



SF BUSINESS VOTES 2014

2014 Voting Guide

Vote for a better San Francisco on November 4, 2014

The November Local Election Ballot contains critical initiatives that will impact San Francisco businesses and residents for years to come. This voting guide provides the business position on issues facing voters on November 4, 2014. Join the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce, SF Forward, and the local business community in voting for a better San Francisco.

VOTE YES

**Proposition A
Transportation Road and Improvement
Bond**

This \$500 million General Obligation Bond will allow the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency to make significant capital investments in the City’s transportation infrastructure. This measure will provide funds to improve transit reliability and safety, increase maintenance, and upgrade key transit corridors, without raising property taxes.

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**Proposition C
Children and Youth Fund; Public Education
Enrichment Fund; Our Children, Our
Families Council; Rainy Day Reserves**

This measure combines four amendments to the City Charter that renew and/or increase the funds available for existing programs that serve San Francisco’s children, youth and their families, including the San Francisco Unified School District. Additional funds will provide a critical means of support for families with children who rely on public programs for services and education.

**Proposition F
Union Iron Works/Pier 70 Development**

A result of the passage of Proposition B in the June election, this voter initiative seeks approval to make height adjustments necessary to revitalize a portion of the Union Iron Works/Pier 70 site on Port property. The project will provide significant waterfront and historic restoration, housing, jobs and open space and benefit not only the local neighborhood but the City as a whole.

**Proposition I
Park Code – Children’s Playgrounds,
Walking Trails, Athletic Fields**

This sensible measure will allow the City to renovate playgrounds, walking trails, and athletic fields with artificial turf and/or lights where such projects have been found to double the usage of the space and are environmentally appropriate. This measure encourages the best use of open space and will have a positive community benefit for San Francisco families.



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VOTE YES

Proposition K Affordable Housing Goals

This compromise measure confirms Mayor Ed Lee's goal of building at least 30,000 new units of housing by 2020 with at least one-third affordable and over fifty per cent within reach of the middle class. It calls for the development of a Housing Action and Neighborhood Stabilization Plan. This balanced policy statement addresses the critical need for more affordable housing in San Francisco.

Proposition L Policy Regarding Transportation Priorities in San Francisco

This voter initiated policy statement addresses the need to bring balanced transportation policies to San Francisco. The measure asks the City and SFMTA to implement laws in the future that support the needs of the driving public as well as bicyclists and pedestrians.

VOTE NO

Proposition G Business and Tax Regulations Code – Surtax on Transfers of Residential Real Property Within Five Years of a Prior Transfer

This complicated and financially onerous measure will make it extremely difficult for a property owner to re-sell residential property if less than five years have passed since the purchase date. In addition, the up to 24% tax on total sale price will have the significant unintended consequence of preventing people with urgent personal need to sell from doing so.

Proposition H Requiring Certain Athletic Fields in Golden Gate Park to be Maintained as Natural Grass

This unnecessary initiative measure, brought by a small group of local residents, will prevent the Beach Chalet soccer fields in Golden Gate Park from receiving the repair they need. It goes against strong public support from youth sports leagues, parents, and park organizations that all want the soccer fields renovated so they can be used year-round



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NEUTRAL

Proposition B Population-Based Adjustment to General Fund Appropriation to Transportation Fund

This Charter Amendment will adjust the required appropriation from the General Fund to MUNI annually to reflect increases in the population of San Francisco. The Chamber supports Proposition A (MUNI Bond) and putting the Vehicle License Fee on the 2016 ballot. But there is concern over the initial \$22 million price tag of this measure. The need for additional funds to support MUNI operations in the short-term is clear, but a source needs to be identified. The Chamber has taken a neutral position on the measure.

Proposition E Tax on Sugar-Sweetened Beverages

Proposition E will impose a tax of two cents per ounce on the distribution of sugar-sweetened beverages to fund programs and grants for recreation, food access, health, nutrition and other related programs. The Chamber shares concerns about adverse health conditions like diabetes and obesity and the role sugary drinks may play. Our membership, however, reflects a diverse mix of organizations and businesses, many who believe that this tax will not change behavior. The Chamber has therefore taken a neutral position.

Proposition J Minimum Wage Increase

This measure will increase the minimum wage in San Francisco incrementally each year until it reaches \$15 per hour in 2018. Thereafter it adjusts by CPI. The Chamber recognizes the affordability issue in San Francisco and applauds the Mayor's efforts to place only one measure on the ballot. We also understand that many employers, especially small businesses, will have difficulty within four years of absorbing the wage increases. The Chamber has therefore taken a neutral position on the issue.

NO POSITION

Proposition D Retiree Health Benefits for Former Redevelopment Agency and Successor Agency Employees

This Charter Amendment will grant former Redevelopment Agency employees the right to either join the City's health insurance program or stay in the State program in which the former Redevelopment Agency was a member. This measure is a technical amendment only, and will not have a significant impact on the City or the business community. The Chamber has therefore taken "No Position" on the issue.



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