

# THE VOICE OF SAN FRANCISCO

## Local Propositions Cheat Sheet

A quick and dirty, neutral guide to San Francisco's 15 ballot measures, outlining what they do, who's behind them, and selected supporters and opponents.

Brought to you by The Voice of San Francisco, [thevoicesf.org](https://thevoicesf.org).

### **A** School Improvement Bonds

Primary Sponsor: San Francisco Unified School District

Provides \$790 million to finance improvements to seismic safety, accessibility, nutrition, security, and other services at public schools. Requires 55% voter approval.

**Projected Fiscal Impact:** Increase in property tax, some of which could be passed on to tenants. Total debt service could be \$1.298 billion.

**Supporters:** S.F. Democratic Party; S.F. Chamber of Commerce; S.F. Building Trades Council

**Opponents:** S.F. Apartment Association; S.F. Republican Party; Libertarian Party of S.F.

### **B** Medical, Safety, Homelessness Bonds

Primary Sponsor: Mayor London Breed

Provides \$390 million in bonds to finance acquisition and renovation of community health centers, renovations to public hospitals, improvements to street safety and public spaces, and family shelters. Requires 66.6% voter approval, unless Proposition 5 passes, then only 55% required.

**Projected Fiscal Impact:** Increase in property tax, some of which could be passed on to tenants. Total debt service could be \$737 million.

**Supporters:** S.F. Democratic Party; S.F. Chamber of Commerce; S.F. Council of District Merchants

**Opponents:** S.F. Apartment Association; S.F. Republican Party; ConnectedSF

### **C** Inspector General

Primary Sponsor: Supervisor Aaron Peskin

Allows the controller to appoint a new nonelect position to investigate City Hall misconduct. Several agencies already perform this function; the new position would consult with those agencies. Gives controller subpoena power.

**Projected Fiscal Impact:** Could increase the cost of city government up to \$775,000 per year, plus other expenses.

**Supporters:** Coalition for S.F. Neighborhoods; Haight Ashbury Neighborhood Council; Telegraph Hill Dwellers

**Opponents:** S.F. Chamber of Commerce; S.F. Democratic Party; S.F. Republican Party

### **D** Commission Reform, Mayor's Authority

Primary Sponsor: TogetherSF

Abolishes or forces reorganization of most city commissions, limits total number of commissions to 65. The mayor will have sole authority to hire or fire department heads. Police chief will have sole authority to adopt rules of conduct for officers.

**Projected Fiscal Impact:** Could save the city up to \$630,000 per year in commissioner related costs, but could also increase staff costs.

**Supporters:** S.F. Chamber of Commerce; S.F. Democratic Party; S.F. Republican Party

**Opponents:** Coalition for S.F. Neighborhoods; S.F. Tenants Union; S.F. Labor Council

### **E** Commissions Task Force

Primary Sponsor: Supervisor Aaron Peskin

Establishes a task force to make recommendations to the mayor and supervisors on streamlining commissions; if both Propositions D and E pass, whichever measure garnered the most votes would likely be implemented. It has been called a "poison pill" to Proposition D.

**Projected Fiscal Impact:** Minimal

**Supporters:** Coalition for S.F. Neighborhoods; S.F. Tenants Union; S.F. Labor Council

**Opponents:** S.F. Chamber of Commerce; S.F. Democratic Party; S.F. Republican Party

### **F** Police Staffing Reporting and Deferred Retirement Option

Primary Sponsor: Supervisor Matt Dorsey

Decreases regular reporting on police staffing levels to every three years and creates a Deferred Retirement Option, allowing certain officers eligible for retirement to continue working while accumulating pension payments for a limited time.

**Projected Fiscal Impact:** Possibly up to \$3 million annually during the program's first five years.

**Supporters:** S.F. Democratic Party; S.F. Chamber of Commerce; S.F. Republican Party

**Opponents:** American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California; Asian Law Caucus; Harvey Milk LGBTQ Democratic Club

### **G** Affordable Housing Opportunity Fund

Primary Sponsor: Supervisor Aaron Peskin

Appropriates a minimum of \$8.25 million per year to subsidize rent for affordable housing units for extremely low-income seniors, persons with disabilities, and families.

**Projected Fiscal Impact:** Total costs to the city could range from \$161-\$222 million over 20 years.

**Supporters:** S.F. Democratic Party; Harvey Milk LGBTQ Democratic Club; Council of Community Housing Organizations

**Opponents:** S.F. Chamber of Commerce; S.F. Republican Party; ConnectedSF

### **H** Firefighter Retirement Benefits

Primary Sponsor: Supervisor Catherine Stefani

Lowers the age by which Fire Department personnel hired after Jan. 7, 2012 could receive a maximum pension from 58 to 55, and harmonizes pensions with personnel hired before that date.

**Projected Fiscal Impact:** \$3.7 million in the first year, with the annual cost increasing over the next 16 years.

**Supporters:** S.F. Democratic Party; S.F. Chamber of Commerce; S.F. Labor Council

**Opponents:** S.F. Republican Party; Libertarian Party of S.F.; ConnectedSF

### **I** Nurse and 911 Operator Retirement Benefits

Primary Sponsor: Supervisor Ahsha Safaí

Allows certain nurses in the city retirement system to buy pension credits for time worked per diem and certain 911 system workers to increase their pension benefits.

**Projected Fiscal Impact:** City retirement costs could increase from \$1.5-\$4.4 million per year for nurses and \$2.3 million in the first year for 911 workers, with possible increases.

**Supporters:** S.F. Democratic Party; S.F. Labor Council; Harvey Milk LGBTQ Democratic Club

**Opponents:** S.F. Republican Party; Libertarian Party of S.F.

### **J** Youth Services Funding Oversight

Primary Sponsor: Supervisor Myrna Melgar

Changes how the city evaluates funding for children, youth, and family programs so that it will be informed by program performance.

**Projected Fiscal Impact:** New costs of up to \$35 million in FY 2024-25 and increasing to \$83 million in FY 2037-38.

**Supporters:** S.F. Chamber of Commerce; S.F. Democratic Party; S.F. Labor Council

**Opponents:** S.F. Republican Party

### **K** Upper Great Highway Closure

Primary Sponsor: Supervisor Joel Engardio

Directs the city toward permanently closing the Upper Great Highway to private motor vehicle traffic with limited exceptions.

**Projected Fiscal Impact:** Depends on what plans are made for the road in the future.

**Supporters:** S.F. Democratic Party; Sierra Club S.F. Bay Chapter; S.F. League of Conservation Voters

**Opponents:** S.F. Republican Party; S.F. Labor Council, ConnectedSF

### **L** New Tax on Rideshare, Robotaxis to Fund Transit

Primary Sponsors: The CoMUNItiy Transit Act Committee, [sftransitact.com](https://sftransitact.com)

Creates a new tiered gross receipts tax of between 1% and 4.5% for rideshare companies like Uber and autonomous vehicle operators like Waymo, which make over \$500,000 per year. If Proposition M passes, this could be voided.

**Projected Fiscal Impact:** Possible additional revenue of \$25 million per year.

**Supporters:** S.F. Democratic Party; S.F. Labor Council, Sierra Club S.F. Bay Chapter

**Opponents:** S.F. Chamber of Commerce; S.F. Republican Party; ConnectedSF

### **M** Business Tax Reform

Primary Sponsor: Revitalize San Francisco

Creates multiple changes to business taxes and fees, exempting small businesses with gross receipts up to \$5 million from gross receipts tax; reduces the number of business classifications; taxes based more on sales and less on payroll expenses; changes rates and thresholds for homelessness gross receipts tax and calculation of overpaid executive tax; adjusts business registration fees; and other changes.

**Projected Fiscal Impact:** Reduces tax revenue by \$40 million per year between 2024 and 2027, with revenue recovered between 2027 and 2029 and additional revenue of \$50 million per year after 2029.

**Supporters:** S.F. Democratic Party; S.F. Chamber of Commerce; S.F. Council of District Merchants

**Opponents:** S.F. Republican Party

### **N** First Responder Education Loan Payment Fund

Primary Sponsor: Supervisor Ahsha Safaí

Creates a new fund to reimburse certain city workers, including police officers, sheriff's deputies, paramedics, nurses, and 911 operators, for student loans and training program costs. It can be funded by the city and by private donations.

**Projected Fiscal Impact:** Dependent upon future budgets; otherwise, minimal administration costs.

**Supporters:** S.F. Democratic Party; S.F. Labor Council; ConnectedSF

**Opponents:** S.F. Republican Party; *S.F. Chronicle*

### **O** Support of Reproductive Rights

Primary Sponsor: Mayor London Breed

Makes it official city policy to support, protect, and expand reproductive rights and services, and creates a Reproductive Freedom Fund that would accept donations for such services.

**Projected Fiscal Impact:** Dependent upon future budgets; otherwise, minimal administration costs.

**Supporters:** S.F. Democratic Party; S.F. Chamber of Commerce; S.F. Labor Council

**Opponents:** Pro-Life S.F.

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