



OFFICE OF THE CONTROLLER
CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

Greg Wagner
Controller

ChiaYu Ma
Deputy Controller

Mr. John Arntz
Department of Elections
City Hall 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place Room 48
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

August 10, 2026

RE: Proposition F – Changes to Executive Branch Management

Dear Mr. Arntz,

Should the proposed Charter amendment be approved by the voters, in my opinion, it would have a minimal impact on the cost of government, although at a level that cannot be determined at this time.

The proposed Charter amendment would (1) expand the Mayor's authority to hire and remove most departments heads; (2) allow most commissioners to be removed at will by their appointing authority; (3) authorize the Mayor to reorganize departments and adjust reporting relationships within the executive branch, subject to potential rejection by the Board of Supervisors; and (4) allow the use of deputy mayors.

The proposed Charter amendment authorizes the Mayor to utilize deputy mayors. The average annual cost for a deputy mayor would be approximately \$250,000. The proposed Charter amendment allows the Mayor to restructure departments and reorient reporting relationships within the executive branch. The potential costs or savings incurred for such changes cannot be determined without knowing which departments would be involved and how the departments would be restructured. For example, in Fiscal Year 2022-23 when the Department of Sanitation and Streets merged into the Department of Public Works, the Controller's Office estimated cost savings of \$3.5 million in the first year and \$2.5 million in the second year of the merger. Cost savings came from removing duplicative administrative and information technology staff, departmental leadership, and one-time and ongoing costs, such as equipment and professional services.

Sincerely,

Greg Wagner
Controller

Note: This analysis reflects our understanding of the proposal as of the date shown. At times further information is provided to us which may result in revisions being made to this analysis before the final Controller's statement appears in the Voter Information Pamphlet.