

Ballot Simplification Committee
FINAL Approved Digest – July 30, 2008

San Francisco Transportation Authority

THE WAY IT IS NOW:

The City charges a one-half cent sales tax to help pay for transportation projects described in a spending plan approved by the voters in 2003. The San Francisco Transportation Authority (Authority) directs use of the sales tax money.

The Transportation Authority is a State agency separate from the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Authority. State law allows San Francisco to determine the membership of the Authority's governing board (Authority Board), so long as all of its members are local elected officials. Since 1989, the Authority Board has consisted of the eleven members of the Board of Supervisors.

The Authority may use City agencies or outside contractors to perform staff functions. It is not required to obtain expert review of its budgets. It is subject to State ethics and public records laws but is not obligated to adopt those of the City.

THE PROPOSAL:

Proposition ___ is an ordinance that would change the size and composition of the Authority Board. The new membership of the Authority Board would be:

- The Mayor;
- The President of the Board of Supervisors;
- The Treasurer;
- One elected City official selected by the Mayor; and
- One elected City official selected by the President of the Board of Supervisors.

The Mayor, the President of the Board of Supervisors, and the Treasurer would each be able to designate another elected City official to serve as his or her alternate. New members of the Authority Board would take office on February 1, 2009, when the terms of the members of the previous Authority Board would expire.

Under Proposition ___, it would be City policy that the Authority should maximize efficiency by having City agencies and departments perform staff functions for the Authority Board, should obtain expert financial review before adopting Authority budgets, and should adopt the same ethics and public records laws that apply to City agencies.

A “YES” VOTE MEANS: If you vote "yes," you want to change the membership of the Transportation Authority Board and encourage greater efficiency and financial reviews.

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