



SF BUSINESS VOTES

NOVEMBER 2016 VOTING GUIDE



The November election ballot contains critical initiatives that impact San Francisco businesses. Join the **San Francisco Chamber of Commerce**, **SF Forward**, and the local business community in voting for a better San Francisco on November 8, 2016.

LOCAL MEASURES

VOTE YES

PROP

A

San Francisco Unified School District Bond

This \$744 million General Obligation Bond funds needed school repairs and upgrades, a new elementary school on the City's east side, School of the Arts campus, green schoolyards and contributes to teacher housing. Property taxes will increase slightly over the life of the Bond.

PROP

E

City Responsibility for Maintaining Street Trees

The City's General Fund will, for the first time, include a \$19 million annual set-aside to pay for all street tree and related sidewalk maintenance. Property owners will no longer be on the hook for taking care of trees on sidewalks near their buildings. Prop E protects our urban forest at no cost to property owners.

PROP

I

Dignity Fund

This Charter Amendment creates \$38 million annual fund support for seniors and adults with disabilities and increases each year through 2027. The Dignity Fund pays for Home and Community Based Long Term Care, Food and Nutrition Programs, and other services for the elderly and disabled adults.

PROP

O

Office Development in Bayview/Candlestick Point

Neighborhood residents placed Prop O on the ballot to jump start needed development and bring back jobs to Bayview Hunters Point and Candlestick Point. It allows commercial office development to be built in these underserved communities without competing for limited permits throughout the City.

PROP

P

Competitive Bidding for Affordable Housing

Affordable housing is expensive to build in San Francisco, resulting in housing shortages for low and middle-income residents. Prop P brings costs down by requiring at least three bids from developers before the City puts public dollars into affordable housing projects.

PROP

Q

Safe and Open Sidewalks

Sidewalk encampments have become a public health nuisance. Prop Q is a commonsense, compassionate solution. It prohibits tent encampments on sidewalks, requires 24-hour notice to remove tents and offers services and shelter to those living in them.

PROP

R

Neighborhood Crime Unit

Violent crime in San Francisco is at historic lows but neighborhood crime is growing. Prop R will make our neighborhoods safer by requiring the Police Chief to establish a Neighborhood Crime Unit with dedicated staffing to reduce home burglaries, car break-ins and street crime.

PROP

U

Affordable Housing for Middle Income Residents

Access to the City's affordable housing rental program is limited to low-income residents. Prop U allows middle-income families to qualify for the rental housing lottery program, increasing workforce housing for teachers, nurses and bus drivers. It reduces the rent low-income households pay in affordable housing programs.

VOTE **NO**

PROP

B**City College Parcel Tax Increase**

Put on the ballot by the SF Community College District Board of Trustees, Prop B renews the City College parcel tax, extends it for 15 years, and increases it from \$79 per parcel to \$99. The case hasn't been made for increasing the tax while enrollment is dropping and state appropriations are rising.

PROP

D**Filling Supervisorial Vacancies**

This proposed Charter Amendment requires special elections to fill vacancies on the Board of Supervisors by prohibiting mayoral appointees from running for election to fill those seats. This undemocratic measure requires costly, unnecessary special elections.

PROP

F**Lower Voting Age to 16**

This Charter Amendment enables 16 and 17 year olds to vote in municipal elections for local officials, including Mayor, Board of Supervisors, City Attorney, Sheriff, among others. The difficulty and cost to the Department of Elections to implement a measure that may violate state voting laws is prohibitive while the number of new voters under 18 would be small.

PROP

H**Public Advocate**

Our City Charter is full of checks and balances: watchdogs like an independent Controller, City Administrator, City Attorney, and Ethics Commission. This measure will mean spending millions on a "junior mayor" with dozens of staff, subpoena power and contracts free from Civil Service or Human Rights Commission rules.

PROP

K**Sales Tax**

Prop K increases the San Francisco General Fund sales tax by 3/4 cent to 9.25%, effective Spring 2017, tied to a Charter Amendment that allocates the funds to homeless services and transit. This, with all other tax measures on the ballot, places overwhelming economic strain on local businesses, especially small businesses, causing costs to rise, businesses to leave or close, and lost jobs.

PROP

L**SF Municipal Transportation Authority Appointments**

This measure divides responsibility and accountability for the SFMTA and interjects the Board of Supervisors into the department's budgeting, the very thing that caused "MUNI Meltdowns" years ago. The voters rejected this idea before and should reject it again.

PROP

M**Establishes Housing and Development Commission**

This measure takes the offices of Economic and Workforce Development and Housing and Community Development, which have worked well with substantial citizen oversight for decades, out of the Mayor's office. Prop M was put on the ballot (with Measures D, H and L) to strip powers from the Mayor. It creates a costly new bureaucracy and political interference in important city functions that aren't broken.

PROP

N**Non-Citizens Voting in School Board Elections**

This costly Charter Amendment permitting residents to vote in San Francisco school board elections regardless of citizenship will require the City to maintain separate voter rolls and special ballots. Prop N (rejected before by voters) may not be allowed by state law and puts the City at risk of legal challenges.

PROP

S**Hotel Tax Fund Allocations**

Revenues from San Francisco's Hotel Room Tax support Moscone Center and the marketing of San Francisco, with the rest deposited into the General Fund. Prop S redirects some of the tax funds to arts and homeless organizations, thereby reducing support for long-time recipients, like children's programs and libraries.

PROP

W**Transfer Tax Harms Small Business and Renters**

Don't be fooled by the hype. This tax on real estate transfers of over \$5 million will have greatest impact on commercial property and residential unit sales that will result in rent increases for residents and small businesses. Two increases in this tax over the last decade are enough.

PROP

X**Conditional Use for PDR Replacement**

Obtaining building permits takes forever, costs a fortune and results in many projects, especially housing, never getting built. Prop X requires unnecessary permits for projects in eastern neighborhoods, adding cost, time and uncertainty. Ballot box zoning just makes our housing shortage worse.

REGIONAL MEASURE

VOTE YES

PROP
RR

BART Safety and Reliability Bond

The BART Board of Directors placed this \$3.5 billion General Obligation Bond on the ballot in San Francisco, Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. Proceeds will be used for infrastructure upgrades, like train control systems, station congestion relief and critical safety improvements. Property taxes would increase over time from \$30 to \$100 per year. The measure requires 2/3 approval by the total voters in all three counties.

STATE MEASURES

VOTE YES

PROP
52

Medi-Cal Hospital Fee Program

Ensures that state fees intended to pay for health care services for low-income Californians are not diverted to other uses. This initiative delivers \$10 billion in matching funds to the state's Medi-Cal program in the first three years after enactment.

PROP
54

California Legislature Transparency Act

Requires the California state legislature to post all bills at least 72 hours before voting on the floor of the State or Assembly, and all public hearings must be recorded and posted on-line within 24 hours. The intent is to prevent legislation from being gutted and amended without public notice or participation.

PROP
67

Plastic Bag Ban Referendum

If passed, this referendum will uphold the single-use plastic bag ban, SB 270, passed by the California legislature last year but deferred pending the outcome of this election. A 'yes' vote on this referendum ratifies the bill and upholds the ban. A statewide policy on plastic bags is preferable to the piecemeal city-by-city regulations we have today.

VOTE NO

PROP
53

Voter Approval for Revenue Bonds

Delta landowners put this self-serving measure on the ballot to require statewide voter approval for infrastructure projects that exceed \$2 billion in revenue bonds, regardless of where projects are located. It could jeopardize critical projects involving the Bay Bridge and Golden Gate Bridge Toll Authority and other regional projects across California.

PROP
61

State Prescription Drug Purchases

Attempts to regulate drug prices by prohibiting state agencies from paying more for a prescription drug than the lowest price paid by the US Department of Veterans Affairs. It requires state agencies with no direct contractual relationship with drug manufacturers to make decisions based on confidential and proprietary information not available to them.

PROP
65

Carry-Out Bag Charges

Plastic bag proponents put Prop 65 on the ballot to divert charges customers pay to retailers for paper bags to environmental organizations. These charges cover the cost of the bags and should be retained by retailers.

The Chamber is **neutral** or has taken **no position** on the following measures.

LOCAL MEASURES

NEUTRAL



Earthquake Loan Bond Program

In 1992 voters approved Prop A, a General Obligation bond measure that provides loans for seismic strengthening of unreinforced masonry buildings. Prop C amends Prop A to finance acquisition and rehabilitation of at-risk multi-unit buildings and convert them to permanent affordable housing. This measure must pass by 2/3 of the vote.



Homeless and Transportation Special Fund

Prop J establishes two special funds to receive additional revenue the City expects if Prop K, the sales tax increase measure, passes, allocating it to homeless and transportation programs. Should Prop K fail, the Mayor can declare this Charter provision void.



Prohibiting Gifts from Lobbyists

Placed on the ballot by the SF Ethics Commission, Prop T prohibits registered lobbyists from giving gifts, and giving or bundling campaign contributions, to city officials who would be barred from accepting or soliciting gifts from lobbyists or a third party providing gifts on a lobbyist's behalf.



Tax on Distributing Sugar-Sweetened Beverages

Prop V imposes a one-cent per ounce tax on beverages that contain added sugar, paid by distributors. In 2014 the Board of Supervisors placed a two-cents per ounce tax on sugar-sweetened beverages on the ballot. The revenue was designated for certain purposes, requiring 66.7% approval to pass, and it failed. This measure has no such designations so needs just 50%+1 to pass.

NO POSITION



Department of Police Accountability

This Charter Amendment renames the Office of Citizens Complaints within the police department to the Department of Police Accountability (DPA). It gives the DPA direct budget authority and ability to review claims of officer misconduct.

STATE MEASURES

NEUTRAL



Cigarette Tax Increase

Prop 56 places a \$2 per pack user fee on cigarettes and equivalent fees on products containing nicotine derived from tobacco, including electronic cigarettes, which currently are not subject to taxation. California last raised its tobacco tax in 1998 to 87 cents per pack, one of the lowest tobacco taxes in the US. The tax revenue will pay for healthcare and tobacco research and prevention programs.



SF Forward – the Political Action Committee (PAC) of the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce – is the political voice for businesses and residents who support sound economic policy and an exceptional quality of life for all San Franciscans. sfchamber.com/sf-forward