Ballot Simplification Committee

FINAL Digest - Monday, August 5, 2013: Packard, Fasick, Fraps, Jorgensen, Unruh

Any Requests for Reconsideration were due by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, July 30

Prescription Drug Purchasing *(working title only, subject to change)*

The Way It Is Now:

The City and County of San Francisco (City) purchases prescription drugs for health services provided by the City. The City provides inpatient health services at San Francisco General Hospital and Laguna Honda Hospital. It also provides outpatient health services at City hospitals and clinics and institutional health services in the San Francisco jail.

The City spends more than $23 million per year on prescription drugs.

To ensure the City receives the lowest possible price on prescription drugs, City law authorizes San Francisco's Public Health Department to use outside companies to negotiate prices.

- For inpatient medications and medications for jail inmates, the City uses a company that negotiates drug prices with drug manufacturers.

- For outpatient medications, the City participates in a federal program that offers a significant discount on prescription drugs. To ensure that it remains eligible for this program, the City uses a federally selected company to negotiate prices and purchase outpatient prescription drugs.

The Proposal:

Proposition __ would make it City policy to use all available opportunities to reduce the City's cost of prescription drugs. It would also establish as policy that the City continue to negotiate directly with drug manufacturers to reduce its cost for medications.

Proposition __ would also establish as policy that the City ask its state and federal government representatives to sponsor legislation to reduce by one-third the drug prices paid by all levels of government.

A "YES" Vote Means: If you vote "yes," you want to make it City policy to use all available opportunities to reduce the City's cost of prescription drugs and you want the City to ask state and federal representatives to sponsor legislation to reduce drug prices paid by government.

A "NO" Vote Means: If you vote "no," you do not want to adopt this policy.

word count: 286 [suggested word limit: 300]