

## **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

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**The Way It Is Now:** City government includes many boards, commissions, and advisory bodies (“City Bodies”). Generally, City Bodies are created through either the City’s Charter or an ordinance.

For City Bodies created through the Charter, members must generally be registered to vote in San Francisco, unless the Charter specifically sets a different rule. To register to vote in San Francisco, a person must be a U.S. citizen, of voting age (currently 18 years old), and a San Francisco resident.

For City Bodies created through ordinance, members are required to be registered to vote in San Francisco unless:

- The Board of Supervisors has removed this requirement through an ordinance; or
- The public official who appoints a City Body member has waived the requirement that the member be a San Francisco resident, based on a finding that a qualified San Francisco resident could not be found.

For all City Bodies, whether created through the Charter or an ordinance, members must currently be U.S. citizens.

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

Proposition \_\_\_ would still generally 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 through a further ordinance. For these City Bodies, the appointing official could also waive these requirements, based on a finding that 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 members of the City 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.*