement. The City would hold an election for district attorney, at the earliest, as part of the general election on November 8, 2022.

Controller’s statement: No statement is available.

A “Yes” vote means: If you vote “yes,” you want to remove Chesa Boudin as the San Francisco District Attorney.

A “No” vote means: If you vote “no,” you want to keep Chesa Boudin as the San Francisco District Attorney.
Summary of arguments for Prop H

- Boudin refuses to enforce existing laws to prosecute illegal gang activity, drug dealers, and repeat criminal offenders based on his political views.
- Under the current district attorney, there have been no new innovative or progressive programs to rehabilitate criminal offenders or prevent crime.
- We cannot wait until the next election to restore safety to our homes, our neighborhoods, and our businesses.
- Boudin is failing to protect survivors of domestic violence.

Summary of arguments against Prop H

- Recall supporters want to short circuit the process to divert attention from solutions that can make our city safer over time.
- Boudin has prioritized and prosecuted homicides, sexual assaults, and hate crimes, held corporations accountable for wage theft, and charged police officers with excessive force.
- Criminalizing poverty and filling the jails won't make San Francisco any safer.
- Boudin is the first district attorney to provide translation services in court for victims.
★ Be a voter! ★

You are eligible to register to vote in San Francisco if you are:

✔️ A United States citizen
✔️ A resident of San Francisco
✔️ At least 18 years old on Election Day
✔️ Not in prison or on parole for a felony conviction
✔️ Not found mentally incompetent to vote by a court

Are you 16 or 17? Pre-register to vote at registertovote.ca.gov.

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