

**Ballot Simplification Committee  
DRAFT for Consideration  
Thursday, August 7, 2008**

**Community Justice Center**

**THE WAY IT IS NOW:**

The San Francisco Superior Court's criminal division hears misdemeanor and felony cases. If defendants are found guilty, they may be subject to fines or imprisonment.

The City has taken steps to establish a new Community Justice Center (CJC). The CJC Court will handle some criminal misdemeanor and non-violent felony cases normally heard by the Superior Court. Defendants appearing before the CJC Court will be offered health and social services case management.

In July 2008, the Board of Supervisors approved the following actions to create the

CJC:

- Provided \$998,145 to create and operate the CJC in the 2008-2009 fiscal year.

The Board of Supervisors has the authority to change this funding, subject to the Mayor's veto power.

- Authorized the Department of Public Health to apply for a federal grant of up to \$984,000 in additional funds.
- Authorized the Director of Property to enter into a lease at 555 Polk St. to house the CJC.

**THE PROPOSAL:**

Proposition \_\_\_\_ would guarantee that the City provides first-year funding for the CJC, authorize the Director of Property to lease space for the CJC, and define the CJC's scope and operations.

Proposition \_\_\_\_ would provide \$1.77 million for the 2008-2009 fiscal year to fund the CJC's capital costs and first year of operations. The Board of Supervisors would not have the authority to reduce this funding.

Proposition \_\_\_\_ would also authorize the Director of Property to enter into a lease or take other actions to secure facilities for the CJC.

Additionally, Proposition \_\_\_\_ would describe the scope and operations of the CJC.

Proposition \_\_\_\_ states the CJC would hear criminal cases concerning misdemeanors, non-violent felonies, and any other crimes deemed appropriate by the Mayor and the San Francisco Superior Court. The CJC would handle cases in which defendants are charged with committing crimes in the Tenderloin, South of Market Area, Civic Center, and Union Square neighborhoods, as well as any other areas of the City selected by the Mayor and the San Francisco Superior Court. In the CJC, a single judge would preside over cases and make decisions to help ensure that defendants appear in court and obtain needed social services. The CJC would include facilities to provide social, health and community services to defendants and other community members.

**A “YES” VOTE MEANS:** If you vote "yes," you want to guarantee that the City provides first-year funding for the CJC, authorize the Director of Property to lease space for the CJC, and define the CJC's scope and operations.

**A “NO” VOTE MEANS:** If you vote “no,” you do not want to make these changes.

word count: 382 [suggested word limit: 300]