



OFFICE OF THE CONTROLLER
CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

Ben Rosenfield
Controller
Todd Rydstrom
Deputy Controller



Mr. John Arntz
Department of Elections
City Hall 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place Room 48
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

March 12, 2018

RE: Proposition E - Referendum regarding City ordinance prohibiting the sale of flavored tobacco products

Dear Mr. Arntz,

Should the proposed referendum be approved by the voters, in my opinion, it would have an unknown impact on the cost of government.

In 2017 the Board of Supervisors approved an amendment to the Health Code to ban the sale of flavored tobacco products in the City. If the referendum is approved, that ban will take effect in 2018.

A ban on flavored tobacco products in the City can be expected to reduce somewhat the use of tobacco in San Francisco, cause some users to switch to tobacco products not affected by the ban, and cause some users to buy tobacco products at other retailers outside the City. Because of these effects, the City may experience a loss of sales tax revenue from tobacco retailers. At the same time, the City may experience long-term and short-term decreases in the cost of public health, litter control and other public services affected by smoking and by uses of flavored tobacco products.

Sincerely,

Ben Rosenfield
Controller

Note: This analysis reflects our understanding of the proposal as of the date shown. At times further information is provided to us which may result in revisions being made to this analysis before the final Controller's statement appears in the Voter Information Pamphlet

