



Words You Need to Know

by the Ballot Simplification Committee

June 2008

06/08

LISTED BELOW ARE DEFINITIONS OF TERMS:

ABSENTEE (VOTE-BY-MAIL) BALLOTS (FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS) — Ballots mailed to voters or given to voters in person at the Department of Elections. Absentee ballots can be mailed back to the Department of Elections, turned in at the Department of Elections office in City Hall, or turned in at any San Francisco polling place on election day. Also known as vote-by-mail ballots. See page 7 for more information.

ALICE GRIFFITH HOUSING DEVELOPMENT (PROPOSITIONS F AND G) — The public housing, also known as Double Rock, which the Housing Authority of the City and County of San Francisco owns and operates on Candlestick Point for very low income families.

AMEND (PROPOSITIONS A, B, C, D AND E) — To change.

BAYVIEW (PROPOSITIONS F AND G) — The Bayview Hunters Point neighborhood of San Francisco.

CANDLESTICK POINT (PROPOSITIONS F AND G) — Area in the Bayview (see Exhibit A, pages 161 and 166).

CHARTER AMENDMENT (PROPOSITIONS B, C, D AND E) — A change to the City's Charter. The Charter is the City's Constitution. The Charter can only be changed by a majority of the votes cast.

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN (PROPOSITION D) — A Charter-created City commission charged with developing and recommending policies and practices for the City and County to reduce the particular impacts on women and girls of problems such as domestic violence, sexual harassment, employment and health care inequity, and homelessness. The Commission also advocates on behalf of women and girls in such areas.

COMPOUND (PROPOSITION B) — To compute interest on the sum of the principal and any previously computed interest that has been added at regular intervals.

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK (PROPOSITIONS F AND G) — A preliminary outline for a proposed real estate development project, including: a description of the objectives that the project is intended to achieve, the general location and type of land uses that would be developed, and the infrastructure that would serve those uses, such as street layout, transportation and open space improvements.

EARLY VOTING — Voting in person at City Hall before election day or mailing a vote-by-mail ballot before election day. See page 7 for more information.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS (PROPOSITION G) — A public informational process required under the California Environmental Quality Act for a government agency to consider the physical changes to the environment that a proposed project may cause before it is approved.

GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND (PROPOSITION A) — A promise issued by the City to pay back money borrowed, plus interest, by a certain date. When the City wants to raise money to pay for a large public project, it can borrow money by issuing General Obligation Bonds. The City then repays the money plus interest over a period of years with property taxes. General obligation bonds must be approved by the voters.

GREEN OFFICE (PROPOSITION G) — An environmentally sustainable office development that includes buildings designed and built for energy efficiency and that incorporates non-polluting building materials; or an office housing an organization that promotes energy efficiency or conservation.

HUNTERS POINT SHIPYARD (PROPOSITIONS F AND G) — Former federal naval base in the Bayview (see Exhibit A, pages 161 and 166).

INFRASTRUCTURE (PROPOSITION G) — The basic facilities and services needed for the functioning of a community, such as transportation and communications systems, and water and power lines.

INITIATIVE (PROPOSITIONS F AND G) — A proposition placed on the ballot by voters. Any voter may place an initiative on the ballot by gathering the required number of signatures on a petition.

MASTER TEACHERS (PROPOSITION A) — Experienced teachers with proven success at increasing student achievement who act as models and mentors for other teachers. These teachers are assigned to high need schools where they work directly with students as classroom teachers and spend at least 20% of their time directly supporting other teachers.

(continued on the next page)



June 2008

WORDS YOU NEED TO KNOW (*continued*)

MIXED-USE PROJECT (PROPOSITIONS F AND G) — A real estate development that has multiple significant uses in the project site, such as housing, office buildings, research and development facilities, retail spaces and parks.

MORAL TURPITUDE (PROPOSITION C) — There is no precise definition. Generally, a crime involving moral turpitude is one that reveals a person's dishonesty, readiness to do evil, bad character, or moral depravity. The courts decide this on a case-by-case basis. Examples would include crimes (misdemeanor or felony) involving theft, fraud, or breach of public trust.

OPEN SPACE (PROPOSITION G) — Land that is not developed for private uses, including land in a natural state that is dedicated to the public.

OPTIONAL EXEMPTION (PROPOSITION A) — To choose to withdraw from an obligation, duty, or liability to which others are subject.

ORDINANCE (PROPOSITIONS F, G AND H) — A local law passed by the Board of Supervisors or by the voters.

OVERSIGHT (PROPOSITION A) — Watchful care or management; supervision.

PARCEL TAX (PROPOSITION A) — A tax that is based on a flat fee for each unit of real property that receives a separate tax bill.

PEER ASSISTANCE AND REVIEW PROGRAM (PROPOSITION A) — Teacher coaches provide peer support for new teachers as well as veteran teachers whose evaluations reflect less than satisfactory performance. Teachers are required to meet certain standards in order to exit the program and continue in the classroom. This program is a collaborative effort of the School District and its teacher and administrative unions to support and renew quality teaching in every classroom.

PROPOSITION (PROPOSITIONS A THROUGH H) — Any measure that is submitted to the voters for approval or disapproval.

QUALIFIED WRITE-IN CANDIDATE — A person who has completed the required paperwork and signatures for inclusion as a write-in candidate. Although the name of this person will not appear on the ballot, voters can vote for this person by writing the name of the person in the space on the ballot provided for write-in votes. The Department of Elections counts write-in votes only for qualified write-in candidates.

SAN FRANCISCO MEDIAN INCOME (PROPOSITION F) — A level of income based on all incomes earned within San Francisco. Half of all San Francisco households have incomes above this level and half have incomes below this level.

SOLICIT (PROPOSITION H) — To try to get something by asking.

TANGIBLE (PROPOSITION G) — Something recognizable, real or concrete.

VESTING ALLOWANCE (PROPOSITION C) — A benefit option available to a worker who terminates employment before retirement, has 5 or more years of service, and elects to leave all contributions with the Retirement System rather than have them refunded.

VOLUNTARY DISCLOSURES (PROPOSITION D) — Freely revealed or uncovered.

VOTING BY MAIL (FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS) — Also known as absentee voting. See page 7 for more information.



February 2008

02/08



WORDS YOU NEED TO KNOW

by the Ballot Simplification Committee

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CHARTER AMENDMENT (PROPOSITION B) — A change to the City's Charter. The Charter is the City's Constitution. The Charter can only be changed by a majority of the votes cast.

CITIZEN'S GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE (PROPOSITION A) — Reviews and reports on how bond money is spent. The nine members of the committee are appointed by the Mayor, Board of Supervisors, Controller and Civil Grand Jury. If the committee finds that the bond money has been spent for purposes not approved by the voters, the committee can require corrective action and prohibit the sale of any remaining bonds until action is taken. The Board of Supervisors can reverse the decisions of the committee by a two-thirds vote. The Controller may audit any of the City's bond expenditures.

COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITY FUND (PROPOSITION A) — Matching funds to finance park improvement projects initiated by community members.

COST-NEUTRAL (PROPOSITION B) — Requires no additional costs or expenses for the City.

DECLARATION OF POLICY (PROPOSITION C) — A statement or expression of the will of the voters.

EARLY VOTING — Voting in person at City Hall before election day or mailing an absentee ballot before election day. See page 7 for more information.

FULL-DUTY OFFICE (PROPOSITION B) — A police officer who can perform all police duties without limitation.

GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND (PROPOSITION A) — A promise issued by the City to pay back money borrowed, plus interest, by a certain date. When the City wants to raise money to pay for a large public project, it can borrow money by issuing General Obligation Bonds. The City then repays the money plus interest over a period of years with property taxes. General obligation bonds must be approved by the voters.

INITIATIVE (PROPOSITIONS B AND C) — A proposition placed on the ballot by voters. Any voter may place an initiative on the ballot by gathering the required number of signatures on a petition.

INTEREST (PROPOSITION A) — The cost of borrowing money.

PASS-THROUGH (PROPOSITION A) — To recover an increase in property taxes by passing on a portion of the cost to tenants.

PRINCIPAL (PROPOSITION A) — The actual amount of borrowed money. Principal does not include interest charges.

PROPOSITION — (PROPOSITION A THROUGH C) Any measure that is submitted to the voters for approval or disapproval.

QUALIFIED WRITE-IN CANDIDATE — A person who has completed the required paperwork and signatures for inclusion as a write-in candidate. Although the name of this person will not appear on the ballot, voters can vote for this person by writing the name of the person in the space on the ballot provided for write-in votes. The Department of Elections counts write-in votes only for qualified write-in candidates.

VOTING BY MAIL (FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS) — Also known as absentee voting. See page 7 for more information.

NEW FORMAT FOR PROPOSITIONS: THE FULL LEGAL TEXT FOR ALL LOCAL PROPOSITIONS IS NOW PRINTED TOGETHER RATHER THAN SEPARATELY. THE LEGAL TEXT FOR ALL LOCAL MEASURES STARTS ON PAGE 87.





WORDS YOU NEED TO KNOW

by the Ballot Simplification Committee

November 2007

11/07

LISTED BELOW ARE DEFINITIONS OF TERMS:

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ANNUAL BUDGET (PROPOSITION A) — The estimated cost of operating the City each year.

BASELINE (PROPOSITION D) — A starting amount for developing a budget.

CAR-SHARE VEHICLE (PROPOSITION H) — A motor vehicle that is made available to members of a car-share organization by reservation. Car-share organizations are public or private entities that manage, maintain and insure motor vehicles for shared use by members. These organizations must be certified by the City.

CHARTER AMENDMENT (PROPOSITIONS A, B, C, D, E AND F) — A change to the City's Charter. The Charter is the City's Constitution. The Charter can only be changed by a majority of the votes cast.

CHARTER-CREATED CITY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS (PROPOSITION B) — The following boards and commissions are created by the Charter: Airport Commission, Board of Appeals, Building Inspection Commission, Civil Service Commission, Commission on Aging, Commission on the Environment, Commission on the Status of Women, Elections Commission, Entertainment Commission, Ethics Commission, Fire Commission, Health Commission, Human Rights Commission, Human Services Commission, Juvenile Probation Commission, Library Commission, Municipal Transportation Agency Board of Directors, Planning Commission, Police Commission, Port Commission, Public Utilities Commission, Recreation and Parks Commission, Rent Board, Small Business Commission and Taxi Commission.

CHARTER-CREATED CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEES (PROPOSITION B) — The following citizen advisory committees are created by the Charter: Municipal Transportation Agency Citizens' Advisory Council; Public Utilities Commission Citizens' Advisory Committee; Park, Recreation and Open Space Fund Citizens Advisory Committee; and Citizens Audit Review Board.

DECLARATION OF POLICY (PROPOSITIONS J AND K) — A statement or expression of the will of the voters.

DOWNTOWN (PROPOSITION H) — The area generally bounded by Washington or California streets on the north, Harrison or Folsom streets on the south, the Embarcadero on the east, and Fifth or Taylor on the west. The downtown also extends west for one block along Market Street to Van Ness Avenue. (see the City's Zoning Map, which is available on the City's Web site at www.sfgov.org/site/planning_index.asp?id=35228)

EXEMPT (PROPOSITIONS A AND H) — Free from some requirement to which others are subject.

FISCAL YEAR — The City's 12-month budget period, starting July 1st and ending June 30th of the following calendar year.

GENERAL FUND (PROPOSITION A) — That part of the City's annual budget that can be used for any City purpose. Each year, the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors decide how the General Fund will be used. Money for the General Fund comes from property, business, sales, and other taxes and fees. Currently, the General Fund is 48% of the City's budget.

GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND — A promise issued by a government body to pay back money borrowed, plus interest, by a certain date. When the government body wants to raise money to pay for a large public project, it can borrow money by issuing General Obligation Bonds. The government body then repays the money plus interest over a period of years with property taxes. General obligation bonds must be approved by the voters.

HOLD-OVER (PROPOSITION B) — A member of a City board or commission who continues to serve after his or her term has expired.

INITIATIVE (PROPOSITION H) — A proposition placed on the ballot by voters. Any voter may place an initiative on the ballot by gathering the required number of signatures on a petition.

LOW-EMISSION VEHICLE (PROPOSITION H) — A motor vehicle that meets one of the following standards:

- (a) Federal Inherently Low Emission Vehicle Standards,

(continued on the next page)



November 2007

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WORDS YOU NEED TO KNOW *(continued)*

- (b) California Air Resources Board standards for a Super Ultra-Low Emission Vehicle, an Ultra Low-Emission Vehicle, or an Advanced Technology Partial Zero-Emission Vehicle (see www.arb.ca.gov/msprog/ccvl/ccvl.htm),
- (c) eligibility for single-occupant use in High Occupancy Vehicle lanes as determined by the California Air Resources Board.

MUNICIPAL TRANSPORTATION AGENCY (MTA) (PROPOSITION A) — This public City agency is made up of seven directors appointed by the Mayor and approved by the Board of Supervisors. Their main task is to oversee MUNI and the Department of Parking and Traffic (DPT).

ORDINANCE (PROPOSITIONS G, H AND I) — A local law passed by the Board of Supervisors or by the voters.

PLANNING COMMISSION — The City commission responsible for adopting and maintaining a comprehensive, long term general plan for future improvement and development of the City.

PROPOSITION — (PROPOSITIONS A THROUGH K) Any measure that is submitted to the voters for approval or disapproval.

QUALIFIED WRITE-IN CANDIDATE — A person who has turned in the required papers and signatures to the Department of Elections. Although the name of this person will not appear on the ballot, voters can vote for this person by writing the name of the person in the space on the ballot provided for write-in votes. The Department of Elections counts write-in votes only for qualified write-in candidates.

REVENUE BONDS (PROPOSITIONS A AND D) — If the City needs money to pay for something, such as the construction or repair of a facility, the City may borrow the money by selling bonds. The City pays back the money with interest. Revenue bonds are bonds that are paid back using money such as fees collected by the department which issued the bonds. These bonds are not repaid with property tax money.

SERVICE HOURS (PROPOSITION D) — Hours open to the public.

SET-ASIDE (PROPOSITION D) — Designates a specific amount of funding from property taxes or other general City revenues for a particular purpose. This removes the discretion of the Mayor and Board of Supervisors regarding how the City will use the funds.

STREET FURNITURE (PROPOSITION K) — Structures or other facilities (for example, transit shelters, kiosks, benches, lamp posts, and newspaper racks) placed on public streets, sidewalks or other similar public spaces.

SUPER-MAJORITY (PROPOSITION A) — A requirement for a proposal to gain a specified level of support which exceeds a simple majority (50% plus 1) in order to have effect.

SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT (PROPOSITION D) — The City is split into eleven districts set forth in the Charter for the purpose of electing the members of the Board of Supervisors. Each district elects one member to the Board of Supervisors.

ZONING DISTRICTS (PROPOSITION H) — A portion of property within which particular land use regulations and requirements apply. Each lot in the City is currently zoned according to one of 53 zoning districts. Zoning districts are shown in the City's Zoning Map, which is available on the City's Web site at www.sfgov.org/site/planning_index.asp?id=35228

NEW FORMAT FOR PROPOSITIONS: THE FULL LEGAL TEXT FOR ALL LOCAL PROPOSITIONS IS NOW PRINTED TOGETHER RATHER THAN SEPARATELY. THE LEGAL TEXT FOR ALL LOCAL MEASURES STARTS ON PAGE 115.





WORDS YOU NEED TO KNOW

by the Ballot Simplification Committee

November 2006

11/06

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ANNUAL BUDGET (PROPOSITION A) — The estimated cost of operating the City each year.

AUDIT (PROPOSITIONS A AND F) — A formal examination of financial or management accounts and information.

CHARTER AMENDMENT (PROPOSITIONS B AND C) — A change to the City's Charter. The Charter is the City's Constitution. The Charter can only be changed by a majority of the votes cast.

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION (PROPOSITION C) — The Civil Service Commission establishes rules, regulations, and policies on public employment for the City and County service, hears appeals of certain personnel matters, and safeguards the City and County's merit system of appointments.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (CPI) (PROPOSITION C) — The Consumer Price Index measures the change in the average price of goods and services such as food, energy, housing, clothing, transportation, medical care, entertainment and education.

COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT (PROPOSITION C) — An amount added to a base salary to compensate for inflation.

DECLARATION OF POLICY (PROPOSITIONS I, J AND K) — A statement or expression of the will of the voters.

EMPLOYER (PROPOSITION F) — Any person, association, organization, partnership, business trust, limited liability company, or corporation, including corporate officers or executives, who directly or indirectly employs or exercises control over the wages, hours or working conditions of an employee. This also includes the services of a temporary services or staffing agency.

FISCAL YEAR (PROPOSITION A) — The City's 12-month budget period, starting July 1st and ending June 30th of the following calendar year.

GENERAL FUND (PROPOSITION E) — That part of the City's annual budget that can be used for any City purpose. Each year, the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors decide how the General Fund will be used. Money for the General Fund comes from property, business, sales, and other taxes and fees. Currently, the General Fund is 46% of the City's budget.

GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND (PROPOSITION A) — A promise issued by a government body to pay back money borrowed, plus interest, by a certain date. When the government body wants to raise money to pay for a large public project, it can borrow money by issuing General Obligation Bonds. The government body then repays the money plus interest over a period of years with property taxes.

GENERAL PLAN (PROPOSITION K) — The General Plan is broad in scope and specific in nature and is intended to guide the community vision for the future of San Francisco. It is adopted by the Planning Commission and approved by the Board of Supervisors. The Plan is implemented by decisions that direct the allocation of public resources and that shape private development.

HIGH CRIMES AND MISDEMEANORS (PROPOSITION J) — High crimes and misdemeanors is a phrase from the United States Constitution, Article II, Section 4: "The President, Vice President and all civil officers of the United States, shall be removed from office on impeachment for, and conviction of, treason, bribery, or other high crimes and misdemeanors."

IMPEACHMENT (PROPOSITION J) — The constitutional process whereby the House of Representatives may accuse of misconduct ("impeach") high officers of the federal government for trial in the Senate.

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November 2006

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WORDS YOU NEED TO KNOW *(continued)*

INITIATIVE — A proposition placed on the ballot by voters. Any voter may place an initiative on the ballot by gathering the required number of signatures on a petition.

MAYOR'S OFFICE OF HOUSING (PROPOSITION K) — The Mayor's Office of Housing coordinates efforts to maximize housing opportunities for low-income households and individuals. It administers a variety of housing programs funded by federal, state, and local sources. It also works to coordinate the efforts of federal, state, and local housing agencies.

ORDINANCE (PROPOSITIONS B, D, E, F, G AND H) — A local law passed by the Board of Supervisors or by the voters.

OTHER ELECTRONIC MEANS (PROPOSITION B) — The use of technology, including audio, video or both.

PARCEL TAX (PROPOSITION A) — A special tax that must be paid by all property owners and taxpayers for a defined period of time.

PARENTAL LEAVE (PROPOSITION B) — Policy that allows parents to be absent from meetings for reasons such as pregnancy or a related condition, the birth of a child or the placement of a child by adoption or foster care.

PLANNING COMMISSION (PROPOSITION G) — The City commission responsible for adopting and maintaining a comprehensive, long term general plan for future improvement and development of the City.

PRINCIPAL (PROPOSITION A) — The actual amount of borrowed money. Principal does not include interest charges.

PROPOSITION (PROPOSITIONS A THROUGH K) — Any measure that is submitted to the voters for approval or disapproval.

QUALIFIED WRITE-IN CANDIDATE — A person who has turned in the required papers and signatures to the Department of Elections. Although the name of this person will not appear on the ballot, voters can vote for this person by writing the name of the person in the space on the ballot provided for write-in votes. The Department of Elections counts write-in votes only for qualified write-in candidates.

TELECONFERENCE (PROPOSITION B) — Under California code, is "a meeting of a legislative body, the members of which are in different locations, connected by electronic means, through either audio, video or both." [Cal. Gov't Code Sec. 54953(b)(4)]

VALET PARKING SERVICE (PROPOSITION E) — In contrast to self-parking, where customers find parking on their own, customers' vehicles are parked for them for a fee by a person called a valet.





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ANNUAL BUDGET (PROPOSITION A) — The estimated cost of operating the City each year.

CHARTER AMENDMENT (PROPOSITION A) — A change to the City's Charter. The Charter is the City's Constitution. The Charter can only be changed by a majority of the votes cast.

FISCAL YEAR (PROPOSITION A) — The City's 12-month budget period, starting July 1st and ending June 30th of the following calendar year.

GENERAL FUND (PROPOSITION A) — That part of the City's annual budget that can be used for any City purpose. Each year, the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors decide how the General Fund will be used. Money for the General Fund comes from property, business, sales, and other taxes and fees. Currently, the General Fund is 46% of the City's budget.

INITIATIVE (PROPOSITION D) — A proposition placed on the ballot by voters. Any voter may place an initiative on the ballot by gathering the required number of signatures on a petition.

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION (PROPOSITION C) — This commission is a 19-member regional board created to oversee planning, coordination and financing of transportation for the nine-county Bay Area.

MUNICIPAL TRANSPORTATION AGENCY (PROPOSITION C) — This public City agency is made up of seven directors appointed by the Mayor and approved by the Board of Supervisors. Their main task is to oversee MUNI and the Department of Parking and Traffic (DPT).

ORDINANCE (PROPOSITIONS B, C AND D) — A local law passed by the Board of Supervisors or by the voters.

PROPOSITION (PROPOSITIONS A THROUGH D) — Any measure that is submitted to the voters for approval or disapproval.

"PUBLIC" DISTRICT (PROPOSITION D) — Property generally used for governmental purposes, such as hospitals, parks, schools and government buildings.

QUALIFIED WRITE-IN CANDIDATE — A person who has turned in the required papers and signatures to the Department of Elections. Although the name of this person will not appear on the ballot, voters can vote for this person by writing the name of the person in the space on the ballot provided for write-in votes. The Department of Elections counts write-in votes only for qualified write-in candidates.

TRANSBAY JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY (PROPOSITION C) — This Authority was formed to develop, design, construct and operate a new public transit center on and adjacent to the site of the Transbay Terminal. The Alameda-Contra Costa Transit (AC Transit) District and the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board also are members of the Authority.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR (PROPOSITION D) — An employee of the City who interprets and enforces the City's Planning Code.





WORDS YOU NEED TO KNOW

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November 2005

11/05

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ANNUAL BUDGET (PROPOSITION C) — The estimated cost of operating the City each year.

AUDIT (PROPOSITION C) — A formal examination of an organization or individual's financial or management accounts and information.

BASELINE BUDGET (PROPOSITION C) — A starting amount for developing a budget.

CHARTER AMENDMENT (PROPOSITIONS C, D AND E) — A change to the City's Charter. The Charter is the City's Constitution. The Charter can only be changed by a majority of the votes cast.

DECLARATION OF POLICY (PROPOSITION I) — A statement or expression of the will of the voters.

DEDICATED ACCESS LANES (PROPOSITION G) — Used exclusively to enter or exit a facility.

EMERGENCY VEHICLES (PROPOSITION F) — The San Francisco Fire Department uses the following types of emergency vehicles: fire truck, ladder truck, battalion chief's truck, ambulance, hazardous material truck, police car, bomb truck, salvage unit and fire boat.

ETHICS COMMISSION (PROPOSITION C) — The City's Ethics Commission is responsible for administering, interpreting and enforcing City ethics laws, including laws regulating campaign contributions, conflicts of interest, lobbyists, campaign consultants, whistleblowing, public records, and public meetings. The Commission also provides educational materials and advice on ethics questions. The Commission consists of five members, one each appointed by the Mayor, Board of Supervisors, City Attorney, District Attorney and Assessor-Recorder.

FIREHOUSE (PROPOSITION F) — Sometimes called a fire station.

GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND (PROPOSITIONS A AND B) — A promise issued by the City to pay back money borrowed, plus interest, by a certain date. When the City wants to raise money to pay for a large public project, it can borrow money by issuing General Obligation Bonds. The City then repays the money plus interest over a period of years with property taxes.

HOLD-OVER (PROPOSITION D) — A member of a City board or commission who continues to serve after his or her term has expired.

INITIATIVE (PROPOSITIONS F AND I) — A proposition placed on the ballot by voters. Any voter may place an initiative on the ballot by gathering the required number of signatures on a petition.

ORDINANCE (PROPOSITIONS F, G AND H) — A local law passed by the Board of Supervisors or by the voters.

OUTSIDE COUNSEL (PROPOSITION C) — An attorney not employed by the City Attorney's Office.

PRINCIPAL (PROPOSITIONS A AND B) — The actual amount of borrowed money. Principal does not include interest charges.

PROPOSITION (PROPOSITIONS A THROUGH I) — Any measure that is submitted to the voters for approval or disapproval.

QUALIFIED WRITE-IN CANDIDATES — A person who has turned in the required papers and signatures to the Department of Elections. Although the name of this person will not appear on the ballot, voters can vote for this person by writing the name of the person in the space on the ballot provided for write-in votes. The Department of Elections counts write-in votes only for qualified write-in candidates.





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11/04

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ANNUAL BUDGET (PROPOSITION G) — The estimated cost of operating the City each year.

AREA MEDIAN INCOME (PROPOSITION A) — A level of income based on all incomes earned within a certain geographic area. Half of Area households have incomes higher than this amount, and half have incomes lower than this amount. Currently, the Area median income for a two-person household is \$76,000.

CHARTER AMENDMENT (PROPOSITIONS C, D, E, F AND G) — A change to the City's Charter. The Charter is the City's Constitution. The Charter can only be changed by a majority vote of the people.

DECLARATION OF POLICY (PROPOSITIONS N AND O) — A statement or expression of the will of the voters.

GENERAL FUND (PROPOSITIONS A AND L) — That part of the City's annual budget that can be used for any City purpose. Each year, the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors decide how the General Fund will be used. Money for the General Fund comes from property, business, sales, and other taxes and fees. Currently, the General Fund is 47% of the City's budget.

GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND (PROPOSITIONS A AND B) — A promise issued by the City to pay back money borrowed, plus interest, by a certain date. When the City wants to raise money to pay for a large public project, it can borrow money by issuing General Obligation Bonds. The City then repays the money plus interest over a period of years with property taxes. A two-thirds majority vote is required to authorize issuance of General Obligation Bonds.

GROSS RECEIPTS (PROPOSITION K) — The total amount of money a business takes in for certain goods and services.

HOLD-OVER (PROPOSITION D) — A member of a City board or commission who continues to serve after his or her term has expired.

HOTEL TAX (PROPOSITION L) — A tax added to the rental of hotel rooms.

IMPLEMENT (PROPOSITION F) — To put into effect.

INITIATIVE (PROPOSITIONS L AND M) — A proposition placed on the ballot by voters. Any voter may place an initiative on the ballot by gathering the required number of signatures on a petition.

NONPROFIT (PROPOSITION L) — A business that does not operate for profit.

ORDINANCE (PROPOSITIONS H, I, J, K, L AND M) — A local law passed by the Board of Supervisors or by the voters.

PROPOSITION (PROPOSITIONS A THROUGH O) — Any measure that is submitted to the voters for approval or disapproval.

QUALIFIED WRITE-IN CANDIDATES — A person who has turned in the required papers and signatures to the Department of Elections. Although the name of this person will not appear on the ballot, voters can vote for this person by writing the name of the person in the space on the ballot provided for write-in votes. The Department of Elections counts write-in votes only for qualified write-in candidates.

REVITALIZE (PROPOSITION I) — To bring back to use after a decline.

SALES TAX (PROPOSITIONS J AND O) — A tax added to the sale of certain retail goods.

SURCHARGE (PROPOSITION L) — An additional amount added to the base charge of goods and services.





WORDS YOU NEED TO KNOW

by the Ballot Simplification Committee

LISTED BELOW ARE DEFINITIONS OF TERMS:

ABSENTEE BALLOTS (FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS) —

Absentee Ballots are ballots that are mailed to voters, or given to voters in person at the Department of Elections. Absentee Ballots can be mailed back to the Department of Elections, deposited at the Department of Elections Office, or turned in at any San Francisco polling place.

BELOW-MARKET RATE (PROPOSITION J) — A price lower

than the current price most people pay for goods or services, including housing.

BAY AREA MEDIAN INCOME (PROPOSITION J) — Half of

Bay Area households have incomes higher than this amount, and half have incomes lower than this amount. In 2000, the median income for households in the nine-county Bay Area was \$93,800.

CHARTER AMENDMENT (PROPOSITIONS A THROUGH H) —

The Charter is the City's constitution. The Charter cannot be changed without a vote of the people.

FISCAL YEAR (PROPOSITION H) — The City's 12-month

budget period, starting July 1st and ending June 30th of the following calendar year.

INITIATIVE (PROPOSITION J) — This is a way for voters to

put a proposition on the ballot. It is placed on the ballot by having a certain number of voters sign a petition. Propositions passed by initiative can be changed only by another vote of the people.

ORDINANCE (PROPOSITIONS I, J) — A law of the City and

County, which is passed by the Board of Supervisors, or passed by the voters in an election. Ordinances approved by the voters can only be changed by the voters.

PROPOSITION (PROPOSITIONS A THROUGH J) — A Proposi-

tion is any Measure that has been submitted to voters for approval or disapproval.

QUALIFIED WRITE-IN CANDIDATES (VOTING IN SAN

FRANCISCO) — A Qualified Write-in Candidate is a person who has turned in the required papers and signatures to the Department of Elections. Although the name of this person

will not appear on the ballot, voters can vote for this person by writing the name of the person in the space on the ballot provided for write-in votes. The Department of Elections counts write-in votes only for qualified write-in candidates.

RECLASSIFY (PROPOSITION F) — To assign an employee to a different group or set of rules.

RETROACTIVE PAY (PROPOSITION G) — Taking effect as of a specified date in the past.

TAX DEFERMENT (PROPOSITION A) — Postponing or delaying payment of taxes to a later date.

TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (PROPOSITION I) — The Transportation Authority is a public agency that is separate from the City, although members of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors serve as the Authority's governing board. The Authority uses a portion of sales tax money to pay for transportation projects that are approved by the voters.

November 2003



WORDS YOU NEED TO KNOW

by the Ballot Simplification Committee

LISTED BELOW ARE DEFINITIONS OF TERMS:

ABSENTEE BALLOTS (RIGHTS OF VOTERS) — Absentee Ballots are ballots that are mailed to voters, or given to voters in person at the Department of Elections. Absentee Ballots can be mailed back to the Department of Elections, deposited at the Department of Elections Office, or turned in at any San Francisco polling place.

AUDIT (PROPOSITION C) — A formal examination of an organization or individual's financial or management accounts and information.

BONDS (PROPOSITION A) — A bond is a promise by the City to pay back money borrowed, plus interest, by a specific date. If the City needs to raise a large amount of money to pay for a library, sewer line, school, or other project or program, it may borrow the money by selling bonds.

CHARTER AMENDMENT (PROPOSITIONS B THROUGH H) — The Charter is the City's constitution. The Charter cannot be changed without a vote of the people.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (CPI) (PROPOSITION L) — The Consumer Price Index measures the change in the average price of goods and services such as food, energy, housing, clothing, transportation, medical care, entertainment and education.

GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS (PROPOSITION A) — These bonds are used to pay for large public projects that do not raise revenue. For example, these bonds have been used to construct museums, police stations, jails, libraries, and other public facilities. Normally, a two-thirds majority of the voters must approve the sale of general obligation bonds. If the bonds are issued by a school district, they require a 55% majority vote for approval. General obligation bonds are repaid by property tax money.

INITIATIVE (PROPOSITIONS J, L, M) — This is a way for voters to put a proposition on the ballot. It is placed on the ballot by having a certain number of voters sign a petition. Propositions passed by initiative can be changed only by another vote of the people.

MEDIAN INCOME (PROPOSITION I) — The level of income at which half the population makes more than that amount and half the population makes less than that amount. The current median income for a California family of four is \$63,761.

ORDINANCE (PROPOSITIONS I THROUGH N) — A law of the City and County, which is passed by the Board of Supervisors, or passed by the voters in an election. Ordinances approved by the voters can only be changed by the voters.

PRINCIPAL (PROPOSITION A) — The actual amount of borrowed money. Principal does not include interest charges.

PROPOSITION (PROPOSITIONS A THROUGH N) — A Proposition is any Measure that has been submitted to voters for approval or disapproval.

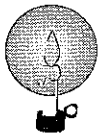
QUALIFIED WRITE-IN CANDIDATES (RIGHTS OF VOTERS) — A Qualified Write-in Candidate is a person who has turned in the required papers and signatures to the Department of Elections. Although the name of this person will not appear on the ballot, voters can vote for this person by writing the name of the person in the space on the ballot provided for write-in votes. The Department of Elections counts write-in votes only for qualified write-in candidates.

TAXI PERMIT (PROPOSITION N) — The City issues a limited number of taxi permits, which are similar to business licenses. When a permit holder is not driving the taxi, the permit holder may allow other drivers to operate the taxi. Taxi permits are different from drivers' licenses. All taxi drivers must have a valid driver's license.

TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (PROPOSITION K) — The Transportation Authority is a public agency that is separate from the City, although the eleven members of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors serve as members of the Authority's governing board. The Authority uses a portion of sales tax money to pay for transportation projects that are approved by the voters.



November 2002



WORDS YOU NEED TO KNOW

by the Ballot Simplification Committee

LISTED BELOW ARE DEFINITIONS OF TERMS:

ABSENTEE BALLOTS (RIGHTS OF VOTERS) — Absentee Ballots are ballots that are mailed to voters, or given to voters in person at the Department of Elections. Absentee Ballots can be mailed back to the Department of Elections, deposited at the Department of Elections Office, or turned in at any San Francisco polling place.

BONDS (PROPOSITIONS A, B, C) — A bond is a promise by the City to pay back money borrowed, plus interest, by a specific date. If the City needs to raise a large amount of money to pay for a library, sewer line, school, or other project or program, it may borrow the money by selling bonds.

CHARTER AMENDMENT (PROPOSITIONS D, E, F, G, H, I, J) — The Charter is the City's constitution. The Charter cannot be changed without a vote of the people.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (CPI) (PROPOSITIONS J, R) — The Consumer Price Index measures the change in the average price of goods and services such as food, energy, housing, clothing, transportation, medical care, entertainment and education.

DECLARATION OF POLICY (PROPOSITION S) — A declaration is an expression of the will of the voters and not a law. If a majority of voters approves a declaration of policy, the Board of Supervisors must carry out the policy to the extent legally possible.

GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS (PROPOSITIONS B, C) — These bonds are used to pay for large public projects that do not raise revenue. For example, these bonds have been used to construct museums, police stations, jails, libraries, and other public facilities. Normally, a two-thirds majority of the voters must approve the sale of general obligation bonds. If the bonds are issued by a school district, they require a 55% majority vote for approval. General obligation bonds are repaid by property tax money.

INITIATIVE (PROPOSITIONS N, R) — This is a way for voters to put a proposition on the ballot. It is placed on the ballot by having a certain number of voters sign a petition. Propositions passed by initiative can be changed only by another vote of the people.

LOW AND MODERATE INCOME HOUSEHOLD (PROPOSITION B) — The term low and moderate income household refers to a household whose annual income falls within a specified range, qualifying members of the household to participate in certain programs or receive certain benefits. The income range varies depending on the program and benefits.

ORDINANCE (PROPOSITIONS K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R) — A law of the City and County, which is passed by the Board of Supervisors, or passed by the voters in an election. Ordinances approved by the voters can only be changed by the voters.

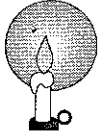
PRINCIPAL (PROPOSITIONS A, B, C) — The actual amount of borrowed money. Principal does not include interest charges.

PROPOSITION (PROPOSITIONS A THROUGH S) — A Proposition is any Measure that has been submitted to voters for approval or disapproval.

QUALIFIED WRITE-IN CANDIDATES (RIGHTS OF VOTERS) — A Qualified Write-in Candidate is a person who has turned in the required papers and signatures to the Department of Elections. Although the name of this person will not appear on the ballot, voters can vote for this person by writing the name of the person in the space on the ballot provided for write-in votes. The Department of Elections counts write-in votes only for qualified write-in candidates.

REVENUE BOND (PROPOSITION A) — If the City needs money to pay for something, such as a sewer line or convention center, the City may borrow the money by selling bonds. The City pays back the money with interest. Revenue Bonds are bonds that are paid back using money such as fees collected by the department which issued the bonds. These bonds are not repaid with property tax money. Revenue bonds require a majority vote for approval.

March 2002



WORDS YOU NEED TO KNOW

by the Ballot Simplification Committee

LISTED BELOW ARE DEFINITIONS OF TERMS:

ABSENTEE BALLOTS (RIGHTS OF VOTERS) —

Absentee Ballots are ballots that are mailed to voters, or given to voters in person at the Department of Elections. Absentee Ballots can be mailed back to the Department of Elections, deposited at the Department of Elections Office, or turned in at any San Francisco polling place.

BONDS (PROPOSITION F) — A bond is a promise by the City to pay back money borrowed, plus interest, by a specific date. If the City needs to raise a large amount of money to pay for a library, sewer line, school, or other project or program, it may borrow the money by selling bonds.

CHARTER AMENDMENT (PROPOSITIONS A,B,C,D,E) — The Charter is the City's constitution. The Charter cannot be changed without a vote of the people.

COLA (COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENT) (PROPOSITION B)

— An amount added to an original pension to compensate for inflation.

COMPOUNDED COLA (COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENT)

(PROPOSITION B) — The COLA for each year is added to the amount of the original pension when calculating the COLA for future years.

GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS (PROPOSITION F) —

These bonds are used to pay for large public projects that do not raise revenue. For example, these bonds have been used to construct museums, police stations, jails, libraries, and other public facilities. Normally, a two-thirds majority of the voters must approve the sale of general obligation bonds. If the bonds are issued by a school district, they require a 55% majority vote for approval. General obligation bonds are repaid by property tax money.

ORDINANCE (PROPOSITIONS F, G) —

A law of the City and County, which is passed by the Board of Supervisors, or passed by the voters in an election. Ordinances approved by the voters can only be changed by the voters.

PROPOSITION (PROPOSITIONS A THROUGH G) —

A Proposition is any Measure that has been submitted to voters for approval or disapproval.

QUALIFIED WRITE-IN CANDIDATES (RIGHTS OF VOTERS)

— A Qualified Write-in Candidate is a person who has turned in the required papers and signatures to the Department of Elections. Although the name of this person will not appear on the ballot, voters can vote for this person by writing the name of the person in the space on the ballot provided for write-in votes. The Department of Elections counts write-in votes only for qualified write-in candidates.

RUNOFF (PROPOSITION A) —

A final election to resolve an earlier election that did not produce a winner with more than 50% of the vote.

November 2001



WORDS YOU NEED TO KNOW

by the Ballot Simplification Committee

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BONDS (PROPOSITIONS A, B) — A bond is a promise by the City to pay back money borrowed, plus interest, by a specific date. If the City needs to raise a large amount of money to pay for a library, sewer line, school, or other project or program, it may borrow the money by selling bonds.

CHARTER AMENDMENT (PROPOSITIONS C,D,E,F,G,H) — The Charter is the City's constitution. The Charter cannot be changed without a vote of the people.

EMINENT DOMAIN (PROPOSITION F) — The power of the government to take private property for public use provided that the property owner receives just compensation.

GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS (PROPOSITION A) — These bonds are used to pay for large public projects that do not raise revenue. For example, these bonds have been used to construct museums, police stations, jails, libraries, and other public facilities. Normally, a two-thirds majority of the voters must approve the sale of general obligation bonds. If the bonds are issued by a school district, they require a 55% majority vote for approval. General obligation bonds are repaid by property tax money.

PRINCIPAL (PROPOSITIONS A, B) — The actual amount of borrowed money. Principal does not include interest charges.

PROPOSITION (PROPOSITIONS A THROUGH H) — A Proposition is any Measure that has been submitted to voters for approval or disapproval.

QUALIFIED WRITE-IN CANDIDATES (RIGHTS OF VOTERS) — A Qualified Write-in Candidate is a person who has turned in the required papers and signatures to the Department of Elections. Although the name of this person will not appear on the ballot, voters can vote for this person by writing the name of the person in the space on the ballot provided for write-in votes. The Department of Elections counts write-in votes only for qualified write-in candidates.

RECALL (PROPOSITION C) — The process by which voters can remove an elected official from office.

REFERENDUM (PROPOSITION E) — The process by which voters can overturn legislation enacted by a governing body such as the Board of Supervisors.

REVENUE BOND (PROPOSITIONS B, H) — If the City needs money to pay for something, such as a sewer line or convention center, the City may borrow the money by selling bonds. The City pays back the money with interest. Revenue Bonds are bonds that are paid back using money such as fees collected by the department which issued the bonds. These bonds are not repaid with property tax money. Revenue bonds require a majority vote for approval.

SEISMIC (PROPOSITION A) — Of, subject to, caused or relating to earthquakes.

November 2000



WORDS YOU NEED TO KNOW

by the Ballot Simplification Committee

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BONDS (PROPOSITION A) — If the City needs money to pay for something such as a library, sewer line, or school, it may borrow the money by selling bonds. The City then pays back this money plus interest.

CITY HOLIDAY (PROPOSITIONS F,G) — City government observes the following holidays: Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday; President's Day; Memorial Day; Independence Day; Labor Day; Columbus Day; Veterans' Day; Thanksgiving Day; Day after Thanksgiving; and Christmas Day.

CHARTER AMENDMENT (PROPOSITIONS B,C,D,E) — The Charter is the City's constitution. The Charter cannot be changed without a vote of the people.

DECLARATION OF POLICY (PROPOSITIONS P,Q,R) — A declaration is an expression of the will of the voters and not a law. If a majority of voters approves a declaration of policy, the Board of Supervisors must carry out the policy to the extent legally possible.

GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS (PROPOSITION A) — These bonds are used to pay for large public projects that do not raise revenue. For example, these bonds have been used to construct museums, police stations, jails, libraries, and other public facilities. A two-thirds majority of the voters must approve the sale of general obligation bonds. Once they are approved and sold, they are repaid by property taxes.

GROSS RECEIPTS (PROPOSITION I) — The total amount of money a business takes in.

INITIATIVE (PROPOSITIONS F,H,J,L,N) — This is a way for voters to put a proposition on the ballot. It is placed on the ballot by having a certain number of voters sign a petition. Propositions passed by initiative can be changed only by another vote of the people.

LIVE/WORK (PROPOSITION L) — A unit designed to combine living space with working space.

ORDINANCE (PROPOSITIONS F,G,H,I,J,K,L,M,N,O) — A law of the City and County, which is passed by the Board of Supervisors, or passed by the voters in an election. Ordinances approved by the voters can only be changed by the voters.

PRINCIPAL (PROPOSITIONS A,B) — The actual amount of borrowed money. Principal does not include interest charges.

PASS THROUGH (PROPOSITION H) — Costs incurred by landlords that they then may charge to tenants. In San Francisco pass throughs must be approved by the Rent Board.

PROPOSITION (PROPOSITIONS A THROUGH R) — A Proposition is any Measure that has been submitted to voters for approval or disapproval.

QUALIFIED WRITE-IN CANDIDATES (RIGHTS OF VOTERS) — A Qualified Write-in Candidate is a person who has turned in the required papers and signatures to the Department of Elections. Although the name of this person will not appear on the ballot, voters can vote for this person by writing the name of the person in the space on the ballot provided for write-in votes. The Department of Elections counts write-in votes only for qualified write-in candidates.

RENT BOARD (PROPOSITION H) — An agency that interprets and enforces the City's rent laws.

SEISMIC (PROPOSITION H) — Of, subject to, caused or relating to earthquakes.



WORDS YOU NEED TO KNOW

by the Ballot Simplification Committee

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ABSENTEE BALLOTS (RIGHTS OF VOTERS) — Absentee Ballots are ballots that are mailed to voters, or given to voters in person at the Department of Elections. Absentee Ballots can be mailed back to the Department of Elections, deposited at the Department of Elections Office, or turned in at any San Francisco polling place.

BONDS (PROPOSITIONS A,B,C) — If the City needs money to pay for something such as a library, sewer line, or school, it may borrow the money by selling bonds. The City then pays back this money plus interest.

CASH ASSISTANCE LINKED TO MEDI-CAL (CALM) (PROPOSITION E) — Provides cash assistance for the elderly or disabled receiving Medi-Cal, but not eligible for Social Security. The current benefit level is \$364 a month.

CHARTER (PROPOSITIONS C,D) — The Charter is the City's constitution.

CHARTER AMENDMENT (PROPOSITIONS C,D) — The Charter is the City's constitution. The Charter cannot be changed without a vote of the people.

CONSORTIUM (PROPOSITION E) — A temporary partnership for a common purpose.

DECLARATION OF POLICY (PROPOSITION F) — A declaration is an expression of the will of the voters and not a law. If a majority of voters approves a declaration of policy, the Board of Supervisors must carry out the policy to the extent legally possible.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE (GA) (PROPOSITION E) — Provides basic support for indigent county residents, mandated by state law. The current benefit level is \$294 a month.

GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS (PROPOSITIONS A, B) — These bonds are used to pay for large public projects that do not raise revenue. For example, these bonds have been used to construct museums, police stations, jails, libraries, and other public facilities. A two-thirds majority of the voters must approve the sale of general obligation bonds. Once they are approved and sold, they are repaid by property taxes.

INITIATIVE (PROPOSITIONS E,F) — This is a way for voters to put a proposition on the ballot. It is placed on the ballot by having a certain number of voters sign a petition. Propositions passed by initiative can be changed only by another vote of the people.

ORDINANCE (PROPOSITION E) — A law of the City and County, which is passed by the Board of Supervisors, or passed by the voters in an election. Ordinances approved by the voters can only be changed by the voters.

PERSONAL ASSISTED EMPLOYMENT SERVICES (PAES) (PROPOSITION E) — Provides education, training, and supportive services necessary to obtain employment, and a cash stipend. The current benefit level is \$356 a month.

PRINCIPAL (PROPOSITIONS A,B) — The actual amount of borrowed money. Principal does not include interest charges.

REPARATIONS (PROPOSITION F) — Compensation for damages.

REVENUE BOND (PROPOSITION C) — If the City needs money to pay for something, such as a sewer line or convention hall, the City may borrow the money by selling bonds. The City pays back the money with interest. The money to pay back Revenue Bonds comes from revenue such as fees collected by the department which issued the bonds. These bonds are not repaid with tax money.

SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME PENDING (SSIP) (PROPOSITION E) — Provides cash assistance for individuals who are applying, or have been determined eligible, for Social Security Income but who have not yet begun to receive SSI payments. The current benefit level is \$364 a month.

November 1999



WORDS YOU NEED TO KNOW

by the Ballot Simplification Committee

LISTED BELOW ARE DEFINITIONS OF TERMS:

ABSENTEE BALLOTS — Absentee Ballots are ballots that are mailed to voters, or given to voters in person at the Department of Elections. Absentee Ballots can be mailed back to the Department of Elections, deposited at the Department of Elections Office, or turned in at any San Francisco polling place.

CHARTER — The Charter is the City's constitution.

CHARTER AMENDMENT — The Charter is the City's constitution. The Charter cannot be changed without a vote of the people.

DELIBERATIVE PROCESS — The "deliberative process privilege" is an exception to public records laws that protects from disclosure, under certain circumstances, materials that would reveal how an agency or official makes decisions.

GENERAL FUND — The General Fund is that part of the City's budget that can be used for any purpose. Each year, the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors decide how the General Fund will be used for City services such as police and fire protection services, transportation, libraries, recreation, arts, and health services. Money for the General fund comes from property, business, sales, and other taxes and fees. Currently, the General Fund is 45% of the City's budget. The other 55% of the budget comes from federal and state government grants, revenues generated and used by the same department, and tax money collected for a specific purpose.

GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS — These bonds are used to pay for large public projects that do not raise revenue. For example, these bonds have been used to construct museums, police stations, jails, libraries, and other public facilities. A two-thirds majority of the voters must approve the sale of general obligation bonds. Once they are approved and sold, they are repaid by property taxes.

INITIATIVE — This is a way for voters to put a proposition on the ballot. It is placed on the ballot by having a certain number of voters sign a petition. Propositions passed by initiative can be changed only by another vote of the people.

PRINCIPAL — The actual amount of borrowed money. Principal does not include interest charges.

REPEAL — This means you want to abolish an existing law.

November 1998



WORDS YOU NEED TO KNOW

by the Ballot Simplification Committee

LISTED BELOW ARE DEFINITIONS OF TERMS USED IN THE FOLLOWING BALLOT MEASURE DIGESTS:

ABSENTEE BALLOTS (RIGHTS OF VOTERS) — Absentee Ballots are ballots that are mailed to voters, or given to voters in person at the Department of Elections. Absentee Ballots can be mailed back to the Department of Elections, deposited at the Department of Elections Office, or turned in at any San Francisco polling place.

CHARTER (PROPOSITIONS A,B,C,D) — The Charter is the City's constitution.

CHARTER AMENDMENT (PROPOSITIONS A,B,C,D) — The Charter is the City's constitution. The Charter cannot be changed without a vote of the people.

DECLARATION OF POLICY (PROPOSITIONS I,J) — A declaration is an expression of the will of the voters and not a law. If a majority of voters approves a declaration of policy, the Board of Supervisors must carry out the policy to the extent legally possible.

EVICITION (PROPOSITION G) — To put out (a tenant for example) by legal process.

INITIATIVE (PROPOSITIONS E,G) — This is a way for voters to put a proposition on the ballot. It is placed on the ballot by having a certain number of voters sign a petition. Propositions passed by initiative can be changed only by another vote of the people.

ORDINANCE (PROPOSITIONS E,F,G,H) — A law of the City and County, which is passed by the Board of Supervisors, or passed by the voters in an election. Ordinances approved by the voters can only be changed by the voters.

PROPOSITION (PROPOSITIONS A,B,C,D,E,F,G,H,I,J) — A proposition is any Measure that has been submitted to the voters for approval or disapproval.

QUALIFIED WRITE-IN CANDIDATES (RIGHTS OF VOTERS) — A Qualified Write-in Candidate is a person who has turned in the required papers and signatures to the Department of Elections. Although the name of this person will not be on the ballot, voters can vote for this person by writing the name of the person on the long stub of the ballot provided for write-in votes. The Department of Elections counts write-in votes only for qualified write-in candidates.



WORDS YOU NEED TO KNOW

by the Ballot Simplification Committee

LISTED BELOW ARE DEFINITIONS OF TERMS USED IN THE FOLLOWING BALLOT MEASURE DIGESTS:

ABSENTEE BALLOTS (RIGHTS OF VOTERS) — Absentee Ballots are ballots that are mailed to voters, or given to voters in person at the Department of Elections. Absentee Ballots can be mailed back to the Department of Elections, deposited at the Department of Elections Office, or turned in at any San Francisco polling place.

APPROVED DEBT (PROPOSITION D) — The total amount of money the voters have authorized the City to borrow.

BONDS (PROPOSITION A) — A bond is a promise by the City to pay back money borrowed, plus interest, by a specific date. If the City needs to raise a large amount of money to pay for a library, sewer line, school, or other project or program, it may borrow the money by selling bonds.

BONDHOLDERS (PROPOSITION C) — Persons or organizations who own bonds issued by the City.

CHARTER (PROPOSITIONS B,C,D,G) — The Charter is the City's constitution.

CHARTER AMENDMENT (PROPOSITIONS B,C,D) — The Charter is the City's constitution. The Charter cannot be changed without a vote of the people.

DECLARATION OF POLICY (PROPOSITIONS K,L) — A declaration is an expression of the will of the voters and not a law. If a majority of voters approves a declaration of policy, the Board of Supervisors must carry out the policy to the extent legally possible.

EMERGENCY (PROPOSITION H) — As defined in the City Charter, an emergency is a sudden, unexpected occurrence affecting lives, property, or welfare of the City or its citizens. Examples of past emergencies include war, rioting and natural disasters. City problems, such as a foreseeable budget shortfall, are not emergencies.

GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS (PROPOSITION A) — These bonds are used to pay for large public projects that do not raise revenue. For example, these bonds have been used to construct police stations, jails, libraries, and other public facilities. A two-thirds majority of the voters must approve the sale of general obligation bonds. Once they are approved and sold, they are repaid by property taxes.

INITIATIVE (PROPOSITIONS E,F,G,H,I,K) — This is a way for voters to put a proposition on the ballot. It is placed on the ballot by having a certain number of voters sign a petition. Propositions passed by initiative can be changed only by another vote of the people.

ORDINANCE (PROPOSITIONS E,F,G,H,I,J) — A law of the City and County, which is passed by the Board of Supervisors, or passed by the voters in an election. Ordinances approved by the voters can only be changed by the voters.

PROPOSITION (PROPOSITIONS A,B,C,D,E,F,G,H,I,J,K,L) — A proposition is any Measure that has been submitted to the voters for approval or disapproval.

QUALIFIED WRITE-IN CANDIDATES (RIGHTS OF VOTERS) — A Qualified Write-in Candidate is a person who has turned in the required papers and signatures to the Department of Elections. Although the name of this person will not be on the ballot, voters can vote for this person by writing the name of the person on the long stub of the ballot provided for write-in votes. The Department of Elections counts write-in votes only for qualified write-in candidates.

REVENUE BOND (PROPOSITION C) — If the City needs money to pay for something, such as a sewer line or convention hall, the City may borrow the money by selling bonds. The City pays back the money with interest. The money to pay back Revenue Bonds comes from revenue such as fees collected by the department which issued the bonds. These bonds are not repaid with tax money.

November 1997



WORDS YOU NEED TO KNOW

by the Ballot Simplification Committee

LISTED BELOW ARE DEFINITIONS OF TERMS USED IN THE FOLLOWING BALLOT MEASURE DIGESTS:

ABSENTEE BALLOTS (RIGHTS OF VOTERS) — Absentee Ballots are ballots that are mailed to voters, or given to voters in person at the Department of Elections. Absentee Ballots can be mailed back to the Department of Elections, deposited at the Department of Elections Office, or turned in at any San Francisco polling place.

BONDS (PROPOSITIONS A,B) — If the City needs money to pay for something such as a library, sewer line, or school, it may borrow the money by selling bonds. The City then pays back this money plus interest.

CHARTER (PROPOSITIONS C,D,E) — The Charter is the City's constitution.

CHARTER AMENDMENT (PROPOSITIONS C,D,E) — The Charter is the City's constitution. An amendment of the Charter requires a vote of the people. The Charter cannot be changed without a vote of the people.

INITIATIVE (PROPOSITION H) — This is a way for voters to put a proposition on the ballot. It is placed on the ballot by having a certain number of voters sign a petition. Propositions passed by initiative can be changed only by another vote of the people.

MISDEMEANOR (PROPOSITION G) — This is a minor crime or offense that is punishable by a fine and/or a jail sentence of six months or less.

ORDINANCE (PROPOSITION G) — A law of the City and County, which is passed by the Board of Supervisors, or passed by the voters in an election.

PRINCIPAL (PROPOSITIONS A,B,C) — The actual amount of borrowed money. Principal does not include interest charges.

PROPOSITION (PROPOSITIONS A,B,C,D,E,F,G,H) — A proposition is the same as a Ballot Measure.

QUALIFIED WRITE-IN CANDIDATES (RIGHTS OF VOTERS) — A Qualified Write-In Candidate is a person who has turned in the required papers and signatures to the Department of Elections. Although the name of this person will not be on the ballot, voters can vote for this person by writing the name of the person on the long stub of the ballot provided for write-in votes. The Department of Elections counts write-in votes only for qualified write-in candidates.

REVENUE BOND (PROPOSITION A,B) — If the City needs money to pay for something, such as a sewer line or convention hall, the City may borrow the money by selling bonds. The City pays back the money with interest. The money to pay back Revenue Bonds comes from revenue such as fees collected by the department which issued the bonds. These bonds are not repaid with tax money.

June 1997



WORDS YOU NEED TO KNOW

by the Ballot Simplification Committee

LISTED BELOW ARE DEFINITIONS OF TERMS USED IN THE FOLLOWING BALLOT MEASURE DIGESTS:

ABSENTEE BALLOTS (RIGHTS OF VOTERS) — Absentee Ballots are ballots that are mailed to voters, or given to voters in person at the Department of Elections. Absentee Ballots can be mailed back to the Department of Elections, deposited at the Department of Elections Office, or turned in at any San Francisco polling place.

ADMINISTRATIVE CODE (PROPOSITION E) — The Administrative Code is a collection of City laws that were passed by the Board of Supervisors, or passed by the voters at an election. The Administrative Code includes laws about the operations of City government.

BONDS (PROPOSITIONS A,B,C,D,E) — If the City needs money to pay for something such as a library, sewer line, or school, it may borrow the money by selling bonds. The City then pays back this money plus interest.

CHARTER (PROPOSITION E) — The Charter is the City's constitution.

CHARTER AMENDMENT (PROPOSITION E) — The Charter is the City's constitution. An amendment of the Charter requires a vote of the people. The Charter cannot be changed without a vote of the people.

FINANCE (PROPOSITION D) — Various ways to pay for something over time. This may include raising money or offering something in trade.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE (PROPOSITION D) — General Assistance is a San Francisco program that offers aid and support to poor adults.

GENERAL FUND (PROPOSITION D) — The General Fund is that part of the City's budget that can be used for any purpose. Each year, the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors decide how the General Fund will be used for City services such as police and fire protection services, transportation, libraries, recreation, arts, and health services. Money for the General Fund comes from property, business, sales, and other taxes and fees. Currently, the General Fund is (45%) of the City's budget. The other (55%) of the budget comes from federal and state government grants, revenues generated and used by the same department, and tax money collected for a specific purpose.

GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS (PROPOSITIONS A, B, C) — These bonds are used to pay for large public projects that do not raise revenue. For example, these bonds have been used to construct museums, police stations, jails, libraries, and other public facilities. A two-thirds majority of the voters must approve the sale of general obligation bonds. Once they are approved and sold, they are repaid by property taxes.

LEASE FINANCING (PROPOSITION D) — Cities and local governments make improvements to buildings and land by: 1) paying for them all at once; or 2) leasing them until paid for. The second method is called "lease financing." When using lease financing, cities usually create a nonprofit corporation. The nonprofit corporation borrows money to buy the building or property. Cities then lease the building or property from the nonprofit corporation. The lease payments received by the nonprofit corporation are used to repay the borrowed money. Under local law, voter approval is required before San Francisco may use lease financing to pay for improvements to buildings and land.

PRINCIPAL (PROPOSITIONS A,B,C,D) — The actual amount of borrowed money. Principal does not include interest charges.

PROPOSITION (PROPOSITIONS A,B,C,D,E,F) — A proposition is the same as a Ballot Measure.

REVENUE BOND (PROPOSITION E) — If the City needs money to pay for something, such as a sewer line or convention hall, the City may borrow the money by selling bonds. The City pays back the money with interest. The money to pay back Revenue Bonds comes from revenue such as fees collected by the department which issued the bonds. These bonds are not paid for with tax money.

ZONING (PROPOSITION F) — The City is divided into sections for different purposes, such as housing, business, playgrounds, etc., called zoning. Property in an area can only be used for the purpose for which it is zoned.

1996 November

WORDS YOU NEED TO KNOW

by the Ballot Simplification Committee

ARBITRATION (PROPOSITION E) — When two disputing parties agree to have their conflict settled by a neutral third party, the process is called "arbitration."

CHARTER AMENDMENT (PROPOSITIONS C, D, E, F, G, H) — The Charter is the City's constitution. An amendment of the charter requires a vote of the people. The Charter cannot be changed without a vote of the people.

GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS (PROPOSITIONS A, B) — These bonds are used to pay for large public projects that do not raise revenue. For example, these bonds have been used to construct museums, police stations, jails, libraries, and other public facilities. A two-thirds majority of the voters must approve the sale of general obligation bonds. Once they are approved and sold, they are repaid by property taxes.

LOW-INCOME (PROPOSITION A) — A household of four persons whose combined income does not exceed \$36,780 annually.

MODERATE-INCOME (PROPOSITION A) — A household of four persons whose combined income does not exceed \$61,300 annually.

ORDINANCE (PROPOSITION J) — A law of the City and County, which is passed by the Board of Supervisors, or passed by the voters in an election.

RECALL ELECTION (PROPOSITION G) — A recall election is a way for voters to remove a public official from office. A recall election is held after a specified number of voters have signed a petition calling for such an election.

March 1996

WORDS YOU NEED TO KNOW

by the Ballot Simplification Committee

GENERAL FUND — The General Fund is that part of the City's budget that can be used for any purpose. Each year, the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors decide how the General Fund will be used for City services such as police and fire protection services, transportation, libraries, recreation, arts, and health services. Money for the General Fund comes from property, business, sales, and other taxes and fees. Currently, the General Fund is 48.7% of the City's budget. The other 51.3% of the budget comes from federal and state government grants, revenues generated and used by the same department, and tax money collected for a specific purpose. (Proposition A)

LEASE FINANCING — When a city or other local government wants to make improvements to buildings or land, or buy equipment, it may decide to use lease financing as a method of payment. Usually, a non-profit corporation created for this purpose will buy the building, land or equipment and borrow the money to pay for it. The city then leases it from the corporation, paying back the principal plus interest in installments until it is fully purchased. (Proposition A)

ORDINANCE — A law of the City and County, which is passed by the Board of Supervisors or approved by voters. (Proposition B)

WORDS YOU NEED TO KNOW

by the Ballot Simplification Committee

AUDIT — A methodical examination or review of an organization's operations or finances. (Proposition J)

CHARTER — The Charter is the City's constitution. (Propositions D, E, F, G, and H)

CHARTER AMENDMENT — A Charter Amendment changes the City Charter, or constitution, and requires a vote of the people. It cannot be changed again without another vote of the people. (Propositions D, E, F, G, and H)

GENERAL FUND — The General Fund is that part of the City's budget that can be used for any purpose. Each year, the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors decide how the General Fund will be used for City services such as police and fire protection services, transportation, libraries, recreation, arts, and health services. Money for the General Fund comes from property, business, sales, and other taxes and fees. Currently, the General Fund is 48.7% of the City's budget. The other 51.3% of the budget comes from federal and state government grants, revenues generated and used by the same department, and tax money collected for a specific purpose. (Propositions E, G, and I)

GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND — If the City needs money to pay for something such as a library or school, the City may borrow the money by selling bonds. The City pays back the money with interest. The money to pay back General Obligation Bonds comes from property taxes. A two-thirds majority of the voters must approve the decision to sell General Obligation Bonds. (Propositions A, B, and C)

INITIATIVE — This is a way for voters to put a proposition on the ballot. It is placed on the ballot by having a certain number of voters sign a petition. Propositions passed by initiative can be changed only by another vote of the people. (Propositions H, J, and O)

ORDINANCE — A law of the City and County, which is passed by the Board of Supervisors or approved by voters. (Propositions I, J, K, L, M, N, and O)

PREVAILING WAGE — The prevailing wage is at least the highest wage generally paid in private employment for a specific kind of work. (Proposition D)

REFERENDUM — A law passed by the Board of Supervisors and signed by the Mayor does not go into effect for thirty days. If enough voters sign a petition during that thirty days, they can require that the law be placed on the ballot for the voters to approve. If the majority of voters vote "no" on that measure, then it will not become law. (Proposition N)

SEISMIC — Of, subject to, or caused by an earthquake. (Proposition A)

June 1994

WORDS YOU NEED TO KNOW

by the Ballot Simplification Committee

CHARTER — The Charter is the City's constitution.

CHARTER AMENDMENT — A Charter Amendment changes the City Charter, or constitution, and requires a vote of the people. It cannot be changed again without another vote of the people. (Propositions C, D, E, F, and G)

DECLARATION OF POLICY — A declaration of policy asks a question: Do you agree or disagree with a certain idea? If a majority of voters approve a declaration of policy, the Board of Supervisors must carry out the policy to the extent legally possible. (Proposition K)

GENERAL FUND — Each year, the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors decide how the General Fund will be used for City services such as police and fire protection services, transportation, libraries, recreation, arts and health services. Money for the General Fund comes from property, business, sales, and other taxes and fees. This money is not earmarked for any specific purpose. Currently, the General Fund is 34% of the City's budget. The other 66% of the budget comes from federal and state government grants, revenues generated and used by the same department, and tax money collected for a specific purpose.

GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND — If the City needs money to pay for something such as a library, sewer line or school, the City may borrow the money by selling bonds. The City pays back the money with interest. The money to pay back these bonds comes from property taxes. A two-thirds majority of the voters must approve the decision to sell General Obligation Bonds. (Proposition A)

INITIATIVE — This is a way for voters to put a proposition on the ballot. It is placed on the ballot by having a certain number of voters sign a petition. Propositions passed by initiative can be changed only by another vote of the people. (Propositions E and I)

LEASE FINANCING — When a city or other local government wants to make improvements to buildings or land, or buy equipment, it may decide to use lease financing as a method of payment. Usually, a non-profit corporation created for this purpose will buy the building, land or equipment and borrow the money to pay for it. The city then leases it from the corporation, paying back the principal plus interest in installments until it is fully purchased. (Propositions B and C)

ORDINANCE — A law of the City and County, which is passed by the Board of Supervisors or approved by voters. (Propositions H, I, and J)

PRIMARY ELECTION — An election to decide who will be a political party's candidates for the general election the following November. For each office there may be two or more people who want to be a party's candidate in November. The one who gets the highest vote in the primary election will be this candidate.

The purpose of a primary election is to choose a **POLITICAL PARTY'S CANDIDATE** for each office. You will vote for a candidate from the party in which you are registered. A voter who has registered as an independent or has not chosen a political party will receive a primary ballot that lists only ballot measures and candidates for non-partisan offices.

November 1994

WORDS YOU NEED TO KNOW

by the Ballot Simplification Committee

CHARTER — The Charter is the City's constitution.

CHARTER AMENDMENT — A Charter Amendment changes the City Charter, or constitution, and requires a vote of the people. It cannot be changed again without another vote of the people. (Propositions E, F, G and H)

DECLARATION OF POLICY — A declaration of policy asks a question: Do you agree or disagree with a certain idea? If a majority of voters approve a declaration of policy, the Board of Supervisors must carry out the policy to the extent legally possible. (Proposition R)

GENERAL FUND — The General Fund is that part of the City's budget that can be used for any purpose. Each year, the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors decide how the General Fund will be used for City services such as police and fire protection services, transportation, libraries, recreation, arts and health services. Money for the General Fund comes from property, business, sales, and other taxes and fees. Currently, the General Fund is 54% of the City's budget. The other 46% of the budget comes from federal and state government grants, revenues generated and used by the same department, and tax money collected for a specific purpose.

GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND — If the City needs money to pay for something such as a library or school, the City may borrow the money by selling bonds. The City pays back the money with interest. The money to pay back General Obligation Bonds comes from property taxes. A two-thirds majority of the voters must approve the decision to sell General Obligation Bonds. (Propositions A, B and C)

INITIATIVE — This is a way for voters to put a proposition on the ballot. It is placed on the ballot by having a certain number of voters sign a petition. Propositions passed by initiative can be changed only by another vote of the people. (Propositions G, I, J, K and O)

REVENUE BOND — If the City needs money to pay for something, such as a sewer line or convention hall, the City may borrow the money by selling bonds. The City pays back the money with interest. The money to pay back Revenue Bonds comes from revenue such as fees collected by the department which issued the bonds. These bonds are not paid for with tax money. (Proposition D)

ORDINANCE — A law of the City and County, which is passed by the Board of Supervisors or approved by voters. (Propositions I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P and Q)

November 1993

WORDS YOU NEED TO KNOW

by the Ballot Simplification Committee

CHARTER — The Charter is the City's constitution. (Propositions D - G and J - U)

CHARTER AMENDMENT — A Charter Amendment changes the City Charter, or constitution, and requires a vote of the people. It cannot be changed again without another vote of the people. (Propositions D - G and J - U)

DECLARATION OF POLICY — A declaration of policy asks a question: Do you agree or disagree with a certain idea? If a majority of voters approve a declaration of policy, the Board of Supervisors must carry out the policy to the extent legally possible. (Propositions AA, BB)

FRAUD — The act of intentionally not telling the truth in order to get someone to part with something of value, or to give up a legal right. (Proposition V)

GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND — If the City needs money to pay for something such as a library, sewer line or school, the City may borrow the money by selling bonds. The City pays back the money with interest. The money to pay back these bonds comes from property taxes. A two-thirds majority of the voters must approve the decision to sell General Obligation Bonds. (Propositions A, B)

INITIATIVE — This is a way for voters to put a proposition on the ballot. It is placed on the ballot by having a certain number of voters sign a petition. Propositions passed by initiative can be changed only by another vote of the people. (Proposition U, also Propositions X, Z, AA and BB)

LEASE FINANCING — When a city or other local government wants to make improvements to buildings or land, or buy equipment, it may decide to use lease financing as a method of payment. Usually, a non-profit corporation created for this purpose will buy the building, land or equipment and borrow the money to pay for it. The city then leases it from the corporation, paying back the principal plus interest in installments until it is fully purchased. (Propositions H, I)

ORDINANCE — A law of the City and County, which is passed by the Board of Supervisors or approved by the voters. (Propositions C, V, W, X, Y, Z)

PERFORMANCE BOND — A promise or guarantee made by a third party, usually an insurance company, to guarantee completion of a service or project under the terms of a contract agreed to by two other parties. (Proposition Z)

PURCHASER — The director of the City's Purchasing Department. He is the official responsible for buying materials and equipment used by all City departments, except where construction is involved. (Proposition Q)

RECALL — The procedure by which voters may decide whether to remove an official from office. For a recall measure to appear on the ballot, persons seeking the recall must submit a petition that contains the signatures of 10 percent of all registered voters. If voters approve the recall measure, the official is removed from office. (Proposition U)

REVENUE BONDS — If the City needs money to pay for something such as a library, sewer line or school, the City may borrow the money by selling bonds. The money to pay back Revenue Bonds comes from revenue such as fees collected by the department that issues the bonds. These bonds are not paid for with tax money. (Offices to Be Voted on — Treasurer)

June 1992

WORDS YOU NEED TO KNOW

by the Ballot Simplification Committee

ABSENTEE BALLOTS (RIGHTS OF VOTERS) — Absentee Ballots are ballots that are mailed to voters, or given to voters in person at the Registrar's Office in City Hall. Absentee Ballots can be mailed back to the Registrar, deposited at the Registrar's Office in City Hall, or turned in at any San Francisco polling place.

CHARTER (PROPOSITIONS E, F, G, H) — The Charter is the City's constitution.

CHARTER AMENDMENT (PROPOSITIONS E, F, G, H) — A Charter amendment changes the Charter, and requires a vote of the people. It cannot be changed again without another vote of the people.

DECLARATION OF POLICY (PROPOSITIONS I, J) — A declaration of policy is an ordinance that does not have the force of law, but is intended to be a goal to guide the Board of Supervisors.

GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND (PROPOSITIONS A, B, C, D) — If the City needs money to pay for something such as a library, sewer line, or school, the City may borrow the money by selling bonds. The City pays back the money with interest. The money to pay back these bonds comes from property taxes. A two-thirds majority of the voters must approve the decision to sell general obligation bonds.

INVENTORY (PROPOSITION G) — The quantity of materials, supplies and equipment that the City has on hand is its inventory. From time to time the City inspects these items and makes a detailed list of the quantity and condition of the materials, supplies and equipment.

PRIMARY ELECTION — See Page 7.

PROPOSITION — A Proposition is the same as a Ballot Measure.

QUALIFIED WRITE-IN CANDIDATE (RIGHTS OF VOTERS) — A Qualified Write-In Candidate is a person who has turned in required papers and signatures to the Registrar of Voters. Although the name of this person will not be on the ballot, voters can vote for this person by writing the name of the person on the long stub of the ballot provided for write-in votes. The Registrar counts write-in votes only for qualified write-in candidates.

BALLOT SIMPLIFICATION COMMITTEE

Nicholas DeLuca, Committee Chair

National Broadcast Editorial Association

Kay Blalock

League of Women Voters of San Francisco

George Markell

The Northern California Newspaper Guild

Richard Miller

San Francisco Unified School District

John Odell

National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences

Northern California Chapter

Randy Riddle, *Ex-officio*

Deputy City Attorney

The Ballot Simplification Committee prepares summaries ("The Way It Is Now," "The Proposal," "A 'Yes' Vote Means," and "A 'No' Vote Means.") of measures placed on the ballot each election. The Committee prepares: the table of contents, an index of candidates and measures, a brief explanation of the ballot pamphlet, definitions of terms in the pamphlet, a summary of voters' basic rights, and a statement as to the term, compensation and duties of each local elective office.

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS

Mayoral appointees: Ernest Llorente, Chair; David Binder, Richard Sevilla, Jim Stevens and Molly Wood.

Board of Supervisors appointees: Martha Gillham, Daniel Kalb, Brian Mavrogeorge, George Mix, Jr., Samson Wong, Richmond Young.

Ex-officio members: Randy Riddle, Deputy City Attorney, and Germaine Q Wong, Registrar of Voters.

Members represent political organizations, political parties, labor organizations, neighborhood organizations, business organizations and other citizens groups interested in the political process.

The Committee studies and makes advisory recommendations to the officers of the City and County on all matters relating to voter registration, elections and the administration of the office of the Registrar of Voters; investigates compliance with the requirements of Federal, State and local election and campaign reporting, disclosure laws and other statutes relating to the conduct of elections in San Francisco; promotes citizen participation in the electoral process; studies and reports on all election matters referred to it by various officers of the City and County.

November 1992

WORDS YOU NEED TO KNOW

by the Ballot Simplification Committee

ABSENTEE BALLOTS (RIGHTS OF VOTERS) — Absentee Ballots are ballots that are mailed to voters, or given to voters in person at the Registrar's Office in City Hall. Absentee Ballots can be mailed back to the Registrar, deposited at the Registrar's Office in City Hall, or turned in at any San Francisco polling place.

CHARTER (PROPOSITIONS D, E, F, G) — The Charter is the City's constitution.

CHARTER AMENDMENT (PROPOSITIONS D, E, F, G) — A Charter amendment changes the Charter, and requires a vote of the people. It cannot be changed again without another vote of the people.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX — CPI — (PROPOSITION H) — A measure of the change in the San Francisco Bay Area cost of living prepared by the federal government.

GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND (PROPOSITIONS A, B, C) — If the City needs money to pay for something such as a library, sewer line, or school, the City may borrow the money by selling bonds. The City pays back the money with interest. The money to pay back these bonds comes from property taxes. A two-thirds majority of the voters must approve the decision to sell general obligation bonds.

INITIATIVE (PROPOSITIONS H, K, L) — This is a way for voters to put a proposition on the ballot. An initiative is put on the ballot by getting a certain number of voters to sign a petition. Propositions passed by initiative can be changed only by another vote of the people.

ORDINANCE (PROPOSITIONS H, J, K, L) — A law of the City and County, which is passed by the Board of Supervisors or approved by the voters.

PRINCIPAL (PROPOSITION D) — The actual amount of borrowed money. Principal does not include interest charges.

PROPOSITION — A Proposition is the same as a Ballot Measure.

QUALIFIED WRITE-IN CANDIDATE (RIGHTS OF VOTERS) — A Qualified Write-In Candidate is a person who has turned in required papers and signatures to the Registrar of Voters. Although the name of this person will not be on the ballot, voters can vote for this person by writing the name of the person on the long stub of the ballot provided for write-in votes. The Registrar counts write-in votes only for qualified write-in candidates.

ZONING (PROPOSITIONS K, L) — The City is divided into sections for different purposes, such as housing, business, playgrounds, etc., called zoning. Property in an area can only be used for the purpose for which it is zoned.

November 1991

WORDS YOU NEED TO KNOW

by the Ballot Simplification Committee

ABSENTEE BALLOTS (RIGHTS OF VOTERS) — Absentee Ballots are ballots which are mailed to voters, or given to voters who request them in person at the Registrar's Office in City Hall. Absentee Ballots are mailed back to the Registrar or deposited at the Registrar's Office in City Hall.

ASSESSED PROPERTY VALUE (PROPOSITION M) — The Assessor determines how much money a piece of property would probably sell for on the open market. This figure is called the assessed property value. It is used to decide the amount people pay in property tax.

BINDING ARBITRATION (PROPOSITION B) — This happens when two disputing parties agree to have their conflict settled by a neutral third party. The two sides are then legally required to accept that settlement.

CHARTER (PROPOSITIONS A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J) — The Charter is the City's constitution.

CHARTER AMENDMENT (PROPOSITIONS A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J) — A Charter amendment changes the Charter, and requires a vote of the people. It cannot be changed again without another vote of the people.

CONDOMINIUM (PROPOSITION N) — A Condominium is an individually owned unit in a multi-unit building, such as an apartment.

DECLARATION OF POLICY (PROPOSITIONS O, P, Q) — A declaration of policy is an ordinance that does not have the force of law, but is intended to be a goal to guide the Board of Supervisors.

INITIATIVE (PROPOSITIONS H, J, K, L, M, O, P) — This is a way for voters to put a proposition on the ballot. An initiative is put on the ballot by getting a certain number of voters to sign a petition. Propositions passed by initiative can be changed only by another vote of the people.

MEET AND CONFER (PROPOSITIONS C, D) — Before making changes in the terms of employment of City employees, the City must discuss these changes with the affected employee organizations.

MISDEMEANOR (PROPOSITION M) — This is a minor crime or offense that is punishable by a fine and/or a jail sentence of six months or less.

ORDINANCE (PROPOSITIONS K, L, M, N) — A law of the City and County, which is passed by the Board of Supervisors or approved by the voters.

PROPOSITION — An issue which voters can vote to decide.

REFERENDUM (PROPOSITIONS L, M) — A law passed by the Board of Supervisors and signed by the Mayor does not go into effect for thirty days. If enough voters sign a petition during that thirty days, they can require that the law be placed on the ballot for the voters to approve. If the majority of voters vote "no" on that measure, then it will not become law.

REPEAL (PROPOSITION K) — This means you want to abolish an existing law.

ZONING (PROPOSITION L) — The City is divided into sections for different purposes, such as housing, business, playgrounds, etc., called zoning. Property in an area can only be used for the purpose for which it is zoned.

PURPOSE OF THE VOTER INFORMATION PAMPHLET

This Voter Information Pamphlet provides voters with information about the November 5, 1991 Municipal Election. The Pamphlet includes:

1. a Sample Ballot (i.e., a copy of the ballot you see at your polling place or the one you receive when you vote absentee)	Page 7-13
2. the location of your polling place	(see label on the back cover)
3. applications for an absentee ballot and permanent absentee voter status	back cover
4. a rights of voters summary	14
5. information for disabled voters	15
6. statements from the candidates who are running for office	16-22
7. information about each proposition, including a summary, the Controller's Statement, arguments for and against the proposition, and the legal text	24-157
8. definitions of words you need to know	6
9. a Voter Quick Reference Card to mark your choices and use when you vote	inside back cover

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WORDS YOU NEED TO KNOW

by Ballot Simplification Committee

ABSENTEE BALLOTS (RIGHTS OF VOTERS) — If you do not wish to go to your polling place to vote, you may vote by mail or by going to the Registrar's Office in City Hall in person. This is called absentee voting.

BONDS (PROPOSITION A, B) — If the City needs money to pay for something such as a library, sewer line, or school, it may borrow the money by selling bonds. The City then pays back this money plus interest.

CHARTER (PROPOSITION C, D, E, F, G) — The Charter is the City's constitution.

CHARTER AMENDMENT (PROPOSITION C, D, E, F, G) — A Charter amendment changes the Charter, and requires a vote of the people. It cannot be changed again without another vote of the people.

DECLARATION OF POLICY (PROPOSITION J) — A type of advisory measure provided for in the San Francisco Charter. A declaration of policy does not have the force of law, but is intended to be a goal to guide the Board of Supervisors.

GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS (PROPOSITION A, B) — The money to pay back these bonds comes from property taxes. A two-thirds majority of the voters must approve the decision to sell general obligation bonds.

INITIATIVE (PROPOSITION E, H) — This is a way for voters to put a proposition on the ballot for people to vote on. An initiative is put on the ballot by getting a certain number of voters to sign a petition. Propositions passed by initiative can be changed only by another vote of the people.

ORDINANCE (PROPOSITION H, I, J, K) — A law of the City and County, which is passed by the Board of Supervisors or approved by the voters. For such a law to be passed by the Board of Supervisors, a majority, (or in some cases, three-fourths) of the Supervisors must vote to approve the law at two consecutive meetings. A majority of the voters must vote to approve the law at an election.

QUALIFIED WRITE-IN CANDIDATE (RIGHTS OF VOTERS) — A person who has turned in the required papers and signatures with the Registrar of Voters to run for an office as a write-in candidate. The name of this person will not be on the ballot. Voters who want to vote for this person can do so by writing the name of the person on the inside of the grey envelope given with the ballot.

REVENUE BONDS (PROPOSITION C) — The money to pay back these bonds comes from revenue such as fees collected by the department which issues the bonds. These bonds are not paid for with tax money.

PURPOSE OF THE VOTER INFORMATION PAMPHLET

This Voter Information Pamphlet provides voters with information about the November 6, 1990 General Election. The Pamphlet includes:

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| 1. a Sample Ballot (i.e., a copy of the ballot you see at your polling place or the one you receive when you vote absentee) | Page 6-23 |
| 2. the location of your polling place | (see label on the back cover) |
| 3. applications for an absentee ballot and permanent absentee voter status | back cover |
| 4. a rights of voters summary | 25 |
| 5. information for disabled voters | 24 |
| 6. statements from the candidates who are running for office | 28-53 |
| 7. information about each proposition, including a summary, the Controller's Statement, arguments for and against the proposition, and the legal text | 55-160 |
| 8. definitions of words you need to know | 5 |
| 9. a Voter Quick Reference Card to mark your choices and use when you vote | inside back cover |

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS

Mayoral appointees: Ernest Llorente, Chair; David Binder, Richard Sevilla, Molly Wood, and Hoyt Zia

Board of Supervisors appointees: Roger Cardenas, Martha Gillham, Brian Mavrogeorge, George Mix, Jr., Samson Wong, and Richmond Young

Members represent political organizations, political parties, labor organizations, neighborhood organizations, business organizations and other citizens groups interested in the political process.

The Committee studies and makes advisory recommendations to the officers of the City and County on all matters relating to voter registration, elections and the administration of the office of the Registrar of Voters; investigates compliance with the requirements of Federal, State and local election and campaign reporting, disclosure laws and other statutes relating to the conduct of elections in San Francisco; promotes citizen participation in the electoral process; studies and reports on all election matters referred to it by various officers of the City and County.

June 1990

WORDS YOU NEED TO KNOW

by Ballot Simplification Committee

ABSENTEE BALLOTS (RIGHTS OF VOTERS) — If you do not wish to go to your polling place to vote, you may vote by mail or by going to the Registrar's Office in City Hall in person. This is called absentee voting.

BONDS (PROPOSITION A) — If the City needs money to pay for something such as a library, sewer line, or school, it may borrow the money by selling bonds. The City then pays back this money plus interest.

CHARTER (PROPOSITION C, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N) — The Charter is the City's constitution.

CHARTER AMENDMENT (PROPOSITION C, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N) — A Charter amendment changes the Charter, and requires a vote of the people. It cannot be changed again without another vote of the people.

CHARTER BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS (PROPOSITION J, K, L) — Boards and commissions created by the Charter, either directly or indirectly.

DECLARATION OF POLICY (PROPOSITION O) — A declaration of policy asks a question: Do you agree or disagree with a certain idea? If a majority of the voters approve a declaration of policy, the Board of Supervisors must carry out the policy, to the extent legally possible.

DEFERRED CAPITAL MAINTENANCE (PROPOSITION B) — Major building repair projects that have been postponed.

ELECTOR (PROPOSITION L) — A person who is eligible to register to vote.

FINANCE (PROPOSITION C) — Various ways to pay for something over time. This may include raising money or offering something in trade.

FISCAL YEAR (PROPOSITION A, D) — The twelve months from July 1 to June 30 make up a fiscal year. The City budgets revenues and expenses on a fiscal year basis.

GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS (PROPOSITION A) — The money to pay back these bonds comes from property taxes. A two-thirds majority of the voters must approve the decision to sell general obligation bonds.

INITIATIVE (PROPOSITION F, O) — This is a way for voters to put a proposition on the ballot for people to vote on. An initiative

is put on the ballot by getting a certain number of voters to sign a petition. Propositions passed by initiative can be changed only by another vote of the people.

ORDINANCE (PROPOSITION D, J) — A law of the City and County, which is passed by the Board of Supervisors or approved by the voters. For such a law to be passed by the Board of Supervisors, a majority, (or in some cases, three-fourths) of the Supervisors must vote to approve the law at two consecutive meetings.

OUTSTANDING PRINCIPAL (PROPOSITION A, C) — The actual amount of borrowed money, not yet paid back. Principal does not include interest charges.

PRIMARY ELECTION — An election to decide who will be a political party's candidates for the general election the following November. For each office there may be two or more people wanting to be a party's candidate in November. The one who gets the highest vote in the primary election will be this candidate. Because the purpose of a primary election is to choose a **POLITICAL PARTY'S CANDIDATE** for each office you will vote for candidates in the party in which you are registered. A voter who has registered as an independent or has not chosen a political party will receive a primary ballot that lists **ONLY** ballot measures and non-partisan candidates.

QUALIFIED WRITE-IN CANDIDATE (RIGHTS OF VOTERS) — A person who has turned in the required papers and signatures with the Registrar of Voters to run for an office as a write-in candidate. The name of this person will not be on the ballot. Voters who want to vote for this person can do so by writing the name of the person on the inside of the grey envelope given with the ballot.

SPECIAL PROPERTY TAX (MELLO-ROOS DISTRICT) (PROPOSITION B) — A flat tax on a parcel of land, which is not based on the property's value. The special tax would be in addition to current property taxes. This tax requires a two-thirds majority vote.

STAFFING LEVEL (PROPOSITION F) — The number of employees on duty at any one time.

TAX EXEMPT DEBT (PROPOSITION C) — Money borrowed by the City which is paid back with interest. The lenders are not taxed on the money earned from these loans.

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The Ballot Simplification Committee prepares digests ("The Way It Is Now," "The Proposal," "A 'Yes' Vote Means," and "A 'No' Vote Means") of measures placed on the ballot each election, and with the assistance of the Registrar of Voters, prepares the table of contents, an index of candidates and measures, a brief explanation of the ballot pamphlet, definitions of terms in the pamphlet, a summary of basic voters' rights, and a statement as to the term, compensation and duties of each elective office.