Ballot Simplification Committee
DRAFT for Consideration
Monday, July 28, 2008

Number of Signatures Required to Qualify a Recall Petition for a Member of the
Board of Supervisors

THE WAY IT IS NOW:

The Charter allows voters to recall elected City officials, including Board of Supervisors

members, before their terms end. Voters may also recall the City Administrator,

Controller, and members of certain boards and commissions.

To initiate a recall election, proponents must collect signatures on a recall petition. For

recall of an official holding City-wide office, the Charter requires that the petition be

signed by at least 10% of the City's registered voters. For a recall of a member of the

Board of Supervisors, the petition must be signed by 10% of the registered voters in the

supervisor's district.

If the Director of Elections receives a recall petition with a sufficient number of

signatures, then the Charter provides for the recall election to be held at a special

election or the next general election, depending on how soon the next general election

is.

THE PROPOSAL:

Proposition ___ is a Charter Amendment that would remove the current signature

requirements for recall petitions and instead adopt the signature requirements set by

State law.

State law establishes a sliding scale requirement for signatures based on the total

number of registered voters. Under this scale, the number of signatures required on a

recall petition for a City-wide office holder would continue to be 10% of City registered

voters.

Adopting the state law scale would increase the number of signatures required to recall

a supervisor. Most supervisorial districts have at least 10,000 but fewer than 50,000

registered voters. For districts of this size, state law requires recall proponents to collect

signatures from 20% of the districts' registered voters. One district, District 8, currently

has more than 50,000 registered voters. For a district of this size, state law requires

signatures from 15% of the district's registered voters.

Under Proposition ____, if the state law requirements for signatures for recall elections

change, so would the signature requirements for the recall of City officers.

A "YES" VOTE MEANS: If you vote "yes," you want to change the Charter to adopt

the state law signature requirements for recall petitions.

A "NO" VOTE MEANS: If you vote "no," you do not want to make these changes to the

Charter.

word count: 347   [suggested word limit: 300]