

March 4, 2026

To: Ballot Simplification Committee
From: Laurie Thomas; Golden Gate Restaurant Association
Re: Digest for "Decreases to Business Taxes"

Dear Committee Members,

As the Executive Director of the Golden Gate Restaurant Association (GGRA), a San Francisco restaurant owner with over 30 years of experience opening local restaurants, and having been directly involved in filing Proposition M (2024), the Gross Receipts Tax Reform measure, I have seen firsthand how critical clear legislative language is for our city's merchant community.

I am requesting the following language be added under the first bullet point under "The Proposal":

"Exempt all small businesses with up to \$7.5 million in San Francisco gross receipts from the Gross Receipts Tax and the Top Executive Pay Tax."

As the leader of the GGRA, I represent hundreds of member restaurants that are the backbone of San Francisco's economy. The vast majority of our members are precisely the types of small restaurants this measure is designed to support. My role is to advocate for their survival, and accurately identifying them as "small businesses" in the digest is essential to that mission.

My request is based on the following points:

Clarifying the Voter's Decision

This initiative gives the electorate the opportunity to expand the existing definition of a small business. By omitting the word "small," the digest obscures the fact that voters are being asked to adjust the threshold for what the City considers a "small business" in a modern economic context. We are not asking the Committee to create a new definition; we are asking you to tell the voters directly what this measure does: it expands the existing small business exemption.

Modifying the Existing Framework

The current tax code already utilizes a "small business" framework for exemptions. Because this proposal is a direct modification of that specific exemption category, using the term "small" is the most technically accurate way to describe the functional effect of the change.

Precedent in Prior Committee Digests

The inclusion of the word "small" is consistent with how this Committee has simplified nearly identical measures in the past. In the final digest for Proposition M (2024), the Committee explicitly used the term "small businesses" to describe those qualifying for the \$5 million exemption. Maintaining this terminology ensures continuity and prevents voter confusion regarding the classification of business exemptions across different election cycles.

Thank you for your time and for your service to the voters of San Francisco.

Sincerely,

Laurie Thomas
Executive Director
Golden Gate Restaurant Association