

Charter Changes Affecting Various City Departments and Commissions*

Digest by the Ballot Simplification Committee

Status: Draft for Consideration
On: Tuesday, July 28, 2026
Members: Packard, Wong, Bella, Paxton, Pon

Deadline to Request Reconsideration: TBD

The Way It Is Now: The Charter establishes the powers and responsibilities of many City departments, as well as rules for how they plan and report their work.

The Charter and some voter-approved ordinances establish many City commissions, boards, and advisory bodies (Commissions) and describe their powers, duties, membership and removal rules, and reporting requirements.

The Charter and most voter-approved ordinances cannot be changed without the approval of San Francisco voters.

The Proposal: Proposition __ would amend the Charter to change rules for some departments and Commissions, eliminate some Commissions, require the Board of Supervisors (Board) to amend specified sections of some voter-approved ordinances, and make clarifying changes, as follows.

Proposition __ would change or clarify the responsibilities of some City departments, including:

- Allowing the City Administrator to handle real estate planning and property deals for the City, other than those for the Airport, Port, Public Utilities Commission (PUC), and San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA);
- Updating SFMTA rules regarding service standards and climate action planning;
- Allowing the Board to change the process for temporary road closures;
- Clarifying that the PUC's exclusive authority over the City's water, power, and sewer systems includes the design of those systems; and
- Modifying some reporting responsibilities and allowing the Board to make future changes to others.

Proposition __ would change the rules for several Commissions, including:

- Eliminating the Sanitation and Streets Commission and the Public Works Commission;
- Requiring a task force to meet every ten years to recommend changes to Commissions;
- Removing Commission requirements for annual reporting and appointing an executive secretary;
- Moving some Commissions – including the Human Services Commission, Disability and Aging Services Commission, the Abatement Appeals Board, and Access Appeals Commission – out of the Charter and into the Municipal Code to allow the Board to make future changes;
- Providing that elected members of the Retirement Board, Health Service Board, and Retiree Health Care Trust Fund Board may be removed only for official misconduct;
- Combining various advisory Commissions related to social services;
- Renaming some Commissions; and
- Making most qualifications for membership on the Homelessness Oversight Commission and the PUC desirable instead of mandatory.

**Working title, for identification only. The Director of Elections determines the title of each local ballot measure; measure titles are not considered during Ballot Simplification Committee meetings.*

Proposition __ would require the Board to change some voter-approved laws, including eliminating a street artist advisory committee and changing membership rules for the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force. It would also authorize the Board to change or eliminate the Our City Our Home Oversight Committee and change rules about how the City chooses newspapers to publish City notices.

Proposition __ would allow the Board to change the name of any department or Commission.

A “YES” Vote Means: If you vote “yes,” you want to change or clarify responsibilities of some City departments, change rules for and eliminate some Commissions, require the Board of Supervisors to change certain laws, and make other changes to the Charter.

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