

Ballot Simplification Committee
FINAL Approved Digest – August 8, 2008
Approved by: Packard, Chisnell, Fasick, Fraps, Jorgensen

**Any Requests for Reconsideration must be received by 1:00 p.m. on
August 7, 2008**

Creating an Historic Preservation Commission

THE WAY IT IS NOW:

The Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board (Landmarks Board) advises the Planning Commission and Planning Department on issues related to historic preservation, but the Landmarks Board does not have final decision-making authority. The Mayor appoints the nine members, who serve four-year terms. The Mayor may remove members of the Landmarks Board without cause.

After reviewing the Landmarks Board's recommendations, the Planning Commission or Planning Department make decisions about permit applications for demolition of or alteration to designated landmarks, buildings in downtown historic districts and buildings in other historic districts. With advice from the Landmarks Board, the Planning Commission also reviews and submits to the Board of Supervisors proposed designations of landmarks, historic buildings, historic districts, and conservation districts. The Planning Commission and the Planning Department are not required to follow the Landmarks Board's recommendations.

The Landmarks Board relies on the Planning Department for staff and budgeting.

THE PROPOSAL:

Proposition ___ is a Charter Amendment that would create an Historic Preservation Commission (HPC). The HPC would consist of seven members, nominated by the Mayor and approved by a majority of the Board of Supervisors. Six of the seven members would be required to have specific professional qualifications related to architecture and historic preservation. Four members would serve an initial term of four years and three members would serve an initial term of two years. After that, all members would serve four-year terms. Members could only be removed for cause.

The HPC would take over the duties of the Landmarks Board as well as some currently performed by the Planning Commission and the Planning Department. Specifically, the HPC would have the authority to:

- make recommendations directly to the Board of Supervisors about designation of landmarks, historic buildings, historic districts, and conservation districts;

- approve permits or certificates for demolition of or alteration to designated landmarks and historic buildings, as well as buildings in historic districts and conservation districts; and
- make recommendations about proposed ordinances and resolutions concerning historic preservation.

Historic Preservation Commission decisions could be appealed.

The HPC would not have its own department head, staff or budget authority, but would rely on Planning Department staff and budgeting.

A “YES” VOTE MEANS: If you vote "yes," you want to change the Charter to create a seven-member Historic Preservation Commission and to give it authority over historic preservation-related decisions in the City.

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

word count: 398 [suggested word limit: 300]