

**Ballot Simplification Committee
DRAFT for Consideration
Wednesday, 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. It can spend up to \$485,175,000 per year and issue up to \$1,880,000,000 in bonds, to be repaid from the one-half cent sales tax.

The Transportation Authority is a State agency separate from the City. 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 City ethics and public records laws.

THE PROPOSAL:

Proposition ____ is an ordinance that would amend the San Francisco Business and Tax Regulations Code to change the membership of the Authority Board. The members of the new 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 be able to designate another elected City official to serve as their alternate on the Authority Board.

Members of the new Authority Board would take office on February 1, 2009, and the terms of the members of the previous Authority Board would expire at that time.

Proposition ___ also would urge the Authority to improve efficiency by having City agencies and departments perform staff functions for the Authority Board, to obtain expert financial review before adopting Authority budgets, and to 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 want to urge certain changes in the operation of the Transportation Authority.

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

word count: 379 [suggested word limit: 300]