

July 24, 2026

Ballot Simplification Committee

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Subject: Request for Reconsideration of "The Proposal" and "A 'YES' Vote Means" Sections for the Measure to Allow Private Vehicles on the Great Highway in Sunset Dunes Park

Dear Members of the Ballot Simplification Committee,

I respectfully request reconsideration of the use of the phrase "close Sunset Dunes Park" in both the "The Proposal" and the "A 'YES' Vote Means" sections of the Ballot Simplification Digest.

The purpose of the Ballot Simplification Digest is to provide voters with an impartial and accurate description of a measure. The phrase "**close Sunset Dunes Park**" does not accurately describe the legal effect of this measure and does not closely track either the language or the operative provisions of the ordinance.

Using the word "close" is inaccurate and misleading. It would lead the voter to think that access to the area is closed, which is not true. Visitors to Sunset Dunes/Upper Great Highway will have full access to the promenade bicycle/walking path, which is located on the berm several feet from the eastern roadway of the Upper Great Highway. This is a paved path that runs between Lincoln Way and Sloat Boulevard. A yes vote will not close this path. Just as in years past, all lanes of the Upper Great Highway will be open to bicyclists. A yes vote will not close the roadway to bicyclists. Visitors to the dunes and beach will have full access, just as in years past. A yes vote will not close the dunes or the beach. Pedestrians will have full access to the area.

This proposition doesn't close anything; it will open the highway to private vehicles. Sunset Dunes will, in fact, be open because it's much more than just the roadway.

The process of answering the question about public policy for use of the Upper Great Highway has been plagued by what some seems a lack of an open and transparent democratic process, and political maneuvering. If the word "close" is not removed, the legitimacy of the process is called into question just days after the public submitted their initiative. I have no doubt that the proponents of the word "close" intend to use the word to manipulate visitors and other stakeholders. Please don't let that happen.

The City Attorney's official title for the measure is "**Allowing Private Vehicles on the Great Highway in Sunset Dunes Park.**" The accompanying summary states that the measure "**would allow private motor vehicles to use the Upper Great Highway**" during weekdays and that the City would need the necessary approvals "**to reopen the Upper Great Highway to private motor vehicles.**" Neither the official title nor the City Attorney's summary describes the measure as "**closing Sunset Dunes Park.**"

Likewise, the operative provisions of the ordinance amend Park Code Section 6.13 by changing the times during which private vehicles are restricted on the Upper Great Highway. The measure allows private vehicle access during weekdays while preserving weekend and holiday recreational use.

The phrase **"close Sunset Dunes Park"** is also imprecise because Sunset Dunes Park is not synonymous with the Upper Great Highway roadway. Under the San Francisco Park Code, a park includes grounds, roadways, avenues, recreation facilities, and other property under the jurisdiction of the Recreation and Park Commission. A roadway may therefore be one component of a park, but it is not the park itself. The measure changes when private vehicles may use one roadway within Sunset Dunes Park. It does not close Sunset Dunes Park itself, eliminate the park, or close it to public use. Rather, it modifies one permitted use within the park while preserving weekend and holiday recreational use.

Because the Ballot Simplification Digest is intended to provide voters with an impartial explanation of the measure, I respectfully request that it use language that more closely reflects the ordinance and the City Attorney's official title and summary. The Committee need not choose between competing characterizations of the measure's practical effects when the official description of the measure already provides a clear and neutral explanation of its legal effect.

Accordingly, I respectfully request that the Committee replace the phrase **"close Sunset Dunes Park"** with neutral language describing the measure's operative legal change. For example:

"Proposition __ would allow private vehicles on the Upper Great Highway in Sunset Dunes Park from Monday at 4:00 a.m. through Friday at 6:00 p.m., unless a holiday falls on a weekday."

Similarly, I respectfully request that the **"A 'YES' Vote Means"** section be revised to state:

"If you vote 'yes,' you want the City to allow private vehicles on the Upper Great Highway in Sunset Dunes Park from Monday at 4:00 a.m. through Friday at 6:00 p.m., unless a holiday falls on a weekday."

These revisions would preserve the Committee's objective of providing voters with an impartial and understandable explanation while more closely reflecting the language of the ordinance and the City Attorney's official summary.

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

Respectfully,

Richard Corriea

Proponent

The Great Highway for Everyone Act

