

Office of Victim and Witness Rights; Legal Services for Domestic Violence Victims*

Digest by the Ballot Simplification Committee

Status: Approved Digest
On: Tuesday, March 1, 2022
Members: Packard, Anderson, Merrill

Deadline to Request Reconsideration: 5 p.m. Wednesday, March 2

The Way It Is Now: San Francisco provides services to victims of violent and nonviolent crime, survivors of sexual violence, and victims of gender-based violence and discrimination through many agencies and departments.

The Proposal: Proposition ____ would create an Office of Victim and Witness Rights (Office) as a new City department. The Office would provide or coordinate existing services for victims and witnesses of all types of crimes.

The Office would introduce an ordinance establishing a one-year pilot program to provide free legal services for domestic violence victims, starting by July 1, 2023.

The Office would seek to establish a permanent program to provide free legal services for domestic violence victims, subject to further legislation. The domestic violence victim must either reside in the City or be the victim of a domestic violence incident that occurred in the City.

A "YES" Vote Means: If you vote "yes," you want to create an Office of Victim and Witness Rights that would provide or coordinate existing City services and seek to establish programs that provide free legal services for domestic violence victims.

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

**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.*