

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ELECTION DEADLINES**  
**GENERAL OBLIGATION (GO) BOND ISSUE SCHEDULE**  
**November 5, 2024**  
**ELECTION**

Days Before  
Election

*(Note: Requires two (2) pieces of legislation: 1) Resolution of Public Interest and Necessity, and 2) Ordinance calling for GO Bond to be submitted to the voters.)*

*(Note: There is a requirement for environmental impact review for GO Bonds. The GO Bond must be forwarded to the Planning Department.)*

*(Note: GO Bond(s) affecting City employees, employee organizations or employee representatives may require the Department of Human Resources to fulfill Meet and Confer requirements before it may be placed on the ballot. The GO Bond(s) must be forwarded to the Department of Human Resources for review, assessment for impact, and proper noticing.)*

175	May 14, 2024	Last Regular Board Meeting to introduce a Resolution of Public Interest and Necessity and refer to the Controller. <b>[S.F. Administrative Code Section 2.31 - 30 Day Rule may be waived.]</b> , <b>[S.F. Administrative Code Section 2.34]</b>
175	May 14, 2024	Last Regular Board Meeting to introduce Ordinance calling for GO Bond Election. <b>[S.F. Municipal Elections Code Section 305]</b> , <b>[S.F. Administrative Code Section 2.34]</b>  <i>(Note: All Ordinances are placed under 30-day hold; this hold shall be not be waived. [S.F. Municipal Elections Code Section 305]</i>
<b>169</b>	May 20, 2024	169th day deadline for introduction of a Resolution of Public Interest and Necessity. <b>[S.F. Administrative Code Section 2.31]</b> , <b>[S.F. Administrative Code Section 2.34]</b>
153	June 5, 2024	Last Regular Budget & Finance Committee Meeting to recommend Resolution of Public Interest and Necessity to the Board for consideration on June 11, 2024. <b>[S.F. Administrative Code Section 2.31 and 2.34]</b>  <i>(Note: Special Budget and Finance Committee Meetings may be held up until June 10, 2024. These matters will be sent to the Board meeting of June 11, 2024 as Committee Reports.) [S.F. Administrative Code Section 2.34]</i>
147	June 11, 2024	Last Regular Board Meeting to adopt Resolution of Public Interest and Necessity. <b>[S.F. Administrative Code Section 2.34]</b>  <i>(Note: Deadline to adopt the Resolution of Public Interest and Necessity may be waived by the Board.) [S.F. Administrative Code Section 2.34]</i>
<b>141</b>	June 17, 2024	141st day deadline for adoption of a Resolution of Public Interest and Necessity. <b>[S.F. Administrative Code Section 2.34]</b>
118	July 10, 2024	Last date for a Regular Budget & Finance Committee Meeting to recommend Ordinance calling for GO Bond Election. <b>[S.F. Administrative Code Section 2.34]</b>  <i>(Note: Special Budget Committee Meetings may be held up until July 15, 2024. These matters will be sent to the Board meeting of July 16, 2024, as Committee Reports.)</i>
112	July 16, 2024	Last Regular Board Meeting for First Appearance of an Ordinance calling for a GO Bond Election. <b>[S.F. Administrative Code Section 2.34]</b>
105	July 23, 2024	Last Regular Board Meeting for a Second Appearance of an Ordinance calling for a GO Bond Election. <b>[S.F. Administrative Code Section 2.34]</b> <i>(Note: Mayor's signature required on legislation prior to submitting to the Director of Elections.)</i>
105	July 23, 2024	Last Regular Board Meeting to provide the First Appearance of "one late" Ordinance calling for GO Bond Election. <b>[S.F. Administrative Code Section 2.34]</b>
<b>102</b>	July 26, 2024	Last date for submission of the Ordinance calling for GO Bond Election to Director of Elections. <b>[S.F. Municipal Elections Code Section 300(a)]</b> , <b>[S.F. Administrative Code Section 2.34]</b> <i>(Note: Mayor's signature required on legislation prior to submitting to the Director of Elections.)</i>
<b>99</b>	July 29, 2024	Last day for the Board to finally pass an Ordinance ordering the submission of GO Bond to the voters <b>[S.F. Administrative Code Section 2.34]</b>  <i>(Note: Deadline to order the submission of the GO Bond may be waived by resolution of the Board of Supervisors.) [S.F. Administrative Code Section 2.34]</i>
98	July 30, 2024	Last date for a Second Appearance at a regular Board meeting in order to submit "one late" Charter Amendment or Ordinance calling for GO Bond Election. <b>[S.F. Administrative Code Section 2.34]</b> <i>(Note: Mayor's signature required on legislation prior to submitting to the Director of Elections.)</i>
<b>95</b>	August 2, 2024	Last date to submit to the Director of Elections who shall have the discretion to accept one late proposed Charter Amendment or Bond measure per Election that is received fewer than 102 days before the date of the Election, provided that said measure is received no fewer than 95 days before the date of the Election. <b>[S.F. Municipal Elections Code Section 300(a)]</b> , <b>[S.F. Administrative Code Section 2.34]</b> <i>(Note: Mayor's signature required on legislation prior to submitting to the Director of Elections.)</i>

## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ELECTION DEADLINES

### CHARTER AMENDMENT SCHEDULE

**November 5, 2024**

### ELECTION

Days Before  
Election

<b>168</b>	May 21, 2024	<p>Last date Regular Board Meeting (the 168th day) to introduce the full text of Charter Amendment(s) in writing by a Board Member or the Mayor ("Skeletal" amendments do not satisfy this requirement). Upon introduction, referred to Rules Committee (Revenue Measures will be assigned to the Budget &amp; Finance Committee). <b>[Rules of Order Section 2.22.1]</b></p> <p><i>(Note: There is a requirement for environmental impact review of Charter Amendment(s). The Charter Amendment(s) must be forwarded to the Planning Department.)</i></p> <p><i>(Note: Charter Amendment(s) affecting City employees, employee organizations or employee representatives may require the Department of Human Resources to fulfill Meet and Confer requirements before it may be placed on the ballot. The Charter Amendment(s) must be forwarded to the Department of Human Resources for review, assessment for impact, and proper noticing.)</i></p>
138	June 20, 2024	<p>Expiration of the 30 day rule for Charter Amendment(s) introduced on May 21, 2024. <b>[Rules of Order Section 2.22.1], [S.F. Municipal Elections Code Section 305]</b></p> <p><i>(Note: The 30 day rule shall not commence on proposed Charter Amendment(s) until after approval as to form by the City Attorney. The Rules Committee shall not report proposed Charter Amendment(s), nor proposed revisions, back to the Board until after referral to the Mayor, City Administrator, Controller, Department of Human Resources, and appropriate boards and commissions.) <b>[Rules of Order Sections 2.22 - 2.22.6]</b></i></p>
120	July 8, 2024	<p>Last date for a Regular Rules Committee Meeting for reference to the Board on July 16, 2024.</p> <p><i>(Note: Special Rules Committee Meetings may be held up until July 12, 2024, or heard at the July 15, 2024, Regular Rules Committee meeting. These matters will be sent to the Board meeting of July 16, 2024, as Committee Reports.)</i></p>
118	July 10, 2024	<p>(Revenue Measures) Last date for a Regular Budget &amp; Finance Committee Meeting for reference to the Board on July 16, 2024.</p> <p><i>(Note: Special Budget &amp; Finance Committee Meetings may be held up until July 15, 2024. These matters will be sent to the Board meeting of July 16, 2024, as Committee Reports.)</i></p>
112	July 16, 2024	<p>Last Regular Board Meeting date to provide the First Appearance of Charter Amendment(s). <b>[Rules of Order Section 2.22.7]</b></p> <p><i>(Note: A minimum of six days is required between the first appearance on the Board agenda and order of submission.) <b>[Rules of Order Section 2.22.7]</b></i></p>
111	July 17, 2024	<p><b>NOON DEADLINE:</b> Last date for introduction of a Motion to withdraw a Charter Amendment to appear on the FOR ADOPTION WITHOUT COMMITTEE REFERENCE Agenda on July 23, 2024. <b>[Rules of Order 2.22.11]</b></p>
105	July 23, 2024	<p>Last Regular Board Meeting date for the Board to order the Charter Amendment(s) submitted to the voters (Second Appearance). <b>[Rules of Order Section 2.22.7]</b></p>
105	July 23, 2024	<p>Last Regular Board Meeting date to provide the First Appearance of "one late" Charter Amendment. <b>[Rules of Order Section 2.22.9]</b></p> <p><i>(Note: A minimum of six days is required between the first appearance on the Board agenda and order of submission.) <b>[Rules of Order Section 2.22.7]</b></i></p>
105	July 23, 2024	<p>Last Regular Board Meeting to approve a written Motion, on the FOR ADOPTION WITHOUT COMMITTEE REFERENCE Agenda, to withdraw Charter Amendment(s). <b>[Rules of Order 2.22.11]</b></p>
<b>102</b>	July 26, 2024	<p>Last date for Board to submit Charter Amendment(s) to the Director of Elections. <b>[S.F. Municipal Elections Code Section 300(a)]</b></p>
98	July 30, 2024	<p>Last Regular Board Meeting where the Board could move to order submitted "one late" Charter Amendment or bond measure to the voters (Second Appearance). <b>[Rules of Order 2.22.9], [S.F. Municipal Elections Code Section 300(a)]</b></p>
<b>95</b>	August 2, 2024	<p>Last date to submit to the Director of Elections who shall have the discretion to accept "one late" proposed Charter Amendment or bond measure per election that is received fewer than 102 days before the date of the election, provided that said measure is received no fewer than 95 days before the date of the election. <b>[S.F. Municipal Elections Code Section 300(a)]</b></p>
<b>94</b>	August 3, 2024	<p>Last date for the Clerk of the Board to file all pending proposed Charter Amendment(s) that have not been submitted to the voters by the Board. <b>[Rules of Order 2.22.10]</b></p> <p><i>(Note: Since August 3, 2024, is a Saturday, the Clerk of the Board shall file no later than 5:00 p.m. on Monday, August 5, 2024.)</i></p>

## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ELECTION DEADLINES

### REVENUE BOND ISSUE SCHEDULE

November 5, 2024

### ELECTION

Days Before  
Election

147	June 11, 2024	Last date for a Regular Board meeting in order to introduce a Resolution calling for Revenue Bond Election and refer to Budget & Finance Committee. Committee shall not hold a hearing until 30 days after introduction. <b>[S.F. Municipal Elections Code Section 300(a) &amp; 305(a)(1)]</b>
111	July 17, 2024	Last date for a Regular Budget & Finance Committee Hearing for Resolution calling for Revenue Bond Election for reference to the Board. <b>[S.F. Municipal Elections Code Section 300(a)]</b>  <i>(Note: Special Budget &amp; Finance Committee Meetings may be held up until July 22, 2024. These matters will be sent to the Board meeting of July 23, 2024, as Committee Reports.)</i>
111	July 17, 2024	<b>NOON DEADLINE:</b> Last date for introduction of a written Resolution to withdraw a Resolution calling for a Revenue Bond Election for the FOR ADOPTION WITHOUT COMMITTEE REFERENCE Agenda on July 23, 2024. <b>[Rules of Order 2.22.11], [S.F. Municipal Elections Code Section 300(a)]</b>
105	July 23, 2024	Last date for a Regular Board Meeting to adopt Resolution calling for Revenue Bond Election. <b>[S.F. Municipal Elections Code Section 300(a)]</b>  <i>(Note: The Resolution will need to be Fast Tracked for Mayoral signature no later than July 25, 2024, in order to enact the Resolution for submission to the Department of Elections by July 26, 2024.)</i>
105	July 23, 2024	Last date for Board to approve a written Motion, on the FOR ADOPTION WITHOUT COMMITTEE REFERENCE Agenda, to withdraw a Resolution calling for a Revenue Bond Election. <b>[Rules of Order 2.22.11], [S.F. Municipal Elections Code Section 300(a)]</b>
102	July 26, 2024	Last date to submit Resolution calling for a Revenue Bond Election to Director of Elections. <b>[S.F. Municipal Elections Code Section 300(a)]</b>

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ELECTION DEADLINES**

**ORDINANCE AND POLICY DECLARATION SCHEDULE  
(Board Proposed Initiatives)  
November 5, 2024  
ELECTION**

Days Before Election		
147	June 11, 2024	<p>Final Board Meeting to introduce an Ordinance or Declaration of Policy to be heard at a Regular Rules Committee Meeting (or Budget &amp; Finance Committee for Revenue Measures) and following normal timing. All Ordinances and Declarations of Policy are placed under 30 day hold. <b>[S.F. Municipal Elections Code Sections 300(b), 305], [Charter Section 2.113]</b></p> <p><i>(Note: Ordinances or Declarations of Policy affecting City employees, employee organizations or employee representatives may require the Department of Human Resources to fulfill Meet and Confer requirements before it may be placed on the ballot. Ordinances and Declarations of Policy must be forwarded to the Department of Human Resources for review, assessment for impact, and proper noticing.)</i></p>
113	July 15, 2024	<p>Last Regular Rules Committee Meeting to recommend the proposed Ordinance or Declaration of Policy to the Board for consideration on July 23, 2024. <b>[S.F. Municipal Elections Code Section 300(b), 305], [Charter Section 2.113]</b></p> <p><i>(Note: Special Rules Committee Meetings may be held up until July 19, 2024, or the matter may be heard at the Regular Rules Committee Meeting on July 22, 2024. These matters will be sent to the Board meeting of July 23, 2024, as Committee Reports.)</i></p>
111	July 17, 2024	<p>(Revenue Measures) Last Regular Budget &amp; Finance Committee Meeting to recommend the proposed Ordinance or Declaration of Policy to the Board for consideration on July 23, 2024. <b>[S.F. Municipal Elections Code Section 300(c), 305], [Charter Section 2.113]</b></p> <p><i>(Note: Special Budget &amp; Finance Committee Meetings may be held up until July 22, 2024. These matters will be sent to the Board meeting of July 23, 2024, as Committee Reports.)</i></p>
111	July 17, 2024	<p><b>NOON DEADLINE:</b> Last date for introduction of a Motion to withdraw a proposed Ordinance or Declaration of Policy to appear on the FOR ADOPTION WITHOUT COMMITTEE REFERENCE Agenda on July 23, 2024. <b>[Rules of Order 2.22.11], [Charter Section 2.113]</b></p>
105	July 23, 2024	<p>Last Regular Board Meeting where the Board may adopt Ordinance(s) or Declaration of Policy to be submitted to electorate. <b>[S.F. Municipal Elections Code Section 300(c)], [Charter Section 2.113]</b></p>
105	July 23, 2024	<p>Last Regular Board Meeting to approve a written Motion, on the FOR ADOPTION WITHOUT COMMITTEE REFERENCE Agenda, to withdraw a proposed Ordinance or Declaration of Policy. <b>[Rules of Order 2.22.11], [Charter Section 2.113]</b></p>
<b>95</b>	August 2, 2024	<p>Last date for Board to submit to the Director of Elections any Ordinance(s) or Declaration of Policy(ies) the Board has voted to submit to the electorate. <b>[Charter Section 2.113], [S.F. Municipal Elections Code Section 300(b)]</b></p>

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ELECTION DEADLINES**

**ORDINANCE AND POLICY DECLARATION SCHEDULE  
(Mayor or 4 or more Supervisors Proposed Initiatives)**

**November 5, 2024**

**ELECTION**

Days Before  
Election

<b>140</b>	June 18, 2024	Last date for four (or more) individual Supervisors, or Mayor to submit proposed initiative measure(s) to the Department of Elections and the Clerk of the Board's Office to schedule a committee hearing. <b>[Charter Section 2.113(b) and 3.100(16)], [S.F. Municipal Elections Code Section 300(b)]</b>
113	July 15, 2024	Last Regular Rules Committee Meeting to have a hearing on a proposed initiative measure(s) submitted by four (or more) Supervisors or the Mayor. <b>[Charter Section 2.113(b) and 3.100(16)], [S.F. Municipal Elections Code Section 300(b)]</b>
<b>110</b>	July 18, 2024	110th day deadline for a Special Rules Committee Meeting to have a hearing on a proposed initiative measure(s) submitted by four (or more) Supervisors or the Mayor. <b>[Charter Section 2.113(b) and 3.100(16)], [S.F. Municipal Elections Code Section 300(b)]</b>
106	July 22, 2024	Suggested date to transmit to the Department of Elections the notification that a public hearing had been held by the Board of Supervisors on the proposed initiative measures.
<b>98</b>	July 30, 2024	Last date for an individual Supervisor to withdraw support of a proposed initiative measure(s). Notification of withdrawal of signature must be sent to the Department of Elections. <b>[S.F. Municipal Elections Code Section 370(b)(2)]</b>
<b>95</b>	August 2, 2024	Last date for four (or more) individual Supervisors or Mayor to withdraw proposed initiative measure(s) to the Director of Elections. <b>[Charter Section 2.113(b) and 3.100(16)], [S.F. Municipal Elections Code Section 300(b)]</b>

## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ELECTION DEADLINES

### BALLOT ARGUMENT SCHEDULE FOR November 5, 2024 ELECTION

Days Before  
Election

*(Note: S.F. Municipal Elections Code Sections 530, 535 and 550 provide a process for the Board of Supervisors to assign the rights to submit ballot arguments on behalf of the Board directly to the Director of Elections.)*

104	July 24, 2024	<b>NOON DEADLINE:</b> Last date for introduction of a Motion authorizing a Supervisor to submit a ballot argument/rebuttal argument on behalf of the Board FOR ADOPTION WITHOUT COMMITTEE REFERENCE Agenda on July 30, 2024. <b>[S.F. Municipal Elections Code Sections 530, 535, 550]</b>
98	July 30, 2024	Last date to approve a Motion authorizing a Supervisor to submit a ballot argument/rebuttal argument on behalf of the Board. <b>[S.F. Municipal Elections Code Sections 530, 535, 550]</b>
82	August 15, 2024	<b>NOON DEADLINE:</b> For submitting Board's " <b>proponent</b> " ballot arguments to the Director of Elections. <b>[S.F. Municipal Elections Code Section 535(b)]</b>
78	August 19, 2024	<b>NOON DEADLINE:</b> For submitting Board's rebuttal (" <b>opponent</b> ") ballot arguments to the Director of Elections. <b>[S.F. Municipal Elections Code Section 535(c)]</b>
78	August 19, 2024	<b>NOON DEADLINE:</b> Last date for public to submit paid ballot arguments. <b>[S.F. Municipal Elections Code Section 535(d)]</b>

## **Board of Supervisors Rules of Order**

**2.22. Proposed Charter Amendments.** Any proposal for amendment of the Charter ordered submitted to the electors by the Board on its own motion shall be ordered pursuant to the provisions of applicable state law, with the further limitations imposed as follows:

**2.22.1. Introduction; Referral to Committee.** A proposed Charter amendment shall be introduced by a Supervisor at a regular Board meeting held not less than 168 days prior to the election at which it is to be acted upon by the electors. A Charter amendment must be signed by a City Attorney and include a legislative digest before the 30 day rule will commence. This also applies to the introduction of a “skeletal” Charter amendment. The introduction of a “skeletal” Charter amendment shall not satisfy the requirements of this Rule. Upon introduction, the proposed Charter amendment shall be referred to the appropriate Board committee for public hearing.

**2.22.2. Referral to City Attorney.** Immediately after its reference to committee, any proposed Charter amendment which has not been prepared or approved as to form by the City Attorney shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the Board to the City Attorney for preparation or approval as to form. The City Attorney shall return it to the Board prepared or approved as to form, or a negative report in lieu thereof, within 10 days after receipt from the Clerk of the Board.

**2.22.3. Controller's Statement.** Immediately after reference to committee and preparation or approval as to form by the City Attorney, such proposed Charter amendment shall be referred by the Clerk of the Board to the Controller. The committee shall not report it to the Board, nor shall the Board order it submitted to the electors, prior to receipt of the Controller's written statement pursuant to the Charter, analyzing the proposal as to its cost. The Controller's statement shall be submitted to the Board within 10 days after the Controller's receipt of the proposed Charter amendment.

**2.22.4. Referral to Mayor and other City Officials and Boards or Commissions.** Immediately after its reference to committee and preparation or approval as to form by the City Attorney, any proposed Charter amendment shall be referred by the Clerk of the Board to the Mayor, appropriate department heads and appropriate boards and commissions for comment, as desired, as to the effect upon any matters within their respective jurisdictions.

**2.22.5. Amendments to Proposed Charter Amendments.** An amendment of substance to a proposed Charter amendment, submitted to the Board or a Board committee, shall be referred by the Clerk of the Board to the City Attorney for preparation or approval as to form and shall be returned to the Clerk of the Board by the City Attorney within seven days after receipt. Thereupon, the Clerk of the

Board shall transmit it to the Controller, the Mayor, appropriate department heads and appropriate boards and commissions for comment, as desired, as to the effect thereof upon any matters within their respective jurisdictions. A substitute or amendment to a Charter amendment may be introduced, granted that the lead sponsor is introducing such substitute and has informed other co-sponsors.

**2.22.6. Committee Report and Board Action.** The committee before which a proposed Charter amendment, or an amendment thereto, is pending, shall not report it to the Board, and the Board shall not order it submitted to the electors, prior to 10 days after referral to the Mayor, and other City officials.

**2.22.7. Order of Submission to Electorate.** At least six days must intervene between the first appearance of a proposed Charter amendment on the Board agenda and any Board order of submission to the electorate. Said order, if any, must be made not less than 95 days prior to the election mentioned herein, which is the deadline set forth in the San Francisco Municipal Elections Code.

**2.22.8. Modification of Time.** Notwithstanding the provisions of other rules, the Board may, by motion adopted by a majority vote of all Supervisors thereof, shorten, extend or otherwise modify the time fixed in these rules for the performance of any act by an officer, board or commission concerning a Charter amendment.

**2.22.9. One Late Charter Amendment.** San Francisco Elections Code, Section 300, provides that proposed Charter amendments the Board wishes to submit to the voters may be submitted for the next election held no fewer than 102 days after the date of submission, and allows the Director of Elections to accept from the Board one proposed Charter amendment a week later, but no fewer than 95 days before the date of an election.

**2.22.10. Filing of Proposed Charter Amendments.** On the 94<sup>th</sup> day prior to each City election, the Clerk of the Board shall file all pending proposed Charter amendments that have not been submitted to the voters by the Board for that election, unless a Supervisor has requested, in writing, that a measure be considered for submission to the voters at a subsequent election.

**2.22.11. Withdrawal of Charter Amendment/Ballot Measure Transmitted to the Department of Elections.** Charter amendments or ballot measures that the Board has placed on the ballot may be withdrawn by motion up to the deadline to submit a measure to the Department of Elections. To withdraw a Charter amendment or measure, the Board must approve a written motion to that effect and the Clerk must deliver it to the Department of Elections.



# San Francisco Charter

---

## SEC. 2.113. LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVE.

(a) The Board of Supervisors, or four or more members, may submit to the voters declarations of policy, and any matter which the Board of Supervisors is empowered to pass.

Upon approval of a declaration of policy by the voters, the Board of Supervisors shall within 90 days of such approval take such actions within their powers as shall be necessary to carry such declaration into effect. A special municipal election shall not be called with respect to a declaration of policy.

(b) In order to submit a proposed initiative measure to the voters under this section or Section 3.100(15)\*, four or more members of the Board of Supervisors or the Mayor shall submit the proposed initiative to the Board of Supervisors no later than 45 days prior to the deadline for the submission of such initiatives to the Department of Elections. The proponent or proponents shall clearly identify the measure as a proposed initiative to be submitted at a specific election, and the proponent or proponents shall file a copy of the measure with the Department of Elections at the same time as the measure is submitted to the Board of Supervisors.

The President of the Board of Supervisors shall assign the measure to a committee of the Board, and the committee shall conduct a public hearing on the measure at least 15 days prior to the deadline for the submission of such initiatives to the Department of Elections.

Failure by the Board of Supervisors to hold a hearing on the measure prior to the Department of Elections' deadline for submittal of legislative or mayoral initiatives shall not prevent the Director of Elections from placing the initiative on the ballot. But the Director of Elections shall include a notice in the voter information pamphlet that the measure was not the subject of the required public hearing.

The proponent or proponents of an initiative measure may withdraw the proposed measure at any time prior to the Department of Elections' deadline for submission of such initiatives, subject to any requirements of the Municipal Elections Code or other City ordinance. If a measure is withdrawn, the Board of Supervisors is not required to conduct a hearing on the measure.

(Amended by Proposition C, Approved 11/6/2007)

**\* Editor's Note:**

*Section 3.100(15) was redesignated as 3.100(16) by Proposition C, adopted at the November 2, 2010 election.*

---

## SEC. 3.100. POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES.

The Mayor shall be the chief executive officer and the official representative of the City and County, and shall serve full time in that capacity. The Mayor shall devote his or her entire time and attention to the duties of the office, and shall not devote time or attention to any other occupation or business activity. The Mayor shall enforce all laws relating to the City and County, and accept service of process on its behalf.

The Mayor shall have responsibility for:

1. General administration and oversight of all departments and governmental units in the executive branch of the City and County;
2. Coordination of all intergovernmental activities of the City and County;
3. Receipt and examination of complaints relating to the administration of the affairs of the City and

County, and timely delivery of notice to the complainant of findings and actions taken;

4. Assurance that appointees to various governmental positions with the City and County are qualified and are as representative of the communities of interest and diverse population of the City and County as is reasonably practicable, and are representative of both sexes;

5. Submission of ordinances and resolutions by the executive branch for consideration by the Board of Supervisors;

6. Presentation before the Board of Supervisors of a policies and priorities statement setting forth the Mayor's policies and budget priorities for the City and County for the ensuing fiscal year;

7. Appearance, in person, at one regularly-scheduled meeting of the Board of Supervisors each month to engage in formal policy discussions with members of the Board;

8. Introduction before the Board of Supervisors of the annual proposed budget or multi-year budget which shall be initiated and prepared by the Mayor. The Mayor shall seek comments and recommendations on the proposed budget from the various commissions, officers and departments; and

9. Preparation of and introduction to the Board of Supervisors of supplemental appropriations.

The Mayor shall have the power to:

10. Speak and be heard with respect to any matter at any meeting of the Board of Supervisors or any of its committees, and shall have a seat but no vote on all boards and commissions appointed by the Mayor;

11. As provided in Section 3.103 of this Charter, veto any ordinance or resolution passed by the Board of Supervisors;

12. Subject to the fiscal provisions of this Charter and budgetary approval by the Board of Supervisors, appoint such staff as may be needed to perform the duties and carry out the responsibilities of the Mayor's office, provided that no member of the staff shall receive a salary in excess of seventy percent of that paid the Mayor. For purposes of this provision, staff does not include the City Administrator, department heads or employees of departments placed under his or her direction by Section 3.104. Notwithstanding any other provisions or limitations of this Charter to the contrary, the Mayor may not designate nor may the City and County employ on the Mayor's behalf any person to act as deputy to the Mayor or any similar employment classification, regardless of title, whose responsibilities include but are not necessarily limited to supervision of the administration of any department for which the City Administrator, an elected official other than the Mayor or an appointed board or commission is assigned responsibility elsewhere in this Charter;

13. Designate a member of the Board of Supervisors to act as Mayor in the Mayor's absence from the state or during a period of temporary disability;

14. In the case of an emergency threatening the lives, property or welfare of the City and County or its citizens, the Mayor may direct the personnel and resources of any department, command the aid of other persons, and do whatever else the Mayor may deem necessary to meet the emergency;

In meeting an emergency, the Mayor shall act only with the concurrence of the Board of Supervisors, or a majority of its members immediately available if the emergency causes any member of the Board to be absent. The Mayor shall seek the Board's concurrence as soon as is reasonably possible in both the declaration of an emergency and in the action taken to meet the emergency. Normal notice, posting and agenda requirements of the Board of Supervisors shall not be applicable to the Board's actions pursuant to these provisions;

15. Make an appointment to fill any vacancy in an elective office of the City and County until a successor shall have been elected;

16. Subject to the provisions of Charter Section 2.113, submit to the voters a declaration of policy or ordinance on any matter on which the Board of Supervisors is empowered to pass;

17. Have and exercise such other powers as are provided by this Charter or by law for the chief executive officer of a City and County;

18. Unless otherwise specifically provided, make appointments to boards and commissions which shall be effective immediately and remain so, unless rejected by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Supervisors within 30 days following transmittal of Notice of Appointment. The Notice of Appointment shall include the appointee's qualifications to serve and a statement how the appointment represents the communities of interest, neighborhoods and diverse populations of the City and County;

19. Appoint department heads subject to the provisions of this Charter; and

20. Prepare and submit schedule of rates, fees and other similar charges to the Board of Supervisors.

(Amended by Proposition C, Approved 11/6/2007; Proposition C, Approved 11/2/2010)

# San Francisco Administrative Code

---

## **SEC. 2.30. PROPOSAL SUBMITTED TO VOTERS PURSUANT TO STATE LAW AND CHARTER.**

Any proposal for the incurrence of indebtedness of the City and County for public improvements, payable from the proceeds of taxes levied upon property in the City and County, which is submitted to the qualified voters of the City and County by the Board of Supervisors, shall be submitted in accordance with the applicable provisions of the general laws of the State and the Charter of the City and County, subject only to the limitations imposed by this Article.

— (Ord No. 567-58, Sec 1; amended by Ord. 133-99, File No. 990584, App. 5/28/99)

---

## **SEC. 2.30-1. PROPOSAL TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE CAPITAL PLANNING COMMITTEE; REPORT THEREFROM.**

Any department of the City seeking to incur general obligation indebtedness on behalf of the City shall submit a proposal meeting the requirements of Section 3.21 of this Code to the Capital Planning Committee not less than 188 days before the election at which such proposal is to be acted upon by the voters. The Board shall not place any proposal on the ballot until the Capital Planning Committee has completed its review of the proposal and submitted its recommendation to the Board in accordance with Section 3.21 of this Code.

— (Added by Ord. 112-87, App. 4/24/87; amended by Ord. 495-88, App. 11/15/88; Ord. 133-99, File No. 990584, App. 5/28/99; Ord. [75-14](#), File No. 140226, App. 5/28/2014, Eff. 6/27/2014)

---

## **SEC. 2.31. PROPOSAL TO BE IN FORM OF RESOLUTION; DRAFTING, CONTENTS, INTRODUCTION TO BOARD AND REFERRAL TO COMMITTEE.**

The proposal provided for by Section 2.30 of this Code must be introduced by the Mayor or by a member of the Board of Supervisors at a regular meeting of the Board in the form of a resolution determining that the public interest or necessity demands the acquisition, construction or completion of any municipal improvement.

Such resolution must be so introduced not less than 169 days before the election at which such proposal is to be acted upon by the voters. Upon introduction, such resolution shall be referred to a committee of the Board of Supervisors.

— (Amended by Ord. 16-74, App. 1/4/74; Ord. 133-99, File No. 990584, App. 5/28/99; Ord. 255-03, File No. 031457, App. 11/7/2003)

---

## **SEC. 2.33. REFERRAL OF RESOLUTION TO CONTROLLER; STATEMENT TO VOTERS.**

Immediately after introduction of the resolution by the Board of Supervisors as provided by Section 2.31 of this Code, the Clerk of the Board shall deliver a copy thereof to the Controller, who shall make a written statement thereon to the Board, analyzing the proposition as to its cost and effect, pursuant to the provisions of Section 3.105 of the Charter. The Controller's statement of the effect on the tax rate of a proposition to create a "bonded" debt required to be mailed to the voters by the provisions of Section 3.105 of the Charter shall include a statement of the dollar amount such effect on the tax rate would cost the owners of real property with a representative value or values. The Director of Elections is authorized and directed to include this statement as

part of the Controller's statement mailed to the voters pursuant to the provisions of Section 3.105 of the Charter. The committee to which any such resolution is referred shall not report it to the Board, and the Board shall not adopt such resolution, prior to receipt of such statement.

■ (Amended by Ord. 280-61, App. 10/27/61; Ord. 112-87, App. 4/24/87; Ord. 133-99, File No. 990584, App. 5/28/99)

---

## **SEC. 2.34. TIME OF ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION BEFORE ELECTION; TIME OF PASSAGE OF ORDINANCE ORDERING ELECTION.**

The resolution provided for by Section 2.31 of this Code shall be adopted by the Board of Supervisors not less than 141 days before the election at which such proposal is to be submitted to by the voters. At any meeting of the Board subsequent to that at which the resolution is adopted, but not less than 99 days before such election, the Board may finally pass an ordinance ordering the submission of such proposal to the qualified voters of the City and County at an election held for that purpose. The time limits as herein set forth may be waived by resolution of the Board of Supervisors.

(Amended by Ord. 16-74, App. 1/4/74; Ord. 112-87, App. 4/24/87; Ord. 133-99, File No. 990584, App. 5/28/99)

# San Francisco Municipal Elections Code

---

## ARTICLE III:

### SUBMISSION OF MEASURES TO THE VOTERS

---

- Sec. 300. Deadlines For Submission of Measures.
  - Sec. 305. Rules for Submission of Ordinances and Charter Amendments by the Board of Supervisors.
  - Sec. 310. Initiative Measures and Referenda; Incorporation of State Law.
  - Sec. 320. Notice of Intention to Circulate Initiative Petition; Filing Fee; Signatures In Lieu of Filing Fee.
  - Sec. 330. Signatures In Lieu of Filing Fee; Procedures for Submission.
  - Sec. 335. Circulator Identification Requirements.
  - Sec. 340. Enacting Clause.
  - Sec. 350. Transmission of Initiative Measures to Affected Departments.
  - Sec. 360. Measures Concerning the Same Subject Matter; Competing and Conflicting Measures; Complementary Measures.
  - Sec. 370. Withdrawal of Measures.
  - Sec. 380. Effective Date of Measures.
  - Sec. 390. Repeal.
- 

---

#### SEC. 300. DEADLINES FOR SUBMISSION OF MEASURES.

(a) **Charter Amendments and Bond Measures.** Except as provided in Subsection (c) of this Section, proposed Charter amendments and bond measures shall be submitted to the voters at the next election held no fewer than 102 days after the date said measure is received by the Director of Elections.

The Board of Supervisors may submit, and the Director of Elections shall have the discretion to accept, one proposed Charter amendment or bond measure per election that is received fewer than 102 days before the date of the election, provided that said measure is received no fewer than 95 days before the date of the election.

(b) **Measures Submitted by the Mayor, Board of Supervisors, or Four or More Supervisors.** Ordinances and declarations of policy proposed by a majority of the Board of Supervisors or by four or more Supervisors pursuant to Charter Section 2.113, or by the Mayor pursuant to Charter Section 3.100(16), shall be submitted to the voters at the next election held no fewer than 95 days after the date said measure is transmitted to the Director of Elections.

(c) **Measures Proposed by Initiative Petition.** Measures proposed by initiative petition pursuant to Charter Sections 14.101 or 9.110 and Charter amendments proposed by initiative petition shall be submitted to the voters upon certification of the sufficiency of the petition signatures by the Director of Elections. An initiative petition shall be submitted to the Director of Elections no fewer than 120 days before the date of the election for which the initiative is intended. The Director of Elections shall certify the sufficiency of the petition signatures, or determine the insufficiency of the signatures, no later than 30 days after the date the petition is received.

(1) Except as provided in Subdivisions (2) and (3) of this subsection, a vote on an initiative shall occur at the next general municipal or Statewide election occurring no fewer than 90 days from the date of the certificate of sufficiency executed by the Director of Elections. Any initiative petition that is certified by the Director of Elections to contain the requisite number of valid signatures, but that is certified within 90 days of an election,

shall not be placed on the ballot for that election but shall be placed on the ballot at the next general municipal or Statewide election.

(2) The Director of Elections shall call for a special municipal election on an initiative if the initiative petition complies with the requirements of Charter Section 14.101.

(3) The Board of Supervisors may call for a special municipal election on an initiative pursuant to Charter Section 14.101, provided that the special election occurs no fewer than 90 days from the date the certificate of sufficiency is executed by the Director of Elections.

(Added by Ord. 429-97, App. 11/17/97; amended by Ord. 183-03, File No. 030652, App. 7/25/2003; Ord. 291-06, File No. 061375, App. 11/29/2006; Ord. [75-14](#), File No. 140226, App. 5/28/2014, Eff. 6/27/2014)

---

## **SEC. 305. RULES FOR SUBMISSION OF ORDINANCES AND CHARTER AMENDMENTS BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS.**

(a) When the Board of Supervisors considers whether to submit an ordinance or Charter amendment to the voters, the following rules shall apply:

(1) The Board of Supervisors shall be prohibited from considering or deciding whether to submit an ordinance or Charter amendment to the voters unless, at least 30 days before the date of the first committee hearing concerning the proposed ordinance or Charter amendment, the following materials are delivered to the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors and available for public review:

(A) A draft of the proposed ordinance or Charter amendment that is approved as to form by the City Attorney; and

(B) A legislative digest prepared by the City Attorney.

(2) Upon receipt of the materials described in Subsection (a)(1) of this Section, the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors shall transmit a copy of the proposed ordinance or Charter amendment to the Controller. The Controller shall prepare a financial analysis of the proposed measure and deliver the analysis to the Clerk no later than the first committee hearing concerning the proposed ordinance or Charter amendment. The Board of Supervisors shall be prohibited from considering or deciding whether to submit the measure to the voters unless the Controller has provided the Board with the financial analysis required by this subsection.

(3) Any amendments to a proposed ordinance or Charter amendment shall be noticed for an additional public hearing by the Board committee designated to consider the measure. The proposed amendments shall be submitted in writing to the clerk of the designated committee and shall be available for public review no later than the time that notice of the additional hearing is published.

(Added by Ord. 429-97, App. 11/17/97)

---

## **SEC. 310. INITIATIVE MEASURES AND REFERENDA; INCORPORATION OF STATE LAW.**

Except as otherwise provided by the Charter or this Municipal Elections Code, the circulation and qualification of initiative petitions and referenda is governed by California Elections Code Sections 100 and 101, and Section 9200 et seq.

(Added by Ord. 429-97, App. 11/17/97)

---

## **SEC. 320. NOTICE OF INTENTION TO CIRCULATE INITIATIVE PETITION; FILING FEE; SIGNATURES IN LIEU OF FILING FEE.**

(a) At the time the proponent files a notice of intention to circulate an initiative petition, the proponent shall pay a fee, the amount of which is specified in Section 820 of this Code, to the Director of Elections. The fee shall be used to defray the costs incurred by the City Attorney to prepare the ballot title and summary as required by California Elections Code Section 9203. The fee shall be refunded by the Director of Elections to the proponent if, within one year of the date of filing the notice of intention, the Director of Elections certifies the sufficiency of the petition.

(b) At the time the proponent files a notice of intention to circulate an initiative petition, the proponent may submit a petition containing signatures in lieu of part or all of the filing fee required under Subsection (a). Any registered voter of the City and County may sign an in-lieu petition. Each valid signature contained in the in-lieu petition shall reduce the filing fee by the amount specified in Section 840 of this Code.

(c) Each in-lieu petition shall include a complete and accurate copy of the notice of intention to circulate an initiative petition. Each petition shall also include spaces for the voter's signature, printed name and residence address. The residence address shall include street and number within the City and County, or other adequate designation of residence so that the location may be readily ascertained. Across the top of each printed page there shall be printed in 12-point boldface type the following: "Petition in Lieu of Filing Fee for Notice of Intention to Circulate Initiative Petition."

(d) Each in-lieu petition shall include an affidavit signed by the circulator in substantially the same form as set forth in California Elections Code Section 9022 except that the affidavit shall declare that the circulator is a voter of the City and County and shall state the address at which the circulator is registered to vote at the time of execution of the affidavit.

— (Added by Ord. 429-97, App. 11/17/97)

---

## **SEC. 330. SIGNATURES IN LIEU OF FILING FEE; PROCEDURES FOR SUBMISSION.**

(a) Upon receipt of the minimum number of signatures in lieu of filing fee required by Section 820 of this Code, or a sufficient combination of such signatures and pro rata filing fee, the Director of Elections shall provisionally accept for filing the notice of intention to circulate an initiative petition. Within seven days after the receipt of the petition, the Director of Elections shall notify the proponent of the petition of any deficiency in the in-lieu signatures submitted. The proponent may then, within seven days of notification, submit additional signatures in the same manner as provided in Section 320 of this Code or pay a pro rata portion of the filing fee to cover the deficiency. If the deficiency is not remedied by either method within seven days, the notice of intention shall not be accepted and any filing fee paid by the proponent shall be forfeited.

(b) The notice of intention to circulate an initiative petition shall be deemed filed upon the date that a sufficient number of signatures submitted in lieu of the filing fee have been verified, or the date upon which any deficiency has been cured.

(c) The proponent of an in-lieu petition may submit a greater number of signatures than required by Section 320(b) of this Code. The Director of Elections shall not be required to determine the validity of a greater number of signatures than that required to reduce the filing fee to zero. If the number of signatures affixed to an in-lieu petition is 100 or more, the Director of Elections may use a random sampling technique for verification of the signatures. The random sampling shall include an examination of 100 signatures, or three percent of the total number of signatures submitted, whichever is greater. Upon completion of the verification of signatures in the sample, the percentage of signatures which are valid shall be applied and projected to the total number of signatures submitted.



---

## **SEC. 335. CIRCULATOR IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.**

(a) Any person having charge or control of the circulation of, or obtaining signatures to, any City initiative, referendum or recall petition, shall request circulator identification badge templates from the Department of Elections. Upon request, the Department of Elections shall provide one badge template containing the words "VOLUNTEER CIRCULATOR" and a second badge template containing the words "PAID CIRCULATOR." The badge templates shall specify a font and size that will be clearly legible to the intended public. When the Department of Elections provides badge templates to any person pursuant to this subsection, the Department of Elections also shall provide written notice to that person describing the requirements set forth in subsection (b).

(b) Every person is guilty of an infraction, punishable by the maximum fine allowed under state law, who, circulating, as a principal or agent, or obtaining signatures to, any City initiative, referendum or recall petition, intentionally fails to display an identification badge provided by the Department of Elections pursuant to subsection (a) on his or her outermost piece of clothing that includes the words "VOLUNTEER CIRCULATOR" if the person is not being paid to circulate the petition or "PAID CIRCULATOR" if the person is being paid to circulate the petition.

(c) The person having charge or control of the circulation of or obtaining signatures to, any petition shall provide every person circulating the petition with a badge stating whether that person is a paid or volunteer circulator. Each badge shall be printed in the font and size specified in the badge template provided by the Department of Elections. The person having charge or control of the circulation of, or obtaining signatures to, any petition shall also provide an exact copy of the written notice described in subsection (b) to every person to whom the person distributes a badge. Any person who fails to provide an exact copy of the written notice as required under this subsection shall be guilty of an infraction, punishable by the maximum fine allowed under State law.

(d) Upon request by any person, a person circulating, as a principal or agent, or having charge or control of the circulation of, or obtaining signatures to, any City initiative, referendum or recall petition shall disclose the name(s) of the proponents of the petition. Any person who intentionally fails to make such disclosure shall be guilty of an infraction, punishable by the maximum fine allowed under State law.

---

## **SEC. 340. ENACTING CLAUSE.**

The enacting clause of all ordinances submitted to the voters shall be "Be it ordained by the people of the City and County of San Francisco." The failure to include this language in an initiative petition shall not be fatal to the petition.

---

## **SEC. 350. TRANSMISSION OF INITIATIVE MEASURES TO AFFECTED DEPARTMENTS.**

No later than two working days after receipt of an initiative petition for certification, the Director of Elections, in consultation with the Office of the City Attorney, shall forward the initiative measure to those departments which the Director of Elections believes are the most appropriate for determining the effect of the measure on current law and practices. Those departments shall transmit an analysis of the measure to the Ballot

Simplification Committee no later than three days prior to the first date the Committee will meet to prepare a digest of the measure, as provided in Article VI of this Code.

— (Added by Ord. 429-97, App. 11/17/97)

---

## **SEC. 360. MEASURES CONCERNING THE SAME SUBJECT MATTER; COMPETING AND CONFLICTING MEASURES; COMPLEMENTARY MEASURES.**

When two or more proposed measures concern the same subject matter, the Director of Elections shall publish in the Voter Information Pamphlet the following statement on the ballot measure title page for each of the measures:

Propositions () and () concern the same subject matter. If both measures are adopted by the voters, and if there is a conflict between provisions of the two measures, then some or all of the measure approved by fewer votes would not go into effect.

In case two or more measures adopted at the same election have conflicting provisions and are tied for the highest vote, they shall be resubmitted at the next ensuing general election.

— (Added by Ord. 429-97, App. 11/17/97; amended by Ord. 183-03, File No. 030652, App. 7/25/2003)

---

## **SEC. 370. WITHDRAWAL OF MEASURES.**

(a) **Measures Proposed by the Mayor or Board of Supervisors.** Measures proposed by the Mayor or Board of Supervisors pursuant to Section 300(a) or (b) of this Article may be withdrawn at any time up until and including the legal deadline for submission of the measure to the Director of Elections. The Mayor or Board of Supervisors cannot withdraw measures after the legal deadline for submission of the measure to the Director of Elections.

(b) **Measures Proposed by Four or More Supervisors.**

(1) **Unanimous Withdrawal.** Measures proposed by four or more members of the Board of Supervisors pursuant to Section 300(b) of this Article may be withdrawn at any time up until and including the legal deadline for submission of the measure to the Director of Elections if each of the Supervisors who submitted the measure files with the Director of Elections a signed and sworn statement of withdrawal before the legal deadline for submission of the measure. The four or more Supervisors who submitted the measure cannot withdraw the measure after the legal deadline for submission of the measure to the Director of Elections.

(2) **Withdrawal of Support by One or More Supervisors.** Measures proposed by four or more members of the Board of Supervisors pursuant to Section 300(b) of this Article shall be withdrawn if one or more of the Supervisors withdraw their support for the proposed measure, and following this withdrawal fewer than four Supervisors continue to support the proposed measure. For purposes of this subsection, a Supervisor may withdraw his or her support for a measure by filing with the Director of Elections a signed and sworn statement of withdrawal at any time up until 72 hours before the legal deadline for submission of the measure to the Director of Elections. Following such a withdrawal, additional members of the Board of Supervisors may join in support of the proposed measure provided that they do so in writing before the legal deadline for submission of the measure to the Director of Elections. No Supervisor may withdraw his or her support for a measure pursuant to this subsection if fewer than 72 hours remain before the legal deadline for submission of the measure to the Director of Elections.

(c) **Initiatives.** Once submitted to the Department of Elections, measures proposed by initiative petition may not be withdrawn.

---

## SEC. 380. EFFECTIVE DATE OF MEASURES.

Unless otherwise provided in the text of a proposed ballot measure, other than a Charter amendment, if a majority of the registered San Francisco voters voting on the measure vote in favor thereof, the measure shall go into effect 10 days after the date the official vote count is declared by the Board of Supervisors.

If a majority of the registered San Francisco voters voting on a Charter amendment vote in favor thereof, the Charter amendment shall go into effect once the amendment is accepted and filed by the Secretary of State pursuant to Government Code Section 34450, et seq.

■ (Added by Ord. 429-97, App. 11/17/97)

---

## SEC. 390. REPEAL.

No measure approved by the electorate under the provisions of the Charter or this Code shall be subject to veto, amendment or repeal except by vote of the electorate, unless the measure otherwise provides.

■ (Added by Ord. 429-97, App. 11/17/97)

---

## SEC. 500. VOTER INFORMATION PAMPHLET; CONTENTS; FORMAT.



### New Ordinance Notice

**Publisher's Note:** This section has been **AMENDED** by new legislation (Ord. [120-18](#), approved 5/17/2018, effective 6/17/2018). The text of the amendment will be incorporated below when the amending legislation is effective.

---

With respect to any election to be held in the City and County, the Director of Elections shall prepare a voter information pamphlet. The voter information pamphlet shall contain, in addition to any other material required by the Charter or by general law, the following materials:

(a) **General contents:**

- (1) A table of contents;
- (2) An index of candidates and measures;
- (3) A brief explanation of the purpose and use of the pamphlet;
- (4) A summary of voters' rights, including a description of the right provided to every elector by California Elections Code sections 9295 and 13314 to seek a writ of mandate or an injunction prior to the publication of the Voter Information Pamphlet, requiring any or all of the materials submitted for publication in the Pamphlet to be amended or deleted;
- (5) A brief description of the rules and procedures that govern the submission, selection and publication of ballot arguments in the pamphlet, including a statement explaining that each person entitled to submit a "Proponent's" or "Opponent's" argument is chosen pursuant to the priority list stated in Section 545 of this Code;
- (6) A disclaimer that neither the Director of Elections nor any other City agency, official or employee verifies the accuracy of information contained in the ballot arguments or candidate qualification statements

appearing in the pamphlet, and an explanation that any person submitting a ballot argument or qualifications statement bears the sole responsibility for claims made therein;

(7) Artwork, graphics and other material which the Director of Elections determines will make the pamphlet easier to understand or more useful to the voter;

(8) Definitions of terms appearing in the pamphlet; and

(9) A sample ballot.

**(b) Contents as to candidates:**

(1) The candidate qualification statement of each candidate for City elective office;

(2) A brief statement of the term, compensation, and duties of each City elective office appearing in the pamphlet; and

(3) Any notice required by the Campaign Finance Reform Ordinance or the Political Reform Act, Government Code Section 85600, informing voters whether the candidate has adopted the applicable voluntary expenditure ceiling.

**(c) Contents as to measures:**

(1) The identification of each measure by letter and title;

(2) The City Attorney's statement or question for each measure;

(3) The digest of each measure prepared by the Ballot Simplification Committee;

(4) The Controller's financial analysis of each measure;

(5) An explanation of how the measure qualified for submission to the voters;

(A) If the measure was submitted to the voters by the Board of Supervisors, the explanation required by Subsection (c)(5) of this Section shall identify those Supervisors who voted for submission of the measure and those Supervisors who voted against submission of the measure,

(B) If the measure was submitted to the voters by four or more members of the Board of Supervisors, the explanation required by Subsection (c)(5) of this Section shall identify those Supervisors who submitted the measure,

(C) If the measure was submitted to the voters by initiative petition, the explanation required by Subsection (c)(5) of this Section shall include the number of valid signatures of registered San Francisco voters that were required to qualify the measure for the ballot, and the date on which the Director of Elections certified that the measure qualified for the ballot;

(6) The opponent, proponent, rebuttal and paid arguments, if any, for or against each measure;

(7) The full legal text of each Charter amendment to be voted upon at the election. For each Charter amendment, the Department of Elections shall cause to be printed immediately below the Ballot Simplification Committee digest, in no less than 10-point bold type, a statement substantially as follows: "The above statement is an impartial analysis of Measure \_\_\_\_\_. The full text of this measure appears at page (insert page number)."

(8) The full legal text of each measure other than a Charter amendment to be voted upon at the election, unless the legal text of the measure as submitted to the Department of Elections exceeds 100 pages. In that event, the voter information pamphlet shall contain the first 20 pages of the legal text of the measure as submitted to the Department of Elections, provided that the Board of Supervisors may adopt a resolution, effective no later than the 94th day prior to the date of the election, requiring the Director of Elections to include the full legal text of a measure in the voter information pamphlet.

(A) If the full legal text of a measure is printed in the voter information pamphlet, the Department of Elections shall cause to be printed immediately below the Ballot Simplification Committee digest, in no less than 10-point bold type, a statement substantially as follows: "The above statement is an impartial analysis of Measure \_\_\_\_\_. The full text of this measure appears at page (insert page number)."

(B) If less than the full legal text of a measure is printed in the voter information pamphlet, the Department of Elections shall:

(i) cause the full legal text to be posted on the Department's website, provided to the Main Library and every branch library of the San Francisco Public Library, and mailed to any voter upon request;

(ii) cause to be printed immediately below the Ballot Simplification Committee digest, in no less than 10-point bold type, a statement substantially as follows: "The above statement is an impartial analysis of Measure \_\_\_\_\_. An excerpt of the text of this measure appears at page (insert page number). The full text of this measure is available online at (insert website address) and in every public library. If you desire a copy of the full text of the measure to be mailed to you, please contact the Department of Elections at (insert telephone number and email address) and a copy will be mailed at no cost to you."; and

(iii) cause to be printed immediately below the excerpt of legal text in the voter information pamphlet, in no less than 10-point bold type, a statement substantially as follows: "The text above contains the first 20 pages of Measure \_\_\_\_\_ but does not include the remaining pages of the measure. The pages that have been excluded may include important information that could be useful to voters, and the Department of Elections encourages voters to review those pages as well. The full text of this measure is available online at (insert website address) and in every public library. If you desire a copy of the full text of the measure to be mailed to you, please contact the Department of Elections at (insert telephone number and email address) and a copy will be mailed at no cost to you."

(9) The following statement for each measure that would approve a development project or substantial land use or zoning changes on land transferred in trust to the City, acting by and through the Port Commission, under the Burton Act, Chapter 1333 of the Statutes of 1968, as it has been amended and may be amended in the future: "Measure \_\_\_\_\_ involves the San Francisco waterfront, which includes sovereign lands that the State of California has legislatively granted to the City. These waterfront lands and their resources are protected by the common law public trust doctrine and the City holds them in trust on behalf of all the People of California."

Measures, and the material specified in this Section relating to said measures, shall be printed in the voter information pamphlet in the same order in which designated upon the ballot.

If space allows, the items specified in subsections (c)(1) to (c)(5) shall be printed together on the same page of the voter information pamphlet. This page shall be known as the "ballot measure title page." The ballot measure title page shall also indicate: the page number at which the arguments for or against the measure are printed; and, if applicable the page number at which the definitions of terms appearing on ballot measure title page are printed.

The item specified in subsection (c)(9) shall be printed immediately preceding the legal text for the measure.

The format of the voter information pamphlet shall be determined by the Director of Elections, subject to the approval of the Ballot Simplification Committee.

(Added by Ord. 429-97, App. 11/17/97; amended by Ord. 44-03, File No. 021996, App. 4/3/2003; Ord. 183-03, File No. 030652, App. 7/25/2003; Ord. 291-06, File No. 061375, App. 11/29/2006; Ord. [179-11](#), File No. 101574, App. 9/21/2011; Eff. 10/21/2011; Ord. [50-13](#), File No. 120899, App. 3/28/2013, Eff. 4/27/2013; Ord. [158-13](#), File No. 130413, App. 7/26/2013, Eff. 8/25/2013; Ord. [120-18](#), File No. 180215, App. 5/17/2018, Eff. 6/17/2018)

---

## **SEC. 501. FORMAT OF PROPOSED MEASURES.**

Whenever the text of any proposed measure, including a Charter amendment, is printed in the voter information pamphlet pursuant to Section 500(c)(6), the Director of Elections shall distinguish additions to or deletions from existing legislation in the printed text of the measure by underlining, bold type, strike-outs or other appropriate means. An explanation of the method used to distinguish the proposed changes shall immediately precede the text of the measure.

Any proposal for amendment of the Charter which is ordered submitted to the electors by the Board of Supervisors shall also be published in the official newspaper.

■ (Added by Ord. 134-99, File No. 990585, App. 5/28/99)

---

## **SEC. 515. DIGEST OF MEASURES; FORMAT; READABILITY LEVEL.**

(a) The Ballot Simplification Committee shall prepare a digest of each measure submitted to the voters. Each digest shall include four subsections. These four subsections shall be entitled and shall appear in the following sequence in the voter information pamphlet: The Way It is Now, The Proposal, A "Yes" Vote Means, A "No" Vote Means.

(b) No digest shall exceed 300 words, exclusive of the title for each subsection provided for in Subsection (a) of this Section, unless the Ballot Simplification Committee determines that a longer digest is required because of the complexity or scope of the proposed measure.

(c) In preparing the digest of any measure, the Ballot Simplification Committee shall achieve the closest proximity to the eighth grade level of readability as possible. The Committee may utilize any nationally accepted standard for estimating readability.

(d) The digest for any measure shall be transmitted to the Director of Elections no fewer than 85 days prior to the election to which it relates, for printing and inclusion in the voter information pamphlet.

■ (Added by Ord. 429-97, App. 11/17/97)

---

## **SEC. 520. CONTROLLER'S FINANCIAL ANALYSIS.**

(a) The Controller shall prepare an impartial financial analysis of each measure submitted to the voters. The Controller's financial analysis shall include the amount of any increase or decrease in the cost of City and County government. The Controller's financial analysis shall also include the effect of the measure upon the tax rate.

For any general obligation bond measure placed on the ballot, the Controller's financial analysis shall include an explanation of the City's legal debt limit, as well as the impact of the proposed bond measure on that limit. The Controller's financial analysis for a general obligation bond measure placed on the ballot, including general obligation bond measures submitted by the San Francisco Unified School District or San Francisco Community College District, also shall include an explanation of the 50 percent passthrough of the change in a landlord's property tax resulting from the repayment of such indebtedness provided in Administrative Code Section 37.3(a)(6), and an estimate of the impact of that passthrough under the proposed bond measure.

(b) The Controller's financial analysis shall be in a form appropriate for inclusion in the voter information pamphlet.

(c) The Controller's financial analysis of any measure shall be transmitted to the Director of Elections no fewer than 85 days prior to the election to which it relates, for printing and inclusion in the voter information pamphlet.

(Added by Ord. 429-97, App. 11/17/97; amended by Ord. 202-00, File No. 001156, App. 8/18/2000; Ord. 252-06, File No. 061183, App. 10/11/2006)



---

## SEC. 521. CONTROLLER'S STATEMENT ON SET-ASIDES.

(a) **Purpose.** The ordinance is adopted to promote the policy contained in Administrative Code Section 3.26.

(b) **Controller's Statement.** Whenever a proposed appears on the ballot that includes a Set-Aside as that term is defined in Administrative Code Section 3.26, the Controller shall prepare and the Director of Elections shall caused to be printed in the voter information pamphlet a statement analyzing the impact of the measure on the City's budget and finances during the term of the measure, considered alone and in combination with existing Set-Asides. The Controller's statement shall inform the voters of both the policy that this section of the Charter adopts and whether the proposal identifies a specific adequate new funding source for the proposed Set-Aside so that the implementation of the Set-Aside will not cause any anticipated reduction in discretionary funding that the Mayor and Board of Supervisors may allocate in the budgetary process. The Controller may include any other material in the statement that he or she deems useful and appropriate.

■ (Added by Proposition S, 11/4/2008)

---

## SEC. 525. BALLOT ARGUMENTS; NOTICE OF SUBMISSION AND REVIEW OF BALLOT ARGUMENTS.

(a) The Director of Elections shall, between the ninetieth day and the eighty-first day prior to any election, publish, on three separate occasions, a notice in the official newspaper that arguments may be submitted for or against any measure to be voted upon at said election. Said notice need not include a description of said measures.

(b) The Director of Elections shall also distribute a news release relating to the submission of arguments to such other newspapers and radio and television stations as he or she deems will best inform persons of their right to submit such arguments, and to examine such arguments for a 10-day period as provided by California Elections Code Section 9295 and Section 590 of this Article.

■ (Added by Ord. 429-97, App. 11/17/97; amended by Ord. 291-06, File No. 061375, App. 11/29/2006)

---

## SEC. 530. BALLOT ARGUMENTS; PROCEDURES.

(a) **Rules for Submission.** These procedures shall govern the submission and publication of ballot arguments for or against any measure submitted to the voters.

(b) **Authorship.** Subject to the provisions of Section 535, the Board of Supervisors, or any member or members of the Board of Supervisors authorized by that body; the Mayor; any proponent of an initiative measure or a referendum; any individual voter who is eligible to vote on the measure, or group of such voters; or association or organization; or any combination thereof, may submit a written argument for or against any measure for publication in the voter information pamphlet. When the Board of Supervisors authorizes a member or members of that body to submit and sign a written proponent's or opponent's argument for or against any measure for publication in the voter information pamphlet, or assigns that right to another person pursuant to Section 550 of this Code, the Board shall provide such authorization by motion and need not take any further action, including voting on or otherwise approving the actual text of the argument before it is submitted for publication.

(c) **Form.** To ensure that all ballot arguments are filed in a uniform format, the arguments shall be submitted in a manner specified by the Director of Elections.

(d) **Authorization Signatures Required.** A ballot argument shall not be accepted unless accompanied by the signature or signatures of the person or persons submitting it, or, if submitted on behalf of an association or organization, the name of the association or organization and the signature of at least one of its principal officers who is a registered San Francisco voter. The association or organization submitting the argument must clearly indicate whether it wishes the name of the officer submitting the argument to be printed as part of the argument. The names of additional associations, organizations, or individuals who are registered San Francisco voters may be submitted as co-authors of the argument. The names and titles of all co-authors, and the name and title of any other person to be included in the text of the argument as printed in the voter information pamphlet, shall be counted against the 300-word limit specified in Section 575 of this Article. Such names and titles shall be subject to the per-word fee specified in Section 830 of this Code.

(e) **Consent Required.** A ballot argument which includes in its text the name of a individual or entity, other than a co-author of the argument, which is represented as being for or against a measure, or which is represented as supporting, opposing, or endorsing the views expressed in the argument, shall not be accepted unless the argument is accompanied by a statement of consent signed by such individual or entity. The consent of an entity shall be signed by an officer or other duly authorized representative.

(Added by Ord. 429-97, App. 11/17/97; amended by Ord. 44-03, File No. 021996, App. 4/3/2003; Ord. 183-03, File No. 030652, App. 7/25/2003; Ord. 291-06, File No. 061375, App. 11/29/2006; Ord. [102-14](#), File No. 140341, App. 7/2/2014, Eff. 8/1/2014)

---

## **SEC. 535. BALLOT ARGUMENTS; DEADLINES FOR SUBMISSION, CORRECTION, AND WITHDRAWAL.**

(a) **Definitions.** For purposes of Section 535 and 545, the following definitions shall apply:

"Author" means the Person whose name appears in italics after the text of a ballot argument in the voter information pamphlet, to signify that the ballot argument is attributed to that Person. There may be more than one Author for a single ballot argument.

"Committee" has the same meaning as set forth in the California Political Reform Act, California Government Code section 82013.

"Non-supporter" means any Person who, with respect to a measure:

- (1) is a treasurer, officer, or member of a committee that has made or plans to make expenditures in opposition to a measure;
- (2) has received or has been promised any compensation or thing of value from such a committee to perform consulting services for that committee; or
- (3) has authorized his or her name or likeness to appear on campaign literature or in advertising that advocates for the defeat of a measure.

"Person" means any registered San Francisco voter, group of registered San Francisco voters, association or organization, or combination thereof. An association or organization must have at least one principal officer who is a registered San Francisco voter.

"Supporter" means any Person who, with respect to a measure:

- (1) is a treasurer, officer, or member of a Committee that has made or plans to make expenditures in support of the measure;
- (2) has received or has been promised any compensation or thing of value from such a Committee to perform consulting services for that Committee;
- (3) has authorized his or her name or likeness to appear on campaign literature or in advertising that advocates for the adoption of the measure; or



(4) who, with respect to an initiative or referendum petition, is the official proponent of the initiative or referendum petition.

**(b) Proponent's and Opponent's Arguments.**

(1) Ballot arguments submitted for selection as the proponent's argument for or opponent's argument against a measure as provided in Section 545 must be submitted to the Director of Elections no later than noon of the eighty-second day prior to the election at which the measure is to be voted upon.

(2) Each Author of a ballot argument submitted for selection as the proponent's argument shall attest under penalty of perjury on a form provided by the Director of Elections that the Author is not a Non-supporter of the measure to which the ballot argument pertains. Each Author of a ballot argument submitted for selection as the opponent's argument shall attest under penalty of perjury on a form provided by the Director of Elections that the Author is not a Supporter of the measure to which the ballot argument pertains.

(3) No Person may submit more than one ballot argument per measure for selection as either the opponent's argument or proponent's argument.

**(c) Rebuttal Arguments.** Rebuttal arguments as provided for in Section 550 must be submitted to the Director of Elections no later than noon of the seventy-eighth day prior to the election at which the measure is to be voted upon.

**(d) Paid Arguments.** Ballot arguments submitted for publication as paid arguments for or against a measure as provided for in Section 560 must be submitted to the Director of Elections no later than noon of the seventy-eighth day prior to the election at which the measure is to be voted upon.

**(e) Modification or Withdrawal of Submitted Arguments.** Arguments may be changed or withdrawn by the Persons submitting them at any time up to and including the last day for submission. No Person may change an argument, except as provided in Subsection (f), and no Person may withdraw an argument, after the deadline for submission of the argument.

**(f) Correction of Submitted Arguments.** Grammatical, spelling and factual errors contained in a proponent's or opponent's argument may be corrected by any Author of the argument at any time up until noon of the eighty-first day prior to the election. Grammatical, spelling and factual errors contained in a rebuttal argument may be corrected by any Author of the argument at any time up until noon of the seventy-seventh day prior to the election. Grammatical, spelling and factual errors contained in a paid argument may be corrected by any Author of the argument at any time up until noon of the seventy-seventh day prior to the election. For purposes of this Subsection (f), the determination of what constitutes a grammatical, spelling or factual error shall be made by the Director of Elections. No Person may correct grammatical spelling or factual errors contained in an argument after the deadline specified in this Subsection.

(Added by Ord. 429-97, App. 11/17/97; amended by Ord. 183-03, File No. 030652, App. 7/25/2003; Ord. 223-04, File No. 040980, App. 8/25/2004; Ord. 291-06, File No. 061375, App. 11/29/2006; Ord. [102-14](#), File No. 140341, App. 7/2/2014, Eff. 8/1/2014)

---

## **SEC. 540. PROPONENT AND OPPONENT ARGUMENTS.**

The Director of Elections shall cause one argument for and one argument against the measure to be selected as the "proponent's" and "opponent's" argument, respectively, and printed free of charge in the voter information pamphlet in a location following the ballot statement or question, the digest prepared by the Ballot Simplification Committee, and the Controller's statement for that measure.

(Added by Ord. 429-97, App. 11/17/97)

---

## **SEC. 545. PROPONENT'S AND OPPONENT'S ARGUMENTS; SELECTION IF MORE THAN ONE SUBMITTED.**

(a) If more than one argument is submitted for selection as the proponent's argument for or opponent's argument against any measure, the Director of Elections shall no later than 2:00 p.m. on the eighty-second day prior to the election select the argument to be published according to the order of priority shown herein.

(1) Arguments supporting a measure:

(A) The proponent of an initiative petition; or the Mayor, the Board of Supervisors or four members of the Board of Supervisors if the measure is submitted by the same;

(B) The Board of Supervisors, or any member or members designated by motion of the Board;

(C) The Mayor;

(D) Any individual registered San Francisco voter, group of registered San Francisco voters, association or organization, or combination thereof.

(2) Arguments opposing a measure:

(A) In the case of a referendum, the person who files a referendum petition with the Board of Supervisors;

(B) The Board of Supervisors, or any member or members designated by motion of the Board;

(C) The Mayor;

(D) Any individual registered San Francisco voter, group of registered San Francisco voters, association or organization, or combination thereof.

(b) If more than one argument is submitted for or against a measure at any given level of priority as specified in subsection (a) and no argument entitled to higher priority is submitted, the Director of Elections shall select the proponent's or opponent's argument by lot from among all arguments at the highest level of priority. A Person's name shall not be listed as an Author on more than one ballot argument per measure that is submitted for selection as either the opponent's argument or proponent's argument.

(Added by Ord. 429-97, App. 11/17/97; amended by Ord. 291-06, File No. 061375, App. 11/29/2006; Ord. [102-14](#), File No. 140341, App. 7/2/2014, Eff. 8/1/2014; Ord. [6-17](#), File No. 161081, App. 1/20/2017, Eff. 2/19/2017)

---

## **SEC. 550. PROPONENT AND OPPONENT ARGUMENTS; REBUTTALS; ASSIGNMENT OF ARGUMENTS.**

(a) **Exchange of Proponent and Opponent Arguments.** Upon selection of the "proponent's" argument for and "opponent's" argument against a measure, the Director of Elections shall immediately send copies of both to the persons whose arguments have been selected. The authors of the direct arguments may each prepare and submit a rebuttal argument not to exceed 250 words. Rebuttal arguments shall be printed in the same manner as the direct arguments and in a location immediately following the appropriate direct arguments. If no direct argument is submitted in support of or in opposition to a measure, the Director of Elections shall not accept or publish any rebuttal argument.

(b) When the Board of Supervisors authorizes a member or members of that body to submit and sign a rebuttal argument to any written proponent or opponent argument for or against any measure for publication in the voter information pamphlet, or assigns that right to another person or persons pursuant to Subsection (d), the Board shall provide such authorization by motion and need not take any further action, including voting on or otherwise approving the actual text of the rebuttal argument before it is submitted for publication.

(c) **Assignment of Proponent and Opponent Arguments.** Persons who are entitled, pursuant to Section 545(a)(1)(A), (B) or (C) or Section 545(a)(2)(A), (B), or (C) to submit the proponent or opponent argument for a particular measure may assign the right to submit the argument to another person or persons, provided that the assignee is eligible to submit an argument pursuant to Section 530(b) of this Code.

(d) **Assignment of Rebuttal Arguments.** The authors of a direct proponent or opponent argument may assign to another person or persons the right to submit a rebuttal argument, provided that the assignee is eligible to submit an argument pursuant to Section 530(b) of this Code.

(Added by Ord. 429-97, App. 11/17/97; amended by Ord. 44-03, File No. 021996, App. 4/3/2003; Ord. 183-03, File No. 030652, App. 7/25/2003; Ord. 291-06, File No. 061375, App. 11/29/2006)

---

## **SEC. 575. ARGUMENTS; LENGTH; SIGNATURE.**

No argument filed in accordance with the provisions of this Article shall exceed 300 words in length and each such argument shall be subscribed by the name or names of the person or persons submitting the same, or, if submitted on behalf of an association or organization, the name of the association or organization and the name of at least one of its principal officers who is a registered San Francisco voter. In counting the number of words in any argument, the names of the individuals and entities subscribed thereto or submitted as co-authors of said argument shall be included in said word count.

(Added by Ord. 429-97, App. 11/17/97)

---

## **SEC. 580. ARGUMENTS; REVIEW BY DIRECTOR OF ELECTIONS.**

The Director of Elections shall, upon the receipt of any argument within the time limit specified in this Article, review the same for conformity with the provisions of Sections 530(c), 530(d), and 575 of this Article. If any argument is found not to conform with the provisions of said Sections, the Director of Elections shall forthwith return said argument to the person filing the same indicating in what respect said argument does not so conform and without prejudice to the filing of a revised argument by said person within the time limit prescribed in Section 535 of this Article. In the event the Director of Elections finds that the argument does not comply with the requirements of this Article after the time limit prescribed in Section 535, the proponent of the argument may submit a revised argument within 24 hours after receiving notice of the defect by the Director of Elections.

(Added by Ord. 429-97, App. 11/17/97)

---

## **SEC. 585. PUBLICATION OF ARGUMENTS IN VOTER INFORMATION PAMPHLET; PUBLICATION OF TRUE SOURCE OF FUNDS.**

In the event that an argument has been prepared and submitted in compliance with this Article, the Director of Elections shall publish the argument in the voter information pamphlet. Immediately following each paid ballot argument in the voter information pamphlet, the Director of Elections shall include a statement disclosing the name of the individual or entity that is the true source of the funds used for publication of that argument. In addition, if the true source of funds is a recipient political committee pursuant to California Government Code Section 82013(a), the Director of Elections shall publish a statement disclosing the names of the three largest contributors to that committee, as provided to the Department of Elections pursuant to Section 560 of this Code.

(Added by Ord. 429-97, App. 11/17/97)