

SAN FRANCISCO
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DEPARTMENT OF ELECTIONS

REVISED LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

(Amended in Board, 7/16/2019)

[General Obligation Bond Election - Affordable Housing - Not to Exceed \$600,000,000]

Ordinance calling and providing for a special election to be held in the City and County of San Francisco on Tuesday, November 5, 2019, for the purpose of submitting to San Francisco voters a proposition to incur bonded indebtedness not to exceed \$600,000,000 to finance the construction, development, acquisition, improvement, rehabilitation, preservation, and repair of affordable housing improvements, and related costs necessary or convenient for the foregoing purposes; authorizing landlords to pass-through 50% of the resulting property tax increase to residential tenants under Administrative Code, Chapter 37; providing for the levy and collection of taxes to pay both principal and interest on such Bonds; incorporating the provisions of the Administrative Code relating to the Citizens' General Obligation Bond Oversight Committee's review of Affordable Housing Bond expenditures; setting certain procedures and requirements for the election; adopting findings under the California Environmental Quality Act; and finding that the proposed Bonds are in conformity with the General Plan, and with the eight priority policies of Planning Code, Section 101.1(b).

Existing Law

General Obligation Bonds of the City and County of San Francisco may be issued only with the assent of two-thirds of the voters voting on the proposition.

Ballot Proposition

This ordinance authorizes the following ballot proposition to be placed on the November 5, 2019 ballot:

“SAN FRANCISCO AFFORDABLE HOUSING BONDS. To finance the construction, development, acquisition, and preservation of housing affordable to extremely-low, low and middle-income households through programs that will prioritize vulnerable populations such as San Francisco's working families, veterans, seniors, and persons with disabilities; to assist in the acquisition, rehabilitation, and preservation of existing affordable housing to prevent the displacement of residents; to repair and reconstruct distressed and dilapidated public housing developments and their underlying infrastructure; to assist the City's middle-income residents or workers in obtaining affordable rental or home ownership opportunities including down payment assistance and support for new construction of affordable housing for San Francisco Unified School District and City College of San Francisco employees; and to pay related costs; shall the City and County of San Francisco issue \$600,000,000 in general obligation bonds with a duration of up to 30 years from the time of issuance, an estimated average tax rate of \$0.019/\$100 of assessed property value, and projected average

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annual revenues of \$50,000,000, subject to independent citizen oversight and regular audits?”

The ordinance fixes the maximum rate of interest on the Bonds, and provides for a levy and collection of taxes to repay both the principal and interest on the Bonds. The ordinance also describes the manner in which the Bond Special Election will be held, and the ordinance provides for compliance with applicable state and local laws. The proposed ordinance includes accountability and transparency measures.

The ordinance allows landlords to pass through to residential tenants 50% of any property tax increase to tenants under the under the Residential Rent Stabilization and Arbitration Ordinance, and authorizes the Board of Supervisors’ to adopt future ordinances authorizing tenants to seek waivers from the pass-through based on financial hardship.

Background Information

The City and County of San Francisco (“City”) has been reported to have the highest rental and homeownership markets in the United States. The Mayor’s Office of Housing and Community Development (MOHCD) continues to see a widening affordability gap for extremely-low, low and middle-income households in both the rental and homeownership markets. Moreover, the affordability gap continues to grow and has the greatest impact on extremely-low and low-income households such as seniors, persons with disabilities, low-income working families and veterans.

Given the limited state and federal resources, and the high cost of housing development, significant burdens have been placed on the limited resources of local government. As a consequence the City’s supply of affordable housing has not kept pace with demand. This is particularly acute for middle-income households, for whom there are no federal and limited state financing programs that the City can leverage with its own subsidies.

The proposed Bonds will provide a portion of the critical funding necessary to construct, acquire, improve, rehabilitate, preserve, and repair affordable housing in the City, including \$150,000,000 for public housing, \$220,000,000 for low income housing, \$60,000,000 for preservation and middle income housing, \$150,000,000 for senior housing and \$20,000,000 for educator housing (all as further described in the ordinance, and the 2019 Affordable Housing Bond Report prepared by MOHCD).

The Board of Supervisors found that the amount of money specified for this project is and will be too great to be paid out of the ordinary annual income and revenue of the City, and will require expenditures greater than the amount allowed therefor by the annual tax levy.

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