Stop Corruption in City Hall - End San Francisco Elected Officials Abuse of the Party Committee Loopholes

NOTE: Unchanged Code text and uncodified text are in plain Times New Roman font. Additions to Code are single-underline italics Times New Roman. Deletions from Code are strikethrough italics Times New Roman.

Be it ordained by the people of the City and County of San Francisco:

SECTION 1. Title.

This Initiative shall be known and may be cited as the “Stop Corruption in City Hall - End San Francisco Elected Officials Abuse of the Party Committee Loopholes” (referred to hereinafter as the “Initiative”).

SECTION 2. Findings and Purposes

(1) Holding public office requires the subordination of personal and political concerns to the faithful discharge of duties on behalf of the people of the City and County of San Francisco.

(2) Fairness and integrity are critical to the operation of government in the City and County of San Francisco, and therefore any perceived or actual corruption, conflicts of interest, or subversion of the duties and responsibilities to the public caused by local elected officials’ service on political party county central committees is contrary to good government.

(3) The prohibition on dual office holding in this Initiative furthers good government by ensuring that elected officials never act when the responsibilities and constituencies of one office may conflict with those of another office. It also prevents undue political influence on government decision-making.

(4) Allowing local elected officials to seek election to political party county central committees provides an opportunity for the subversion of local campaign finance laws. The prohibition on dual office holding in this Initiative closes that loophole, and thus addresses corruption and the appearance of corruption that arises when large campaign contributions are made to local elected officials or the political party county central committees on which they sit.

SECTION 3. Amendment of Campaign and Governmental Conduct Code

The San Francisco Campaign and Governmental Conduct Code is hereby amended by adding Section 3.221, to read as follows:

SEC. 3.221. PROHIBITION OF DUAL OFFICE HOLDING IN A CITY ELECTIVE OFFICE AND AN ELECTED BOARD OF A POLITICAL PARTY COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE.
(a) Definition. For purposes of this section, "political party county central committee" means any county central committee of a political party recognized by the California Elections Code that performs political activities for the benefit of the party and on behalf of the party's candidates.

(b) Prohibition. A person holding City elective office may not be a member of a political party county central committee in the City and County of San Francisco including, but not limited to, the San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee or the San Francisco Republican County Central Committee.

(c) Penalty. In addition to the penalties provided in this Chapter, any violation of this section shall constitute official misconduct, and shall render the elected official subject to suspension and removal under Charter Section 15.105.

Section 4. Operative Date.

If a majority of voters vote in favor of the Initiative, the Initiative shall go into effect ten days after the official vote count is declared by the Board of Supervisors.