



# THE BAR ASSOCIATION OF SAN FRANCISCO

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August 19, 2025

Ed Harrington and Members, Streamlining Task Force

Via email: [CommissionStreamlining@sfgov.org](mailto:CommissionStreamlining@sfgov.org)

I submit this letter as the executive director of the Bar Association of San Francisco (BASF) because it has come to our attention that on Wednesday, August 20, this Commission established by Proposition E, is considering considerable changes to the role of the Juvenile Probation Commission. This was stunning news given the important governance role of this Commission and the resounding defeat of Proposition D. Equally concerning are some of this commission's recommendations, which appear to include much of what the defeated proposition intended.

BASF is the largest legal organization in Northern California, and we strongly support the role of the Juvenile Probation Commission as a governance/policy deciding body. Attached is BASF's paid statement opposing Proposition D, which specifically names the Juvenile Probation Commission as one of the Commissions with which we work and rely upon regularly. Despite the remarkable financial contributions supporting Proposition D, it is important to remember that it was soundly defeated by 57% of the voters. Before BASF weighed in on Proposition D, our Criminal Justice Task Force as well as our Board of Directors considered these issues fully. As an organization, we rarely weigh in on propositions included in the San Francisco election materials, but we felt compelled to do so given the important governance role of many of San Francisco's Commissions. Others opposing Proposition D included but were not limited to: Phil Ting; Mark Leno; United Educators; League Conservation Voters; Labor Council; Tenants Union; Coalition SF Neighborhoods.

Given our close working relationship with at least three commissions named in our statement, we concluded: "Quite simply, independent commissions are an important way for the public to weigh in on critical policy-making decisions. " Commissions, such as the Juvenile Probation Commission are critical to sound departmental policy. Members of BASF's staff as well as attorney members of our Court Programs appointed to represent juveniles, regularly appear before the Juvenile Probation Commission to advocate for the independent governance and oversight of the Juvenile Probation Department; we are often in the company of not only concerned parents and citizens, but organizations like ours which provide sound legal research and national best practices in order to provide valuable insight and guidance to this Commission which in turn then sets policy in collaboration for the Department.

Independent governance of commissions requires that its members are independent. The selection of Commissioners should rest with an informed and transparent nomination process. No single branch of government should name all Commissioners. Rather, assurance that there is an open process with nominations by the Mayor, the Superior Court and the Board of Supervisors so that members of the public may evaluate and comment during BOS hearings is clearly part of why Proposition D was defeated.



THE BAR ASSOCIATION OF  
SAN FRANCISCO

In addition, the role of the Commission is not and should be advisory. These Commission meetings provide opportunities for the sound monitoring and evaluation of best practices for our youth and out City involved with the Juvenile Probation Department. Therefore, it is imperative that the Juvenile Probation Commission retain its current governance role.

While this letter centers on our concerns about the Juvenile Probation Commission scheduled for discussion on August 20, clearly we have equally strong concerns about the important role of the Police Commission.

Sincerely,

Yolanda Jackson



CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO  
**DEPARTMENT OF ELECTIONS**

John Arntz, Director

**Ballot Argument Control Sheet A**

Control Sheet A must be submitted for every ballot argument, with required signatures and author information. If your argument has more than one author, you must also submit Control Sheet B with required signatures and information for all additional authors.

For an argument submitted on behalf of an organization, the "Individual" section must also be completed by a principal officer of the organization who must be a registered San Francisco voter.

If an argument states that an individual or organization other than the author supports or opposes the ballot measure, or agrees with or endorses the argument, a completed and signed Consent Form is required.

Office Use Only
AUG 16 10 51 10
DEPARTMENT OF ELECTIONS
Time/Date Stamp

**PAID NO D-1**

Facilitate typesetting, and reduce the possibility of transcription error by sending an electronic copy of your ballot argument text within 24 hours after submission to the Department at [publications@sfgov.org](mailto:publications@sfgov.org).

**Section 1: Argument Information**

Proposition D

Proponent Argument ☐

Rebuttal to Proponent Argument ☐

Paid Argument in Favor ☐

Opponent Argument ☐

Rebuttal to Opponent Argument ☐

Paid Argument Against ☒

**Section 2: Author Information**

**Declaration Related to Proponent and Opponent Arguments**

I attest under the penalty of perjury that I am an Author of the **Proponent Argument** for Proposition \_\_\_\_ being submitted and that I am not a Non-supporter of this measure. A Non-supporter is defined as a person who, with respect to a measure:

- Is a treasurer, officer, or member of a committee that has made or plans to make expenditures in opposition to the measure;
- Has received or been promised any compensation or thing of value from such a committee to perform consulting services for that committee; or
- Has authorized their name or likeness to appear on campaign literature or in advertising that advocates for the defeat of the measure.

I attest under the penalty of perjury that I am an Author of the **Opponent Argument** for Proposition \_\_\_\_ being submitted and that I am not a Supporter of this measure. A Supporter is defined as a person who with respect to a measure:

- Is a treasurer, officer, or member of a committee that has made or plans to make expenditures in support of the measure;
- Has received or been promised any compensation or thing of value from such a committee to perform consulting services for that committee; or
- Has authorized their name or likeness to appear on campaign literature or in advertising that advocates for the adoption of the measure.

Complete the following to indicate whether the Author is an individual or an organization:

Individual (or principal officer of Organization) ☒

Full Name (Print) Teresa Johnson

Title (If Applicable) President

San Francisco Address (Where you are Registered) 288 Pacific Ave. Unit 5A, San Francisco, CA 94111

Signature

Email teresa.johnson@arnoldporter.com

Organization (Entity) ☒

(If selected, complete both the Individual Author section and the Organization Section)

Name of Organization (Print) The Bar Association of San Francisco

Who should be listed as an Author for your Organization?

Only the Organization ☒

Both the Officer and the Organization ☐

\* Check if the title or identifying information is for identification purposes only, if you are signing as an individual and not of behalf of an organization. ☐

Signature

Email teresa.johnson@arnoldporter.com

**Section 3: Submitter Information**

The submitter is the person who delivers the argument and supporting materials to the Department. If there is a question or issue with a submission, the Department will contact the submitter.

Full Name (Print) Robert Rodriguez

Phone 415-513-3519

Mailing Address The Bar Association of San Francisco, 50 Fremont Street, 17th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94105

Signature

Email rrodriguez@sfbat.org

Section 4: Information for Paid Arguments

Paid arguments must include information about the true source of funds for the publication of the argument. It is also required to indicate whether the true source of funds is a recipient committee. This information will be printed below the argument and the author information in the Voter Information Pamphlet.

The true source of funds for the printing fee of this argument:  
The Bar Association of San Francisco

Is the true source of funds a recipient committee, as defined by CA Gov. Code §82013?

Yes ☐ No ☒

If the true source(s) of funds is a recipient committee, list the three largest contributors below:

1.
2.
3.

Section 5: Argument Text

The text of your argument will be printed exactly as submitted. Ensure that your argument meets the legal word limit. You may request that specific argument text be printed in bold, italic, or bold italic type. Type your argument with the desired formatting, or underline the argument text to be formatted and in the left column, mark "B" for bold, "I" for italics, or "BI" for bold italics. Other special formatting is not permitted. Include author information in argument text.

Format B, I, BI	Keep Text Within the Vertical Lines	# of words per line
B	The Bar Association of San Francisco (BASF), the largest legal organization in Northern California, urges you to <u>VOTE NO on Proposition D. Improving efficiency by reducing the number of City commissions makes good sense, but Proposition D sets an arbitrary cap of 65 Commissions, and will remove 24 existing Charter commissions, potentially resulting in dramatic and unpredictable changes to San Francisco city government.</u>	
BI	Proposition D will curtail sound oversight by the Police Commission and eliminate the Department on the Status of Women, and the Juvenile Probation Commission, which foster citizen accountability for important City functions. We reference these as BASF regularly engages with all three. <u>Quite simply, independent commissions are an important way for the public to weigh in on critical policy-making decisions.</u>	
	As just one example, the Police Commission has been very effective, achieving national best-practice policies through collaboration with SFPD. If approved by the voters, Proposition D would hollow the Police Commission's oversight of SFPD and eliminate the long-standing power of the Police Commission to fire the Police Chief. If Proposition D passes, it gives the Chief sole authority to set rules for police officers, thwarting collaborative reform, accountability, transparency, racial justice, and could threaten public safety.	
B	The U.S. Department of Justice, California Department of Justice, and the Court of Appeal have all recognized the critical role of the Police Commission in modernizing and reforming SFPD, curtailing excessive use of force and biased policing and ensuring that SFPD complies with the law. Public safety and the constitutionality of police work are the Police Commission's main priorities; their informed watchdog role helps assure our city of a more responsive, professional police force.	
BI	<u>FOR SOUND OVERSIGHT IN CITY GOVERNMENT, AND PUBLIC SAFETY, BASF URGES YOU TO VOTE NO ON PROPOSITION D.</u>	
	The Bar Association of San Francisco	
	<i>If handwritten information or a revision is unclear, Department staff will interpret the handwritten information to the best of their abilities; this interpretation is final.</i>	
	Total Word Count	

Office Use Only				Staff Initials
Total # of words= 259 X \$2/word = 518 + \$200 publication fee = 718				MW
# of signatures submitted in lieu of publication fee		Receipt #		
X \$0.50/signature		Check #		
Adjusted Fee Total		Amount Paid	\$ 718	