NORMAN YEE

August 4, 2016

RE: Recommendations to the "MTA Appointments and Budget" Draft Digest

Dear Committee Members Packard, Anderson, Fasick, Fraps, and Jorgensen:

I am writing to respectfully request for consideration the following changes to the "SFMTA Board Appointments, Budget" Digest:

1. **Clarify that term limits of the SFMTA Board of Directors are not being proposed for change.** I would like to recommend deleting *"Members serve four-year terms, and no person may serve more than three terms"* from the last sentence of the first paragraph of The Way It Is Now **or** indicating under The Proposal that term limits will remain the same under the measure.

   Rationale: Since the measure does not propose changes to the term limits of the SFMTA Board of Directors, including the aforementioned sentence in "The Way It Is Now" without addressing it in The Proposal may imply that term limit changes are also part of the measure.

2. **Include clarifying language on the number of votes required by the Board of Supervisors to reject the budget in the last paragraph of The Way It Is Now.**

   The paragraph currently states, *"The Board may accept or reject, but not modify, the proposed budget. Rejection of the proposed budget requires seven votes. The regular number of votes required for the Board to act is six votes."*

   I would like to recommend changing this paragraph to state *"The Board of Supervisors may accept or reject, but not modify, the proposed budget. Rejection of the proposed budget requires seven votes, rather than six votes, which is typically the number of votes needed for the Board of Supervisors to act on all matters."*

   Rationale: It is important to note that the voting process for the SFMTA budget is atypical, which is the intent of the existing line *"The regular number of votes required for the Board to act is six votes."* However, the current language can be strengthened for further clarity.

3. **Clarify in The Proposal that the change to the number of votes required by the Board of Supervisors to reject SFMTA's budget would bring the process into conformity with other Department budgets.**

The last sentence of The Proposal currently states, "*Proposition ___ would also reduce from seven to six the number of votes needed for the Board of Supervisors to reject the SFMTA's proposed budget.*"

I would like to recommend changing this sentence to read, "*Proposition ___ would also reduce the number of votes needed for the Board of Supervisors to reject the SFMTA's proposed budget from seven to six votes, which is the customary practice.*"

Rationale: It is important to clarify that the change from seven votes to six votes to reject SFMTA's budget is not an uncommon practice. Instead, it would bring SFMTA's process into conformity with other City Departments. To reject or approve a budget, the Board of Supervisors requires a majority of votes (six votes). This distinction is indicated in The Way It Is Now, but to remain consistent, it should also be included under The Proposal

4. **Include language in A "YES" Vote Means to clarify that the change in the SFMTA budget process would bring it under the typical process under other Departments.**

I would like to recommend the following addition for clarity:

A "YES" Vote Means: If you vote "yes," you want to amend the Charter to:

• *allow the Mayor to nominate four members of the SFMTA Board of Directors and the Board of Supervisors to nominate three members*; and

• *change the number of votes needed for the Board of Supervisors to reject the SFMTA's proposed budget from seven to six votes to conform with other City departments*

Rationale: This section should reflect the same content as the remainder of the digest.

I am also including below the Draft Digest with these recommendations for your review. I truly appreciate your time, commitment, and service to this Committee. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Norman Yee
Supervisor, District 7

NORMAN YEE

TRACKED CHANGES

MTA Appointments and Budget*

1) The Way It Is Now: The City's Charter gives the San Francisco Municipal -Transportation Agency (SFMTA) authority over the City's transportation system, which includes the City's roads, sidewalks, bicycle lanes, parking, taxi cabs, and Muni, the City's public transit system.

SFMTA is run by a seven-member Board of Directors. The Mayor appoints all seven directors. The Board of Supervisors must confirm the Mayor's appointments. ~~Members serve four-year terms, and no person may serve more than three terms.~~

SFMTA submits a proposed budget to the Board of Supervisors. The Board <u>of Supervisors</u> may accept or reject, but not modify, the proposed budget. Rejection of the proposed budget requires seven votes<u>, rather than six votes, which is typically the number of votes needed for the Board of Supervisors to act on all matters</u> ~~The regular number of votes required for the Board to act is six votes.~~

The Proposal: Proposition ___ is a Charter Amendment that would split the power to appoint SFMTA Directors between the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors. The Mayor would nominate four members to the Board of Directors, subject to confirmation by the full Board of Supervisors. The Board of Supervisors would nominate three members. Proposition ___ would also reduce ~~from seven to six~~ the number of votes needed for the Board of Supervisors to reject the SFMTA's proposed budget <u>from seven to six which is the customary practice.</u>

A "YES" Vote Means: If you vote "yes," you want to amend the Charter to:

> • allow the Mayor to nominate four members of the SFMTA Board of Directors and the Board of Supervisors to nominate three members; and

> • ~~reduce~~ <u>change the number of votes needed</u> ~~for the from seven to six the number of votes needed~~ for the Board of Supervisors to reject the SFMTA's proposed budget.<u>from seven to six to conform with other City departments</u>

A "NO" Vote Means: If you vote "no," you do not want to make these changes.