

Ethics Commission Ballot Access



Commission Streamlining Task Force

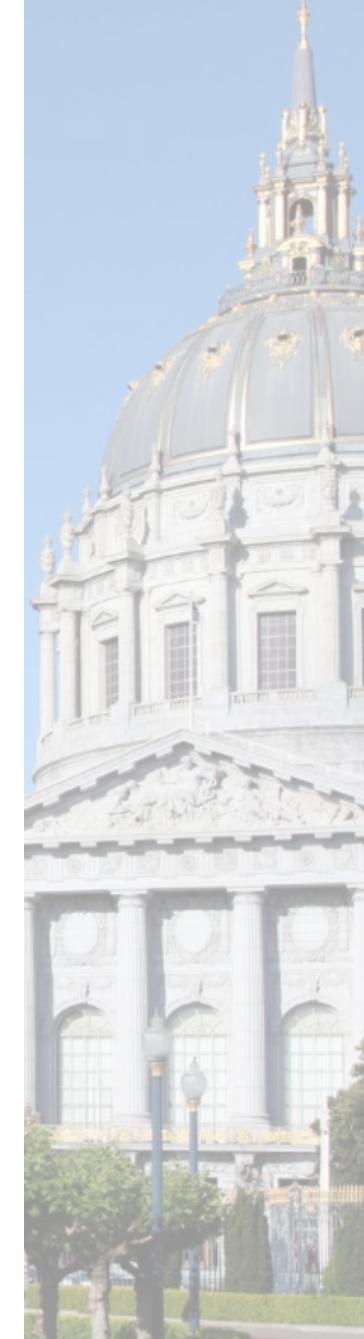
January 21, 2026

Jon Givner, Chief Assistant City Attorney

Ethics Commission

Draft Process for Placing Measures on the Ballot

1. Ethics Commission holds a hearing and votes to submit a ballot measure to the Board of Supervisors by a 4/5 vote
 - a. Deadline: 168 days before election day (about May 15-20 for a November election)
2. The Board must provide notice to impacted departments at least 10 days before holding a hearing on the proposed measure
3. If 6 members of the Board vote to approve the measure, or if the Board does not act within 45 days, the measure will appear on the ballot
4. If 6 members of the Board vote to amend the measure within 45 days, the Ethics Commission may vote (by 4/5?) to place the measure on the ballot with the Board's amendments or to withdraw the measure
 - a. If the Commission does not act, the measure will appear on the ballot as amended by the Board
 - b. Deadline: 95 days before election day (about July 25-30 for a November election)
5. The Board may not vote to reject the measure; it can only vote to approve or amend



Alternative Proposal from Ethics Commission

1. Ethics Commission holds a hearing and votes to submit a ballot measure to the Board of Supervisors by a 4/5 vote
 - a. Deadline: 275 days before election day (about Jan. 31 to Feb. 5 for a November election)
2. The Ethics Commission must provide notice to the Clerk of the Board and all impacted departments at least 30 days before holding a hearing on the proposed measure
 - a. For rules impacting City officials and departments (ethics rules), conduct 2 separate Interested Persons Meetings for City departments
3. If 6 members of the Board vote to approve the measure, or if the Board does not act within 90 days, the measure will appear on the ballot
4. If 6 members of the Board vote to amend the measure within 90 days, the Ethics Commission may vote (by 3/5 vote) to adopt the Board's amendments or withdraw the measure; or the Commission may place the measure on the ballot with additional amendments (by either a 4/5 or unanimous vote)
 - a. If the Commission does not act, the measure will appear on the ballot as amended by the Board
 - b. Deadline: 95 days before election day (about July 25-30 for a November election)
5. The Board may not vote to reject the measure; it can only vote to approve or amend

