



2015 Voting Guide

Vote for a better San Francisco on November 3, 2015

The November Local Election Ballot contains critical initiatives that impact San Francisco businesses. This voting guide provides the business position on issues facing voters on November 3, 2015. Join the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce, SF Forward, and the local business community in voting for a better San Francisco.

VOTE YES

PROPOSITION A

SAN FRANCISCO AFFORDABLE HOUSING BOND

This \$310 million General Obligation Bond finances construction, acquisition and preservation of housing affordable to low and middle income households. It assists in acquisition of existing affordable rental apartments, provides homeownership assistance and repairs public housing. City policy is to limit debt, and with the retirement of existing bonds and growth in the property tax base, the property tax rate is not expected to increase.

PROPOSITION D

MISSION ROCK / GIANTS MIXED-USE DEVELOPMENT

A result of the passage of Proposition B in the June 2014 election, this voter initiative ordinance seeks approval to make height adjustments necessary to revitalize an asphalt parking lot and historic Pier 48 on Port property south of the ballpark. The project will provide residential, retail, office and open space and a new Anchor Steam brewery, benefiting not only the Mission Bay neighborhood but the City as a whole.

PROPOSITION H

GREEN ENERGY DEFINITION FOR CLEAN POWER SF PROGRAM

This compromise measure makes it City policy to use the State's definition of renewable energy sources when referring to 'clean energy', 'green energy' and 'renewable Greenhouse-Gas-free Energy'. The Clean Power SF program is urged to inform customers of types of renewable energy supplied and to use electricity generated within California and San Francisco when possible. Proposition H is an agreed upon alternative to Proposition G, for which the sponsors have withdrawn their support.

PROPOSITION K

EXPANDING USE OF SURPLUS CITY PROPERTY FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Existing law encourages the City to use surplus property for development of housing for the homeless and very low income households. This measure expands the use of surplus City-owned property for development of affordable housing for very low income and working families. Certain mixed-income projects would also be allowed. The Board of Supervisors can waive the housing priority to meet other community needs, such as open space, transit, etc. This compromise measure replaced an earlier version that would have only permitted housing for very low income households.



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VOTE NO

PROPOSITION F

INCREASING ANNUAL LIMITS ON SHORT-TERM HOME RENTAL DAYS, PROHIBITING CERTAIN RENTALS, REQUIRING QUARTERLY REPORTING

This unnecessary initiative measure will prevent the Board of Supervisors from continuing to fine tune home sharing regulations and limitations. This measure will drastically reduce the number of days a resident can otherwise lawfully rent, on a short-term basis, their home or a room. It disregards privacy rights and expands the right to sue, pitting neighbor against neighbor. Reducing rentable days will cost the City millions of dollars in occupancy taxes.

PROPOSITION G

GREEN ENERGY DEFINITION FOR CLEAN POWER SF PROGRAM

This initiative measure was placed on the ballot through efforts by the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers to insure that future customers of Clean Power SF are given information on the source of the eligible renewable energy the City is selling as greenhouse-gas free electricity. IBEW did not want out- of-state renewable energy credits used. A compromise was reached, and Proposition H was placed on the ballot by the Board of Supervisors as an alternative to this measure. The sponsors are urging a yes vote on H and a no vote on G.

PROPOSITION I

PLACING AN 18 MONTH MORATORIUM ON HOUSING AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT IN THE MISSION DISTRICT

This unnecessary initiative measure will bring housing development in the Mission District to a halt for at least a year and a half, preventing the City from issuing permits for the construction of middle-income, market rate and mixed-use projects. By law new housing developments must include affordable units on or off site. When housing construction is stopped, even temporarily, building affordable housing stops too.

NEUTRAL

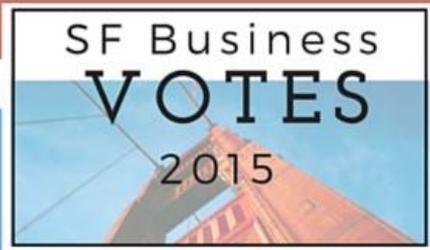
PROPOSITION B

EXPANDING PAID PARENTAL LEAVE FOR CITY EMPLOYEES

Currently City employees must split paid parental leave benefits between them for the birth, adoption or fostering a child. This Charter Amendment expands the City's paid parental leave benefits to employees of the City of San Francisco who are parents of the same newborn, adopted or foster child, allowing each parent to take the full paid parental leave. It also enables them to retain 40 hours of banked sick time when parental leave benefits begin. Given that this measure has no impact on private employers, the Chamber has taken a neutral position.



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NEUTRAL

PROPOSITION C

REQUIRES INDIRECT (EXPENDITURE) LOBBYISTS TO REGISTER WITH THE CITY

Currently those who directly contact City officers to influence legislative or administrative actions are regulated under the City's Lobbyist Ordinance. This measure expands reporting requirements to anyone who pays \$2,500 or more in a calendar month to urge others to directly lobby City officers. It requires them to register with the Ethics Commission, pay a \$500 registration fee and file monthly disclosures regarding their lobbying activities. The Chamber, which already files lobbying reports, is not directly impacted by the measure and has taken a neutral position.

PROPOSITION E

EXPANDING PUBLIC MEETING REQUIREMENTS

Currently, the Sunshine Ordinance sets rules and procedures for public access to City meetings. Some, but not all, such meetings are broadcast and archived on SFGovTV and on-line. This measure amends the Sunshine Ordinance to require the City to broadcast or livestream on the web an estimated 2,000 City meetings a year. It allows live, written, video, or audio testimony to be submitted electronically before or during the meeting from any location, and requires

agenda items to be time certain under specified conditions. While potentially encouraging a broader cross-section of residents to participate in public hearings, this measure can be expected to result in much longer public meetings and escalated costs to city government. The Chamber has therefore taken a neutral position, suggesting to the sponsors that a pilot project would make more sense.

PROPOSITION J

LEGACY BUSINESS HISTORIC PRESERVATION FUND

The City of San Francisco is establishing a Registry of businesses that have operated for 30 years or more and have contributed to their neighborhood history or identity. Proposition J is an initiative ordinance that creates a Legacy Business Historic Preservation Fund to give grants to Registry businesses and to building owners who lease property to those businesses for at least ten years. Though the Legacy Business Preservation Fund is the first of a kind approach to assisting small businesses and landlords that retain them, it could have been created legislatively and did not need to go on the ballot. And while the measure sets the right tone for further efforts to support small businesses, it may not provide the degree of financial support or certainty of funding necessary to have a significant impact on preserving the city's neighborhood businesses. The Chamber is therefore neutral on the measure.



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