

City Administrator's Authority and Changes to City Contracting*

Digest by the Ballot Simplification Committee

Status: Draft for Consideration
On: Wednesday, July 22, 2026
Members: Packard, Wong, Bella, Paxton

Deadline to Request Reconsideration: TBD

The Way It Is Now: Rules Regulating Contracts and Grants: The Board of Supervisors (Board) may adopt ordinances that set rules about how the City selects contractors and enters into contracts for goods and services, public works contracts, and grants issued by the City (collectively, Procurement).

Board Approval of Various Agreements: With some exceptions, the City's Charter requires the Board to approve the following agreements for all City departments:

- Contracts that bring \$1,000,000 or more in revenue to the City.
- Contracts that last more than 10 years or cost the City \$10,000,000 or more.
- Real estate leases lasting 10 years or more or bringing in \$1,000,000 or more in revenue to the City.

The Board must also approve certain amendments to these agreements.

City Administrator's Authority: The City Administrator contracts for goods and services for City departments, except for some goods and services purchased by the Municipal Transportation Agency (MTA), Public Utilities Commission (PUC), Port Commission, some arts departments, and as limited by other laws. The City Administrator also manages disposal of City property and oversees City technology policies.

City Administrator's Term: The Mayor appoints the City Administrator to a five-year term, subject to Board approval.

The Proposal: Rules Regulating Contracts and Grants: Proposition ____ would give the City Administrator exclusive authority to propose most Procurement ordinances to the Board. These ordinances would become law unless the Board or the Mayor rejects them within 60 days. The Board and Mayor would not be allowed to amend these ordinances. Procurement ordinances that mainly address wages and workplace health and safety would not be subject to this proposal and approval process.

Board Approval of Various Agreements: Proposition ____ would raise the threshold for Board approval of:

- Contracts and leases that bring revenue: from \$1,000,000 to \$4,500,000.
- Contracts that cost the City: from \$10,000,000 to \$25,000,000.

Starting in 2032, the City's Controller would adjust these thresholds every five years for inflation.

Proposition ____ would also change the rules on when Board approval is required for amendments to these agreements.

City Administrator's Authority: Proposition ____ would make the MTA, PUC, and some arts departments subject to the City Administrator's authority regarding Procurement, technology policies, and disposal of personal property, with some exceptions. Proposition ____ would also authorize the City Administrator to set citywide Procurement rules and technology policies that would override conflicting rules and policies established by other departments.

City Administrator's Term: Proposition ____ would increase the term of the City Administrator from five years to ten years.

A "YES" Vote Means: If you vote "yes," you want to expand the City Administrator's authority, change how the City approves procurement rules, and extend the City Administrator's term.

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

**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.*