



**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

August 10, 2020

RE: Proposition B – Charter amendment to create a Public Works Commission and to create the Sanitation and Streets Department and Sanitation and Streets Commission

Dear Mr. Arntz,

Should the proposed Charter amendment be approved by the voters, in my opinion, it would have a significant impact on the cost of government beginning in fiscal year 2022-23, ranging from \$2.5 million to \$6 million annually. This estimate does not include changes to current service levels. The measure permits the Board of Supervisors to delay portions of the measure's implementation, which could defer a portion of these costs until a later date.

The proposed Charter amendment would create a new Department of Sanitation and Streets to perform specific duties currently performed by the Department of Public Works. The amendment would shift approximately 835 of 1,711 full-time equivalent employees currently working for Public Works to the new Sanitation and Streets Department.

Decoupling shared administrative services would necessitate a 10-25 percent increase in staffing for these functions for the loss of efficiency with shared services. However, the amendment requires the Board of Supervisors to require the City Administrator, Department of Public Works, and/or other City departments to provide administrative services for the Department of Sanitation and Streets for at least the first two years and three months of the amendment's implementation. New positions for the Department of Sanitation and Streets include a department head, public information officer, chief administrative officer, and managers for contracts, performance, and information technology to manage the administrative services provided by other departments. Costs would likely increase in future years if the Board authorized independent administrative support for the new department, which is permitted following this initial implementation period.

The amendment would also create two new five-member commissions: one to oversee the existing Department of Public Works and one to oversee the new Sanitation and Streets Department. Costs would include commission secretary, commissioner compensation, and costs such as preparing public materials.

Finally, the amendment also allows the Board of Supervisors to limit, modify, or eliminate duties of the Department of Sanitation and Streets by two-thirds vote and transfer those services to other City departments.

Sincerely,

*Natasha Mihal*

FOR 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.