

California General Election Voting Guide

Vote for a better economic future on November 2, 2010.



The November General 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 the issues facing voters on November 2, 2010. Join the Chamber and SF Forward in voting for jobs a better economic future!

VOTE YES

Proposition A **Earthquake Retrofit Bond**

This \$46.2 million General Obligation Bond will create an Earthquake Safety Loan Program to fund needed retrofits to more than 150 affordable housing and single room occupancy buildings. This important public safety measure will also help jump start soft-story retrofits for all residential properties in San Francisco.

Proposition F **Health Service Board Elections**

This cost-saving measure will shorten, on a one-time basis, the terms of two Health Service Board members so that Board terms will expire in pairs and can be filled during the same Board election in the future. This common sense change to Health Service System Board elections will save taxpayers \$30,000 per year and \$150,000 over five years.

Proposition G **Muni Reform**

This good governance measure will end Muni's flawed wage formula, which guarantees that city transit operators are the second highest paid in the nation, despite continued service cuts and rising budget deficits. This sound managerial policy will re-establish Muni's control over its largest costs and help ensure more efficient and equitable Muni operations in San Francisco.

Proposition H **Prohibit Dual Office Holding**

This important measure will prohibit any person holding city elective office from simultaneously serving on a political party central committee. Such dual-office holding creates conflicts of interest for politicians serving in both capacities, circumvents campaign contribution limits for local elections, and violates the spirit of San Francisco's open government laws.

Proposition I **Saturday Voting**

This measure will create a privately funded Saturday Voting Fund to pay for the cost of operating polling places on the Saturday before the November 8, 2011 election. Saturday voting will provide working people – and all San Franciscans – with an additional opportunity to vote. This one-year pilot project will help increase voter turnout at no cost to taxpayers.

Proposition K **Hotel Tax Clarification**

This technical measure clarifies the law and closes a loophole that has allowed online travel companies to avoid paying the city's required transient occupancy tax. The measure will raise an additional \$8 to \$12 million annually without raising the hotel tax.

Proposition L **Civil Sidewalks**

Sidewalks are for everyone. This important public safety measure will prohibit sitting and lying on public sidewalks during busy daytime hours, and enable law enforcement to address aggressive individuals who camp out in front of homes and stores. This measure targets individual behavior – not social status – and will help make our streets safer while promoting commerce and community across San Francisco.

Proposition 20 **Redistricting of Congressional Districts**

Prop 20 will take the power to draw congressional district lines out of the hands of politicians and place it with the recently-authorized 14-member redistricting commission created by California's historic redistricting initiative (Prop 11) passed by voters in 2008. Prop 20 will help create more competitive elections and hold politicians accountable.



SF Forward – the Political Action Committee (PAC) of the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce – is the political voice for businesses and residents who support sound economic policy and an exceptional quality of life for all San Franciscans. www.sfchamber.com/sfforward.

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VOTE NO

Proposition C Mayor Appearances at Board Meetings

This politically-motivated measure would require the Mayor to engage in formal questioning and reporting at a Board of Supervisors meeting each month and gives new authority to the Board in conducting these meetings. This unnecessary measure undermines the authority and independence of the executive branch of government with no clear benefit to the policy process.

Proposition D Non-Citizen Voting in School Board Elections

This Charter amendment would extend the right to vote in local school board elections to non-citizen parents and caregivers of school-age children in San Francisco. This complicated measure will require the city to maintain separate voter rolls and special ballots and puts the city at risk for costly legal challenges.

Proposition E Election Day Voter Registration

This measure changes the city Charter to allow San Franciscans to register in exclusively municipal elections on Election Day. Eligibility requirements for voting are a matter of statewide concern and no good reason exists for San Francisco to establish a separate local voting system.

Proposition J Hotel Tax Increase

This labor sponsored initiative will increase the hotel occupancy tax from 15 to 17.5 percent – higher than any of San Francisco's competitor cities. This 2 percent tax increase is estimated to kill 2,026 jobs and eliminate \$75.5 million in wages annually. This harmful initiative will discourage travel to San Francisco, hurt our city's largest industry, and eliminate jobs for hard-working San Franciscans.

Proposition M Community Policing and Foot Patrols

This ill-conceived measure would insert politics and the board of supervisors into policing decisions. This measure is a thinly veiled attempt to micro-manage the police department and will require a specific type of resource intensive policing when a more integrated, data driven community policing model is already working. If it receives more "yes" votes than Proposition L (Civil Sidewalks), it will void the Civil Sidewalks measure.

Proposition N Real Property Transfer Tax

This measure would raise the tax on the sale of residential and commercial prosperities by as much as 33 percent – to become the highest in the region. During an era of declining real estate values, this measure could bring homeowners and businesses higher tax bills even after selling property at a loss. Additionally, transfer tax revenues are volatile making this tax an undependable source of revenue for the city.

Proposition 23 Initiative to Suspend AB32

Now is not the time to move backwards when it comes to developing a clean energy economy. As other nations invest in clean energy technology, Prop 23 will repeal or delay the implementation of California's Landmark Clean Energy Law (AB32). Suspending AB32 will kill thousands of jobs and derail California's leadership in developing solar, wind, and other clean energy technologies.

Proposition 24 The Jobs Tax

Current law allows businesses to carry back losses, share tax credits and use a sales-based income calculation to lower taxable income. This harmful proposition will repeal these recent state tax updates supported by the Chamber, hit California employers and small businesses with nearly \$2 billion in higher taxes, and actually tax job growth in our state's most promising industries.

Proposition 27 Eliminates State Commission on Redistricting

This attack on California's voter-approved Redistricting Initiative (Prop 11) will eliminate the 14-member commission recently created to redraw California's district boundaries. Prop 27 takes the power to draw district lines from the people and puts it back in the hands of elected politicians. This damaging initiative will only ensure continued gridlock on the issues California voters care most about.

NEUTRAL

Proposition AA Vehicle License Fee Surcharge

This measure would institute an additional \$10 annual registration fee on vehicles registered in San Francisco to pay for street repair and mobility improvements.

Proposition B City Retirement and Health Plans

This controversial measure will require all city employees to contribute 9 to 10 percent of their salaries to their pensions and pay 50 percent of the health care costs for any dependents. The measure is expected to save the city \$170 million annually, freeing up general fund revenue for city services. While the Chamber strongly supports pension reform, this measure may violate the vested rights of current city employees and will result in a costly legal challenge that will only complicate and further delay needed reforms to the city's retirement system.

