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August 10, 2020

VIA E-MAIL (PDF)

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

Re: November 3, 2020 Ballot Questions

Dear Director Arntz:

Please find below the ballot questions for the November 3, 2020 election. As authorized by law, the Board of Supervisors wrote the ballot question for the measure entitled, "Health and Homelessness, Parks, and Streets Bond." The City Attorney's Office wrote the ballot questions for the remaining measures.

Proposition entitled "Health and Homelessness, Parks, and Streets Bond": "HEALTH AND RECOVERY BONDS. To finance the acquisition or improvement of real property, including to: stabilize, improve, and make permanent investments in supportive housing facilities, shelters, and/or facilities that deliver services to persons experiencing mental health challenges, substance use disorder, and/or homelessness; improve the accessibility, safety and quality of parks, open spaces and recreation facilities; improve the accessibility, safety and condition of the City's streets and other public right-of-way and related assets; and to pay related costs; shall the City and County of San Francisco issue \$487,500,000 in general obligation bonds with a duration of up to 30 years from the time of issuance, an estimated average tax rate of \$0.014/\$100 of assessed property value, and projected average annual revenues of \$40,000,000, subject to independent citizen oversight and regular audits? The City's current debt management policy is to keep the property tax rate for City general obligation bonds below the 2006 rate by issuing new bonds as older ones are retired and the tax base grows, though this property tax rate may vary based on other factors."

Proposition entitled "Removing Citizenship Requirements for Members of City Bodies": "Shall the City amend the Charter to remove the requirement that people serving on City boards, commissions and advisory bodies be registered voters and U.S. citizens, and continue to require those people be old enough to vote in City elections and be San Francisco residents?"

Proposition entitled "Public Works Commission, Department of Sanitation and Streets, and Sanitation and Streets Commission": "Shall the City amend the Charter to create a Department of Sanitation and Streets with oversight from a Sanitation and Streets Commission, and to establish a Public Works Commission to oversee the Department of Public Works?"

Proposition entitled "Youth Voting in Local Elections": "Shall the City amend the Charter to allow San Francisco residents to vote for local candidates and local ballot measures if they are U.S. citizens, at least 16 years old and registered to vote?"

Proposition entitled "Sheriff Oversight": "Shall the City amend the Charter to create a Sheriff's Department Office of Inspector General and a Sheriff's Department Oversight Board

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that would make recommendations to the Sheriff and the Board of Supervisors about the operations of the Sheriff's Department?"

Proposition entitled "Police Staffing": "Shall the City amend the Charter to remove the requirement that the San Francisco Police Department maintain a minimum of 1,971 full-duty sworn police officers and replace the requirement with regular evaluations of police staffing levels?"

Proposition entitled "Business Tax Overhaul": "Shall the City eliminate the payroll expense tax; permanently increase the registration fee for some businesses by \$230-460, decreasing it for others; permanently increase gross receipts tax rates to 0.105-1.040%, exempting more small businesses; permanently increase the administrative office tax rate to 1.61%; if the City loses certain lawsuits, increase gross receipts tax rates on some businesses by 0.175-0.690% and the administrative office tax rate by 1.5%, and place a new 1% or 3.5% tax on gross receipts from commercial leases, for 20 years; and make other business tax changes; for estimated annual revenue of \$97 million?"

Proposition entitled "Real Estate Transfer Tax": "Shall the City permanently increase the transfer tax rate on sales and leases of 35 years or more of real estate, to 5.50% on those transactions of \$10 million to \$25 million, and to 6.00% on those transactions of \$25 million or more, for an estimated average revenue of \$196 million a year?"

Proposition entitled "Affordable Housing Authorization": "Shall the City have the authority to own, develop, construct, acquire or rehabilitate up to 10,000 units of low-income rental housing in San Francisco?"

Proposition entitled "Parcel Tax for San Francisco Unified School District": "Shall the City replace its 2018 Parcel Tax for the San Francisco Unified School District with a new tax that changes the annual tax rate from \$320 per parcel to \$288 per parcel, adjusted for inflation each year, and with an exemption for people age 65 or older, until June 30, 2038, for an estimated revenue of \$48.1 million a year?"

Proposition entitled "Neighborhood Commercial Districts and City Permitting": "Shall the City change the Planning Code for neighborhood commercial districts to increase permissible uses, eliminate public notification processes for new permitted uses, and require an expedited process for permits?"

Proposition entitled "Business Tax Based on Comparison of Top Executive's Pay to Employees' Pay": "Shall the City place an additional tax permanently on some businesses in San Francisco when their highest-paid managerial employee earns more than 100 times the median compensation paid to their employees in San Francisco, where the additional tax rate would be between 0.1%-0.6% of gross receipts or between 0.4%-2.4% of payroll expense for those businesses in San Francisco, for an estimated revenue of between \$60-140 million a year?"

Very truly yours,

DENNIS J. HERRERA
City Attorney

/s/ Andrew Shen

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