

Removing Citizenship Requirements for Members of City Bodies*

Digest by the Ballot Simplification Committee

Status: Draft for Consideration
On: Tuesday, July 21, 2020
Members: Packard, Anderson, Girardin, Patterson

Deadline to Request Reconsideration: TBD

The Way It Is Now: The City government includes many boards, commissions, and advisory bodies (City Bodies). In general, City Bodies are created through either the City's Charter or an ordinance.

People who serve on City Bodies created through the Charter must be registered to vote in San Francisco, unless the Charter sets a different rule. To register to vote in San Francisco, a person must be a United States citizen, a San Francisco resident and of voting age, and cannot be in prison, be on parole for a felony conviction or have been found mentally incompetent to vote by a court.

People who serve on City Bodies created through an ordinance are required to be registered to vote in San Francisco unless:

- The Board of Supervisors has removed the requirement; or
- The public official making the appointment to a City Body waives the San Francisco residency requirement because a qualified San Francisco resident could not be found.

People who serve on all City Bodies, whether created through the Charter or an ordinance, must be U.S. citizens.

The Proposal: Proposition __ would remove the requirement that a person must be a registered voter and a U.S. citizen to serve on any City Body.

Proposition __ would still require that members of City Bodies created through the Charter be old enough to vote in City elections and be San Francisco residents, unless the Charter sets a different rule for a particular City Body.

For City Bodies created through an ordinance, the Board of Supervisors could remove the voting age or residency requirements or the official making the appointment could waive these requirements if a person meeting those requirements cannot be found.

A "YES" Vote Means: If you vote "yes," you want to amend the City's Charter to remove the requirement that people serving on the City's boards, commissions, and advisory bodies generally must be U.S. citizens and registered voters.

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

**Working title, for identification only. The Director of Elections determines the title of each local ballot measure; measure titles are not considered during Ballot Simplification Committee meetings.*