

San Francisco Immigrant Rights Commission

City and County of San Francisco

Aseel Fara

Commissioner

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I apologize that I am unable to be there in person. I am currently in Washington, DC advocating against U.S.-led foreign wars. These are critical times, and as a Commission representing more than 300,000 immigrants, we carry a responsibility to speak up and ensure our communities are informed.

As Commissioners, we should feel encouraged—not restricted—to bring forward educational programming that informs our communities. The guidance we received emphasizes avoiding advocacy, which we fully respect. At the same time, it is important to recognize that the February 23 memorandum explicitly allows objective, impartial analysis of ballot measures and their impacts, as well as participation in public discussions that provide factual information.

Our immigrant communities deserve to understand how proposed measures may affect their lives. That is not political activity—it is education. The distinction between advocacy and objective analysis is clear, and our role falls within what is permitted.

While we understand that we cannot take a position for or against a measure, we are still responsible for ensuring our communities are informed. Limiting discussion to procedural steps, such as whether to agendaize a report, risks preventing us from fulfilling that responsibility. Educational programming is one of the most appropriate and lawful ways for us to engage.

We also have a role in shaping what that programming looks like—ensuring it is objective, accessible, and responsive to the needs of the communities we serve.