



F

Youth Voting in Local Elections

Shall the City amend the Charter to allow San Francisco residents to vote on local candidates and local ballot measures if they are U.S. citizens, at least 16 years old and registered to vote?

YES ←  
NO ←  

Digest by the Ballot Simplification Committee

The Way It Is Now: San Francisco residents who are at least 18 years old and are United States citizens may register and vote in San Francisco elections. San Francisco voters may vote on local candidates and ballot measures, state candidates and ballot measures, and federal candidates.

The Proposal: Proposition F is a Charter amendment that would allow San Francisco residents to vote on local candidates and local ballot measures if they are U.S. citizens, at least 16 years old and registered to vote. Local candidates include candidates for the Board of Education and the Community College Board of Trustees.

Proposition F would not permit 16- and 17-year-olds to vote on state candidates, state ballot measures or federal candidates.

A “YES” Vote Means: If you vote “yes,” you want to amend the Charter to allow San Francisco residents to vote on local candidates and local ballot measures if they are U.S. citizens, at least 16 years old and registered to vote.

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

Controller’s Statement on “F”

City Controller Ben Rosenfield has issued the following statement on the fiscal impact of Proposition F:

Should the proposed charter amendment be approved by the voters, in my opinion, it would have a minimal impact on the cost of government.

The amendment could be expected to increase the number of registered voters for municipal elections by up to approximately 1 percent if 16 and 17 year olds register to vote at the same rate as the general popu-

lation. The Department of Elections would have some additional costs to produce voter materials. In addition it would have some costs to conduct voter education and outreach efforts for this group of voters. Spread over the four year election cycle the added expense would represent only a marginal increase in Department of Elections’ costs an annual basis.

How “F” Got on the Ballot

On May 10, 2016, the Board of Supervisors voted 9 to 2 to place Proposition F on the ballot. The Supervisors voted as follows:

Yes: Avalos, Breed, Campos, Kim, Mar, Peskin, Tang, Wiener, Yee.

No: Cohen, Farrell.

This district measure requires 50%+1 affirmative votes to pass.

The above statement is an impartial analysis of this measure. Arguments for and against this measure immediately follow. The full text begins on page 259. Some of the words used in the ballot digest are explained starting on page 58.



Proponent's Argument in Favor of Proposition F

Proposition F Strengthens Our Democracy

Voting is the cornerstone of democracy and vital to San Francisco's future. To solve our most pressing challenges, from the rise of Donald Trump to ending family homelessness, we need to do all we can to increase voter participation, both now and in the long run. That is why we're voting YES on Proposition F.

With Proposition F, San Francisco is leading a historic effort to foster a culture of informed voting by extending voting rights to 16 and 17 year old citizens for local and school board elections. The research is clear – the earlier someone casts their first vote, the more likely they are to continue participating as a committed, habitual, lifelong voter. Sixteen is a more stable time than age 18 to establish this habit, and 16 and 17 year olds in San Francisco are more than ready to vote.

Furthermore, research shows that on average, 16-year-olds possess the same level of civic knowledge as 21 year olds, and they demonstrate equal levels of self-reported political skill and political efficacy.

Additionally, the San Francisco Board of Education has committed to implementing curriculum in our high schools to ensure 16 and 17 year olds are prepared for their first election.

Time and time again, our city has been on the leading edge of positive change, and with Proposition F we have that chance again. We can become the first major city to extend voting rights in this manner. We can show that we're serious about making sure our youth become informed and committed voters, to help us solve the problems of both today and tomorrow.

Join us in voting YES on Proposition F.

*San Francisco Supervisor John Avalos
CA State Senator Mark Leno
Assemblymember David Chiu
Assemblymember Phil Ting*

Rebuttal to Proponent's Argument in Favor of Proposition F

16 YEARS OLD VOTING HAS SOME PROBLEMS:

While there are undoubtedly some clear thinking and intelligent boys and girls of 9 who have wisdom beyond their years in dealing with money and in making political judgments, they are decidedly in the minority in their age group. As children grow older, their understanding of the world and their local society increases. Most 16 year olds have less caution in spending money or favoring candidates who want to waste public funds than do 18 year olds.

This is why some free-spending political figures favor the 16 year old vote in San Francisco elections being championed by misguided Proposition F. This proposal stands for **BAD GOVERNMENT** – not **GOOD GOVERNMENT**.

Some egocentric and self-seeking politicians want voters who will ask fewer questions and blindly go along with officeholders – ever when they start making serious mistakes:

Detroit was bankrupted by **BAD GOVERNMENT**. Puerto Rico is clearly on the edge of bankruptcy. New York City had terrible financial problems in the 1970's, which only started to be corrected when Mayor Abraham Beam was wisely voted out of office in a nationally covered local election.

Vote **"NO!"** on unwise Proposition F.

*Dr. Terence Faulkner, J.D.
United States President's Federal Executive Awards
Committeeman (1988)**

*Thomas C. Agee
Concerned Citizen**

*Patrick C. Fitzgerald
Past Secretary, San Francisco Democratic Party**

*For identification purposes only; author is signing as an individual and not on behalf of an organization.



Opponent’s Argument Against Proposition F

THE POLITICAL MOTIVATION FOR THE “VOTE 16” MOVEMENT APPEARS TO ARISE FROM THE BELIEF THAT 16 AND 17 YEARS OLD VOTERS MIGHT BE MORE WILLING TO SUPPORT FREE-SPENDING CANDIDATES AND ISSUES THAN OLDER AND MORE BUSINESS-ORIENTED CITIZENS:

Changing existing voting law in hopes of finding less worldly-wise citizens who might in some cases back questionable or unwise spending projects does not seem to be too prudent from a longterm viewpoint... unless one is a lobbyist pushing wild and expensive financial causes.

The recent bankruptcy of Detroit, the receivership of Puerto Rico to prevent bankruptcy, and the endless financial problems of New York City in the 1970’s all argue for political caution.

Passing this measure to reduce the average education and experience of San Francisco’s voters might be a really dumb idea.

The people pushing this so-called “reform” want younger and more trusting voters, who will ask fewer questions, have less education, and might be led into the promotion of more tax waste.

On its face, **BAD GOVERNMENT** is being promoted.

Vote “**NO!**” on Proposition F.

Dr. Terence Faulkner, J.D.

*Past Regional Citizens Forum Board Member of the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG)**

*For identification purposes only; author is signing as an individual and not on behalf of an organization.

Rebuttal to Opponent’s Argument Against Proposition F

Proposition F is on the ballot for one reason — San Francisco’s 16 and 17-year-olds are eager to take their political participation to the next level. We must welcome that enthusiasm, not cast it off with skepticism.

Our 16 and 17-year-olds have already demonstrated they are up to the task. A diverse group of young people brought this idea forward, and their intelligent advocacy is the reason Proposition F has such strong and broad support.

Further, the Board of Education has passed a resolution committing to implementing effective curriculum to prepare the city’s young people to approach the ballot once Proposition F passes. This will encourage critical thinking about the issues facing our communities and ensure that young people arrive at the polls with the tools to be informed and deliberate voters.

With this, 16 and 17-year-olds will vote for candidates who represent their views and values. They will come from all corners of the city and support candidates of all political stripes.

To solve the challenges of today and tomorrow, it’s vital that our young people become engaged, habitual voters. This act transcends partisanship, creating a

healthier democracy for everyone. That is what Proposition F is about.

Vote YES on F!

*School Board President Matt Haney**

*School Board Vice President Shamann Walton**

*School Board Commissioner Sandra Lee Fewer**

*School Board Commissioner Hydra Mendoza-McDonnell**

*School Board Commissioner Emily Murase**

*School Board Commissioner Rachel Norton**

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Paid Argument IN FAVOR of Proposition F

With voter suppression on the rise across the country, Proposition F gives us the chance to expand democracy in San Francisco. With a Yes on F, we can once again set an example as an inclusive city.

The San Francisco Democratic Party

The true source(s) of funds for the printing fee of this argument: Angela Alioto, Former President of the Board of Supervisors.

Paid Argument IN FAVOR of Proposition F

Students learn best when lessons are relevant to their lives, and there is no better way to make civics relevant than by inviting young people into the voting booth.

San Francisco High School Teachers:

Morgan Wallace

Arisa Hiroi

Mark Mosheim

Kaija Tircuit-Peitso

Kevin Woodward

Valerie Ziegler

The true source(s) of funds for the printing fee of this argument: Wilson B. Wong.

Paid Argument IN FAVOR of Proposition F

Vote Yes on F! Let's elevate the diverse voices of our city by encouraging young people to vote.

Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club

The true source(s) of funds for the printing fee of this argument: THE HARVEY MILK LGBT DEMOCRATIC POLITICAL ACTION FUND FPPC# 1383218.

The three largest contributors to the true source recipient committee: 1. Michael O'Donoghue, 2. No on V, Enough is Enough, 3. SEIU Local 1021.

End of Paid Arguments IN FAVOR of Proposition F

Paid Argument AGAINST Proposition F

NO ON F!

Proposition F flunks any standard of citizenship, education, scholarship or logic.

What's magic about 16?

Why don't the proponents of this juvenile concept allow 15, 14, 13, or even 12-year old middle and high school students or "dropouts" to vote?

These are adolescents, ideally living with parents and preparing for an adult life of higher education, then paying taxes, serving our country militarily or otherwise dealing with daily responsibilities as adults – maybe even reading or watching news.

Voting at 18 at least attempts to ensure informed, mature decision-makers. This doesn't!

Vote NO on F. It's foolish!

San Francisco Taxpayers Association

The true source(s) of funds for the printing fee of this argument: San Francisco Taxpayers Assoc.

The two contributors to the true source recipient committee: Yes on F - 2014, Save Golden Gate Park - Yes on H - No on I.

troller, and after taking into account the City's projected revenues and expenditures in the City's financial plans, may terminate implementation of this Section 16.129 by issuing a written notice to the Board of Supervisors and the Controller. The termination shall be irrevocable and apply to this entire Section. Upon the Mayor's submittal of the notice to the Controller and the Board of Supervisors, this Section 16.129 shall, by operation of law, become inoperative, and the City Attorney shall cause this Section to be removed from the Charter.

Proposition F

Describing and setting forth a proposal to the voters to amend the Charter of the City and County of San Francisco, to authorize 16- and 17-year-olds to vote in municipal elections, at an election to be held on November 8, 2016.

Section 1. The Board of Supervisors hereby submits to the qualified voters of the City and County, at an election to be held on November 8, 2016, a proposal to amend the Charter of the City and County by revising Article XVII, to read as follows:

NOTE: **Unchanged Charter text and uncodified text** are in plain font.
Additions are single-underline italics Times New Roman font.
Deletions are ~~strike-through italics Times New Roman font~~.

ARTICLE XVII: DEFINITIONS

For all purposes of this Charter, the following terms shall have the meanings specified below:

“Business day” shall mean any day other than a Saturday, Sunday or holiday on which governmental agencies are authorized by law to close.

“Confirm” or “confirmation” shall mean the approval by a majority of the members of the Board of Supervisors.

“Discrimination” shall mean violations of civil rights on account of race, color, religion, creed, sex, national origin, ethnicity, age, disability or medical condition, political affiliation, sexual orientation, ancestry, marital or domestic partners status, gender identity, parental status, other non-merit factors, or any category provided for by ordinance.

“Domestic partners” shall mean persons who register their partnerships pursuant to the voter-approved Domestic Partnership Ordinance.

“Elector” shall mean a person registered to vote in the City and County.

“For cause” shall mean the issuance of a written public statement by the Mayor describing those actions taken by an individual as a member of a board or commission which are the reasons for removal, provided such reasons constitute official misconduct in office.

“General municipal election” ~~shall mean the election for local officials or measures to be held in the City and County on the Tuesday immediately following the first Monday in November in every year until and including 2015. Thereafter, “general municipal election”~~ shall mean the election for local officials or measures to be held in the City and County on the Tuesday immediately following the first Monday in November in all even-numbered years and in every fourth year following 2015. For the purpose of this definition, “local officials” shall include the Assessor-Recorder, City Attorney, District Attorney, Mayor, Public Defender, Sheriff, Treasurer, and members of the Board of Supervisors, Board of Education, and Governing Board of the Community College District.

“Initiative” shall mean (1) a proposal by the voters with respect to any ordinance, act or other measure which is within the powers conferred upon the Board of Supervisors to enact, any legislative act which is within the power conferred upon any other official, board, commission or other unit of government to adopt, or any declaration of policy; or (2) any measure submitted to the voters by the Mayor or by the Board of Supervisors, or four or more members of the Board.

“Notice” shall mean publication (as defined by ordinance), and a

contemporaneous filing with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors or other appropriate office.

“One-third,” “a majority” or “two-thirds” of the Board of Supervisors or any other board or commission of the City and County shall mean one-third, a majority or two-thirds of all members of such board or commission.

“Published” shall have the meaning ascribed to the term by the Board of Supervisors by ordinance. The Board of Supervisors shall seek a recommendation from the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors before adopting such an ordinance.

“Referendum” shall mean the power of the voters to nullify ordinances involving legislative matters except that the referendum power shall not extend to any portion of the annual budget or appropriations, annual salary ordinances, ordinances authorizing the City Attorney to compromise litigation, ordinances levying taxes, ordinances relative to purely administrative matters, ordinances necessary to enable the Mayor to carry out the Mayor’s emergency powers, or ordinances adopted pursuant to Section 9.106 of this Charter.

“Special municipal election” shall mean, in addition to special elections otherwise required by law, the election called by (1) the Director of Elections with respect to an initiative, referendum or recall, and (2) the Board of Supervisors with respect to bond issues, election of ~~an~~ local officials not required to be elected at ~~the a~~ general municipal election, or an initiative or referendum. For the purpose of this definition, “local officials” shall include the Assessor-Recorder, City Attorney, District Attorney, Mayor, Public Defender, Sheriff, Treasurer, and members of the Board of Supervisors, Board of Education, and Governing Board of the Community College District.

“Statewide election” shall mean an election held throughout the state.

“Voter” shall mean an elector who is registered in accordance with the provisions of state law, ~~except that for municipal elections, “voter” shall also mean any person who is at least 16 years old, meets all the qualifications for voter registration in accordance with state law other than those provisions that address age, and is registered to vote with the Department of Elections.~~

Proposition G

Describing and setting forth a proposal to the voters, at an election to be held on November 8, 2016, to amend the Charter of the City and County of San Francisco to: re-name the Office of Citizen Complaints (OCC) as the Department of Police Accountability (DPA); give DPA direct authority over its proposed budget; and require DPA to conduct a performance audit every two years of how the Police Department has handled claims of officer misconduct and use of force.

Section 1. The Board of Supervisors hereby submits to the qualified voters of the City and County, at an election to be held on November 8, 2016, a proposal to amend the Charter of the City and County by revising Sections 4.127 and A8.343, and adding Section 4.136, to read as follows:

NOTE: **Unchanged Charter text and uncodified text** are in plain font.
Additions are single-underline italics Times New Roman font.
Deletions are ~~strike-through italics Times New Roman font~~.

SEC. 4.127. POLICE DEPARTMENT.

The Police Department shall preserve the public peace, prevent and detect crime, and protect the rights of persons and property by enforcing the laws of the United States, the State of California, and the City and County.

The Chief of Police may appoint and remove at pleasure special police officers.

The Chief of Police shall have all powers which are now or that