

Ballot Simplification Committee - DRAFT for Consideration on Tuesday, March 2, 2010
Film Commission (working title only, subject to change)

The Way It Is Now:

The San Francisco Film Commission (Commission) promotes film activities in the City. The Commission was created by ordinance. The Commission has eleven members (Commissioners), all appointed by the Mayor. There are no specific qualifications for individual commission positions, and the Mayor may remove Commissioners for any reason.

The Commission has an Executive Director appointed by the Mayor. The Film Commission may remove the Executive Director on its own initiative or following the Mayor's recommendation.

The Commission's Executive Director issues permits that authorize filming in the City. Another City agency, the Board of Appeals, considers appeals regarding permits.

The Proposal:

Proposition ___ is a Charter Amendment that would require the City to have a Film Commission, whose main purpose would be to develop, recognize, and promote film activities in San Francisco. The Commission would have eleven members: six nominated by the Mayor, five nominated by the Board of Supervisors' Rules Committee. Each nominee would be subject to confirmation by the full Board. Once confirmed, commissioners could only be removed for cause.

Most nominees would be required to have specific professional qualifications or represent particular groups:

	Mayor's nominees	Board's nominees
Have professional experience in the film industry or related field	2	1
Represent neighborhoods affected by filming	2	2
Represent film industry workers	1	1
Teach film studies or related field	1	0
Represent general public	0	1

The Commission would have the authority to appoint or remove an Executive Director.

The Commission would also have the authority to issue film permits, or delegate this power to the Executive Director. The Commission would hear any appeals when the Executive Director denies a film permit application. For filming taking place on City property, the Commission would need the consent of affected department heads before granting a permit. The Executive Director or Commission's decision would be the City's final action on film permits.

Only the voters could make further changes to the Commission's membership and powers.

A "YES" Vote Means: If you vote "yes," you want to amend the Charter to require the City to have a Film Commission and provide for the Mayor to nominate six members and the Board to appoint five members.

A "NO" Vote Means: If you vote "no," you do not want to make this change to the Charter.