

Ballot Simplification Committee - DRAFT for Consideration on Tuesday, August 2, 2011

Amending Initiative Ordinances and Policy Declarations *(working title only, subject to change)*

The Way It Is Now:

The City's Charter allows the voters, the Board of Supervisors (Board), and the Mayor to place proposed initiative ordinances and declarations of policy (measures) on the ballot. The voters can place measures on the ballot by collecting enough signatures from other San Francisco voters. The Board can place measures on the ballot by a majority vote of its members at a public meeting. And four or more individual Board members or the Mayor can independently submit measures to the ballot.

No matter how a measure is placed on the ballot, the Board and the Mayor cannot later amend or repeal a voter-approved measure unless the measure itself allows them to do so.

The Proposal:

Proposition ___ is a Charter Amendment that would allow the Board and the Mayor to amend or repeal measures that the Board, individual Board members or the Mayor place on the ballot and that the voters approve, under these three conditions:

- for three years after the voters approved the measure, the Board and Mayor may not amend or repeal it;
- after the first three years, and until seven years following voter approval, the Board and the Mayor may amend or repeal the measure, but only if the Board approves the amendment or repeal by a two-thirds vote; and
- after seven years have passed following voter approval, the Board and the Mayor may amend or repeal the measure with a majority vote of the Board.

Unless the measure itself provides otherwise, Proposition ___ would not allow the Board and Mayor to amend or repeal:

- measures that the voters approved before January 1, 2012, or
- measures that the voters place on the ballot by collecting signatures.

A “YES” Vote Means: If you vote "yes," you want to amend the Charter to allow the Board and the Mayor to amend or repeal measures they place on the ballot and the voters approve after January 1, 2012.

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

word count: 331 [suggested word limit: 300]