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 15, 2022

RE: Proposition H – City elections in even-numbered years

Dear Mr. Arntz,

Should the proposed Charter amendment be approved by the voters, in my opinion, it would decrease the cost of government by approximately $6.9 million in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-2024 and in subsequent odd-numbered years, by consolidating elections and eliminating municipal elections in odd-numbered years. However, these savings would be reduced or eliminated if a special election is required in an odd-numbered year.

The proposed Charter amendment would require elections for Mayor, Sheriff, District Attorney, City Attorney and Treasurer to be held in even-numbered years. To do so, the amendments provides that the people elected to these offices in 2019 would serve a five-year term. The next election for these offices would be in November 2024 followed by elections for these offices every four years in even-numbered years.

These changes would save the City approximately $9 million for the cost of running general municipal elections in odd-numbered years, offset by approximately $2.1 million for the cost of printing and mailing ballot cards and voter information pamphlets, temporary staffing costs, and other materials and services that would be shifted from one year to the next, for a net savings of $6.9 million over two years beginning in FY 2023-24.

The amendment would also change the signature threshold for initiative ordinances to two percent of the last number of registered voters in San Francisco, instead of five percent of the turnout in the last mayoral election.

Sincerely,

Janice Levy

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.