

Ballot Simplification Committee
FINAL Approved Digest – August 4, 2008
Approved by: Packard, Chisnell, Fasick, Fraps, Jorgensen

**Any Requests for Reconsideration must be received by 10:40 a.m. on
August 5, 2008**

San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center
General Obligation Bond

THE WAY IT IS NOW:

The San Francisco Department of Public Health (DPH) operates the San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center (SFGH) located on Potrero Avenue. SFGH treats more than 1,500 patients every day, almost 100,000 a year, and is the only trauma center in the City.

In 2000, DPH commissioned a study concluding that SFGH may not be able to continue to provide services after a major earthquake. The City's ten-year capital plan identified SFGH as one of the City's highest priority earthquake safety projects.

Under state law, SFGH must show that it plans to meet seismic safety standards by 2013 or close its acute care facilities.

Property tax revenues pay for the principal and interest on general obligation bonds.

THE PROPOSAL:

Proposition ___ is a bond measure that would authorize the City to borrow \$887,400,000 by issuing general obligation bonds for building and/or rebuilding SFGH to improve earthquake safety.

The bond proceeds would primarily fund the construction of a new building on the current SFGH site. The building, as described in the City's environmental impact report, would meet the state's new higher standards for seismic safety for acute care hospitals. It would provide 284 beds for acute care treatment and would house the SFGH emergency department, operating rooms, obstetrics, pediatrics, and intensive care and nursing units.

Construction would begin in 2010, and it is estimated that the new building would be complete in 2015. Patient treatment would continue during construction.

Proposition ___ would require the Citizen's General Obligation Bond Oversight Committee to provide independent oversight of the spending of bond funds.

One-tenth of one percent (0.1%) of the bond funds would pay for the Committee's audit and oversight functions.

Proposition ___ would allow an increase in the property tax to pay for the bonds. It would permit landlords to pass 50 percent of the resulting property tax increase to tenants.

Two-thirds of the voters would have to approve this measure for it to pass.

A “YES” VOTE MEANS: If you vote "yes," you want the City to issue \$887,400,000 in general obligation bonds, subject to independent oversight and regular audits, to improve the seismic safety and ensure continuing operation of San Francisco General Hospital. Landlords would be allowed to pass 50% of any increase in property taxes to tenants.

A “NO” VOTE MEANS: If you vote “no,” you do not want the City to issue these general obligation bonds to improve the seismic safety and ensure continuing operation of San Francisco General Hospital.

word count: 401 [suggested word limit: 300]