

**Ballot Simplification Committee**

**FINAL Approved Digest –by: Packard, Fasick, Fraps, Jorgensen, 10:35 a.m. Tuesday, March 2, 2010**

**Requests for Reconsideration were due by 10:35 a.m. on Wednesday, March 3, 2010**

Film Commission (working title only, subject to change)

**The Way It Is Now:**

The San Francisco Film Commission (Commission) was created by ordinance to develop, recognize, and promote film activities in San Francisco. The Commission has 11 members (Commissioners), all appointed by the Mayor for four-year terms. Currently Commissioners are not required to have specific professional qualifications or represent particular groups. 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 either on its own 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 11 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 powers of the Commission would include the authority to:

- appoint or remove an Executive Director;
- issue film permits or delegate this power to the Executive Director; and
- hear 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.

Changes to the Commission's membership requirements or powers would have to be submitted to the voters as a Charter Amendment.

**A “YES” Vote Means:** If you vote "yes," you want to amend the Charter to require the City to have a Film Commission, consisting of five members appointed by the Board and six members appointed by the Mayor, with final authority to issue permits to film in San Francisco.

**A “NO” Vote Means:** If you vote “no,” you do not want to make these changes to the Charter.

word count: 391 [suggested word limit: 300]