



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SAN FRANCISCO

Fall 2006

THE VOTER

Election Day is Tuesday, November 7

Letter from the President

Election Day is fast approaching! Thanks to our dedicated members and volunteers, the League has had a very productive pre-election season. We have been in the community, online, on TV, and in your local newspapers. Here's a partial summary of what we have been up to, and tips for getting "in the know" as we approach November 7.

The League Online and on TV

More than ever before, the League has recorded debates, discussions, and Candidate Statements for voters to view online and on TV when it is convenient for you. Resources include 3-minute Candidate Statements for Board of Supervisors Districts 2, 4, 8, and 10; Candidate Forum debates for Board of Education, Community College Board, and Board of Supervisors District 6; interviews with our existing Assessor-Recorder and Public Defender (both running uncontested); and discussions about eight San Francisco ballot measures.

All of the above are available as VIDEO ON DEMAND at www.lwvsf.org. If you don't have computer access, you can also view these programs on Cable Channels 26, 27, and 29 (**see p. 4** for the TV schedule).

Pros and Cons Guide

In this issue of the VOTER, you will find our essential publication, the *Pros and Cons Guide* (**see p. 5**). The Guide was published recently in the San Francisco Chronicle, and has also been translated to appear in the Sing Tao Daily, El Mensajero, and El Tecolote.

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Letter from President, continued from p. 1

Speakers Bureau

Our trained volunteers have offered presentations on local and state ballot measures for more than 20 community organizations, from schools to senior centers. Thanks to all who shared their time to support our community through this vital program.

In closing, I'd also like to bring your attention to a new initiative (**see p.3**). Many Americans are concerned about the integrity of our voting systems. To explore this issue, the League of Women Voters of San Francisco is hosting an introduction and training session to familiarize our members with the principles and procedures of election observation. **We invite you to attend one of the two sessions.** You will learn about our local elections procedures, as well as about state election laws. This pilot effort may lead to best practice recommendations to our local Department of Elections, or other public education and advocacy projects. On November 7th, Election Day, the League will send a limited number of trained volunteers "into the field" to collect data about procedures. We are eager for members to join us and let us know where you would like us to focus our work dealing with election integrity.

It is an honor to serve this diverse and politically active community. Thank you for supporting the League, and see you on Election Day!

Thank you!

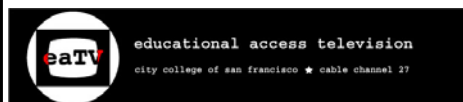
Jody Sanford

VIDEO ON DEMAND

www.lwvsf.org

The League of Women Voters of San Francisco has partnered with our San Francisco public, educational, and government cable channels to produce pre-election programs for the November 2006 election. These programs are available on our website as Video on Demand. All Video on Demand offerings can be viewed on a computer, or downloaded to an iPOD to hear on the road.

- **3-minute Candidate Statements** for Board of Supervisors candidates in Districts 2, 4, 8, and 10. These segments allow voters to hear what the candidates want to accomplish if they are elected.
- **Candidate Forums** for Board of Supervisors District 6, School Board, and Community College Board, as well as interviews for Assessor-Recorder and Public Defender.
- **15-minute discussions** on the San Francisco ballot measures.





ELECTION OBSERVER PROGRAM

Are you concerned about the integrity of our voting systems?

The League of Women Voters is a strong voice seeking transparent and accessible voting systems that enable all citizens to make their views heard. To this end, the San Francisco League is conducting a pilot study in preparation for a project that could result in best practice recommendations to our local Department of Elections, or other public education and advocacy projects.

The League of Women Voters of San Francisco is hosting an introduction and training session to familiarize our members and the community with the principles and procedures of elections monitoring.

We invite you to attend one of the two sessions. You will learn about our local elections procedures, as well as about state election laws. A focus of the presentation will be aspects of election policy and procedures that affect the transparency, accessibility, and integrity of our voting system. You will learn what specifically to look for when monitoring a specific part of the election process.

On November 7th, Election Day, the League will send a limited number of trained volunteers “into the field” to collect data about procedures. By attending one of these sessions, you will be eligible to participate in monitoring the election. The time commitment for monitoring will range from 2 hours to 8 hours or more, depending on your interest and availability.

We also invite you to continue working with us after the election as we continue our efforts to ensure that our votes are cast and counted as we intend.

Introduction and Training

Absentee ballot processing

Poll closing

Central counting

Provisional ballot processing

Chain of custody procedures

Canvass process

Mechanic's Institute

57 Post Street, San Francisco

Thursday evening, November 2

7:00-9:00 pm

or

Saturday afternoon, November 4

2:00-4:00 pm

Presenters:

- Allyson Washburn, Action Committee Chair, League of Women Voters of San Francisco
- Election Integrity Advocate Michelle Gabriel, California Election Protection steering committee member, Voting Rights Task Force, author and editor, Election Observing

To register for one of the sessions, or for more information: (415) 989.8683; email lwvsf@lwvsf.org

Televised League Programs Schedule

The League of Women Voters of San Francisco has partnered with our San Francisco public, educational, and government cable channels to produce pre-election programs for the November 2006 election. Segments will be cable-cast on Cable SFGTV Cable Channel 26, EATV Cable Channel 27, and Access SF Cable Channel 29 through Election Day at the dates and times listed below.

CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

WATCH ON SFGTV CABLE CHANNEL 26 UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

Board of Supervisors - District 2 & 4

Saturdays at 11 am
 Tuesdays at 5 pm
 Thursdays at 5 pm
 Fridays at 6 pm (on EATV Cable Channel 27)

Board of Supervisors - District 8 & 10

Saturdays at 11:30 am
 Tuesdays at 5:30 pm
 Thursdays at 5:30 pm
 Fridays at 5:30 (on EATV Cable Channel 27)

CANDIDATE FORUMS

WATCH ON SFGTV CABLE CHANNEL 26 UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

Assessor-Recorder and Public Defender

Sundays at 7:30 pm
 Wednesdays at 12:30 pm
 Thursdays at 9:30 am
 Fridays at 9:30 pm

Board of Education

Sundays at 10:30 am
 Mondays at 11:30 am
 Fridays at 12 pm
 Fridays at 6 pm (on EATV Cable Channel 27)

Community College Board

Fridays at 8 pm (on EATV Cable Channel 27)
 Saturdays at 6 pm
 Sundays at 9 am

Board of Supervisors - District 6

Saturdays at 7:30 pm
 Mondays at 4:30 pm
 Fridays at 2:30 pm
 Fridays at 4 pm (on EATV Cable Channel 27)

BALLOT MEASURE DISCUSSIONS

WATCH ON ACCESS SF CABLE CHANNEL 29 UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

Tuesdays at 12:30 pm and 1 pm
 Wednesdays at 4 pm and 4:30 pm
 Fridays at 10 pm (on EATV Cable Channel 27)
 Saturdays at 10 am and 10:30 am
 Sundays at 6:30 pm and 7 pm



Pros & Cons Guide

San Francisco Ballot Measures

Tuesday, November 7, 2006 Election

PROPOSITION A

SCHOOL BONDS AND TAX RATE BOND MEASURE

Placed on the Ballot by the San Francisco Unified School District.

The Question

Should the San Francisco Unified School District borrow up to \$450 million to make repairs and accessibility improvements to 64 San Francisco school buildings?

The Background

The San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) serves nearly 60,000 pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade students. The majority of the SFUSD buildings need renovation and modernization, including improvements to make them accessible. In 2003, voters approved a \$295 million school improvement bond to fund some repairs. A Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee was set up to monitor spending, and the first annual audit found that funds were spent appropriately.

In 2004, the school district settled a class action lawsuit by agreeing to correct accessibility problems at 116 facilities. Proposition A, if passed, would fund repairs in 64 of those buildings. Improvements would include widening doors to be wheelchair accessible and placing Braille by doorways, as well as roof, heating, electrical, and other repairs. If voters choose not to pass Proposition A, the school district would be unable to make repairs required by the settlement. A federal appointee might then mandate that regular operating funds be used to make the accessibility improvements.

It is important to note that Proposition A is one of several bonds being considered for the next several years to clear up the large backlog of school improvements.

The Proposal

Proposition A would authorize the San Francisco Unified School District to borrow up to

\$450 million by issuing General Obligation Bonds. Funds would make accessibility improvements and other repairs in 64 school district buildings. Approximately \$20 million would be set aside to partially fund a School of the Arts and "green" some concrete schoolyards. The state would provide \$29.6 million in matching funds. The Board of Education's Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee will make progress reports to the public. The measure states which schools will be included and what work will be done.

Fiscal Effect

The Controller states: Based on the best estimates of the School District, should the proposed \$450 million in bonds be authorized and sold, the approximate costs will be as follows:

- In fiscal year 2007-2008, following issuance of the first series of bonds, and the year with the lowest tax rate, the estimated annual cost of debt service would be \$4.36 million and result in a property tax rate of \$0.00402 per \$100 (\$4.02 per \$100,000) of assessed valuation.
- In fiscal year 2010-2011, following issuance of the last series of bonds, and the year with the highest tax rate, the estimated annual costs of debt service would be \$40.5 million and result in a property tax rate of \$0.03276 per \$100 (\$32.76 per \$100,000) of assessed valuation.
- The best estimate of the average tax rate from fiscal year 2007-2008 through 2029-2030 is \$0.02226 per \$100 (\$22.26 per \$100,000) of assessed valuation.

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LEAGUE ON TV!

The League will cablecast 3-minute candidate statements, discussions of local ballot measures, and select Candidate Forums on Access SF, SFGTV, and EATV. See www.lwvsf.org for the schedule.

Election Day is Tuesday, November 7

- Polls open from 7 am to 8 pm
- October 23 is the last day to register to vote
- For more, visit the SF Department of Elections at www.sfgov.org/election

Absentee Voting

- Absentee ballots must be requested from the San Francisco Department of Elections by October 31 at 5pm. Request a ballot by fax at (415) 554-4372.
- Completed ballots must be received at the Department of Elections or a polling place by 8 pm on election day.

To Vote in the November Election, you Must:

- Be a US citizen and a resident of California
- Be at least 18 years old by the date of the election
- Be registered to vote
- Not be in prison or on parole for a felony conviction
- Not have been judged mentally incompetent to vote by a court

When do you Register to Vote?

- When you move
- When you change your name
- When you change your political party affiliation

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SAN FRANCISCO

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PROPOSITION A

Continued from page 1

SCHOOL BONDS AND TAX RATE BOND MEASURE

Placed on the Ballot by the San Francisco Unified School District.

These estimates are based on projections only, which are not binding upon the City or the School District. Such projections and estimates may vary due to variations in timing of bond sales, the amount of bonds sold at each bond sale, and actual assessed valuation over the term of repayment of the bonds. Hence, the actual tax rate and the years in which such rates are applicable may vary from those estimated above.

The Board of Supervisors is considering amending San Francisco's residential Rent Control Ordinance to allow landlords to have tenants pay for half of the increased property tax cost from these bonds.

Arguments for Proposition A

- San Francisco schools should be improved so that they meet accessibility requirements and are safe and clean places for students to learn.

- The school district has recently managed bond funds well, keeping projects on-time and on-budget; a Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee will help monitor progress.
- This measure would attract nearly \$30 million in matching funds from the state.
- If we don't live up to the terms of the lawsuit settlement, federal officials may take over school spending and cut programs in order to fund needed repairs.

Arguments against Proposition A

- Bond measures create more debt for future generations.
- Funding for projects of this nature should be part of our general budget.
- Property taxes are already too high. This bond measure would create a strain on the elderly and those with fixed incomes.

Ranked-Choice Voting for the November 7, 2006 Election

For the November 7, 2006 election, San Francisco voters will use ranked-choice voting to elect the Assessor-Recorder and Public Defender. San Francisco voters who live in Supervisorial Districts 2, 4, 6, 8, and 10 will also use ranked-choice voting to elect their Member of the Board of Supervisors.

With ranked-choice voting, the names of all the candidates are listed in three side-by-side columns on the ballot. This allows voters to rank up to three candidates for the same office. If there are fewer than three candidates, or to rank fewer than three candidates, voters may leave any remaining columns blank.

How Ranked-Choice Voting Works:

- To start, every first-choice selection is counted. Any candidate who receives a majority (more than 50%) of the first-choice selections is declared the winner.
- If no candidate receives a more than 50% of the first-choice selections, the candidate who received the fewest number of first-choice selections is eliminated.
- Voters who selected the eliminated candidate as their first choice will have their vote transferred to their second choice.
- The votes are then recounted. If any remaining candidate receives more than 50% of the votes, he or she is declared the winner.
- If no remaining candidate receives more than 50% of the votes, the process of eliminating candidates and transferring votes to the next ranked candidate is repeated until one candidate has a winning majority.

For more information on ranked-choice voting, contact the San Francisco Department of Elections at (415) 554-4375 or visit the Department's Web site at www.sfgov.org/election.

PROPOSITION B

ALLOWING MEMBERS OF BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS TO PARTICIPATE IN MEETINGS BY TELECONFERENCE DUE TO PREGNANCY AND RELATED CONDITIONS; ADOPTION OF PARENTAL LEAVE POLICIES
CHARTER AMENDMENT

Placed on the Ballot by Supervisors Alioto-Pier and Dufty.

The Question

Should the City's boards and commissions have a parental leave policy, which would include authorization to teleconference?

The Background

Currently, the Board of Supervisors and members of other City boards and commissions do not have a parental leave policy. Members must be physically present to participate in a meeting. In the event that a member is physically unable to attend a meeting due to pregnancy or childbirth, there are no policies in place to allow the member to participate via teleconference or other electronic means. It should be noted that, under California law, members of state boards and commissions can participate in meetings via teleconference if the teleconference location is public and accessible, and if members of the public can address the board or commission directly.

The Proposal

The proposed Charter amendment would require the Board of Supervisors to adopt a parental leave policy for itself and other boards and commissions. This policy must allow members to participate in meetings by teleconference or other electronic means if the member is physically unable to attend in person, as certified by a health care provider, due to the member's pregnancy, childbirth or related condition. Participation by teleconference will, at minimum, meet the notice, agenda and public participation requirements of state law. This parental leave policy would not require, but could include, participation in meetings by teleconference when the member is absent to care for his or her child after birth, adoption or foster care placement.

Some have noted that, given existing "Brown Act" legal requirements, an official who is participating by teleconference may have to open his or her home (or other teleconferencing location) to the public.

Fiscal Effect

The Controller states: Should the proposed Charter amendment be approved by the voters, in my opinion, there would be an increase in the cost of government ranging from a minimal amount up to approximately \$200,000 to provide communications equipment and other arrangements for teleconferencing.

The Charter amendment requires the Board of Supervisors to establish parental leave policies for itself and for the City's appointed boards and commissions. These policies must allow members of boards and commissions to attend meetings by teleconferencing or other electronic means when physically unable to attend due to pregnancy or childbirth and may allow members to attend meetings by these means under other circumstances. Currently, the Board of Supervisors and other City boards and commissions can only meet in person.

The cost of a system for this purpose would range from a few thousand dollars annually for commercial phone conferencing up to an estimated \$200,000 for equipment that supports multiple voice and videoconferences. Additional costs may be incurred to provide public access and security arrangements at a member's home or other site used for teleconferencing.

Arguments for Proposition B

- The lack of parental leave policies is discriminatory against women who may be physically unable to attend meetings in person due to pregnancy or childbirth.
- This is a pro-family measure that updates the City's policies in a common-sense way that has long been used by other sectors.
- Elected officials, both men and women, should not be forced to choose between representing their constituents and the health and safety of their children.

Arguments against Proposition B

- The charter amendment is too narrow and does not address the needs of officials who have other medical conditions.
- The public needs to see, hear, and speak face to face with officials at meetings.
- This measure may not be useful and practical since it may require officials to open up their homes to the public in order to teleconference.

PROPOSITION C**SETTING SALARIES OF CERTAIN
LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS****CHARTER AMENDMENT**

Placed on the Ballot by Supervisors Peskin, Alioto-Pier, Mirkarimi, Dufty, and Ammiano.

The Question

Should the base salary of the Mayor, City Attorney, District Attorney, Public Defender, Assessor-Recorder, Treasurer, and Sheriff be set every five years by calculating the average salaries paid to comparable elected officials in Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Mateo, and Santa Clara Counties?

The Background

In 1994, the City Charter froze the salaries of the Mayor, City Attorney, District Attorney, Public Defender, Assessor-Recorder, Treasurer, and Sheriff at levels set by the Civil Service Commission. (Civil Service Commissioners are appointed by the Mayor and serve six-year terms.) The Commission may, but is not required to, increase salaries for these elected officials each year to adjust for inflation.

The elected officials listed above (with the exception of the Treasurer) are paid between eight and 42 percent less than the average salary paid to their counterparts in the five comparison counties used in Proposition C. In some cases, assistants to the elected officials covered by this proposed charter amendment are paid more than the respective official.

The Proposal

Proposition C would require the Civil Service Commission to set the base salary of the seven officials listed above every five years. To set the salaries, the Commission would calculate the average salary paid to comparable officials in Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Mateo, and Santa Clara counties. Additionally, the Commission would also be required to provide cost-of-living increases in the subsequent four years. If the compensation for other City employees is reduced to save costs, the Commission could reduce the salaries of these elected officials.

Fiscal Effect

The Controller states: Should the proposed charter amendment be approved by the voters, in my opinion, there would be an increase in the cost of government of \$207,000 annually for additional salary and fringe benefit costs.

The amendment would provide that the salaries of the Mayor, City Attorney, District Attorney, Public Defender, Assessor-Recorder, Treasurer and Sheriff be set at the average amount of the comparable positions in five Bay Area counties. Currently, all but one of the

salaries of these elected officials in San Francisco is below the average of the surveyed counties. The differences range from 42% below to 5% above the average. The actual salary increases resulting from the Charter amendment would range from \$55,200 for the Sheriff down to zero for the Treasurer.

Currently, salaries for these officials are set in the Charter at the base amounts that were in effect as of June 30, 1994, plus adjustments based on the Consumer Price Index of up to five percent annually that are made at the discretion of the Civil Service Commission. Under the amendment, the survey to determine the comparable salaries would be done every five years and in the years between there would be automatic annual adjustments based on the Consumer Price Index.

Arguments for Proposition C

- Proposition C would replace an unfair and outdated salary structure using a method that is fair and reasonable.
- This proposition would help attract and retain top professionals for elected office in San Francisco.
- Voters approved this same salary formula for the Board of Supervisors in 2002.

Arguments against Proposition C

- Proposition C would mean higher salaries for elected officials, but does not guarantee better performance from them or better service for the citizens of San Francisco.
- This system of setting salaries by comparing with other counties creates a perpetual upward pressure on costs.
- Elected officials knew the salaries they would be receiving before they were elected; the salary level does not deter quality people from running for office in San Francisco.

PROPOSITION D**DISCLOSURE OF PRIVATE INFORMATION****ORDINANCE**

Placed on the Ballot by Supervisors Peskin, Ammiano, Daly, Ma, McGoldrick, and Mirkarimi.

The Question

Should the City be prohibited from disclosing private information about individuals?

The Background

The public is increasingly concerned with loss of privacy and identity theft. Last year in San Francisco, more than 1,000 cases of identify theft were reported to the San Francisco Police Department. Concerns led the San Francisco Civil Grand Jury to investigate the City's privacy policies, and its May 2006 report revealed that no identity theft occurred in the City departments it examined.

Currently, local law prohibits City contractors from disclosing private information they may obtain about individuals while performing work for the City. However, City contractors may disclose private information under the following circumstances:

- The contract authorizes disclosure of the information;
- The contractor first obtains the City's written approval to disclose the information;
- The disclosure is authorized or required by law.

The Proposal

This ordinance would ban the City from disclosing private information except when authorized by the individual or contract, or if disclosure is required by federal or state law or judicial order. Private information is defined as information that could be used to identify an individual, including ... name, address, Social Security number, medical information, financial information, date and location of birth, and names of relatives. The City may disclose private information if:

- The individual whose information would be disclosed authorizes the disclosure;
- A contract authorizes the disclosure of private information;
- A disclosure is required by federal or state law, or by a court.

The Board of Supervisors could amend the measure with a two-thirds vote.

Fiscal Effects

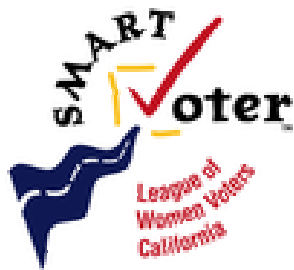
The Controller states: Should the proposed ordinance be approved by the voters, in my opinion, it would not increase the cost of government.

Arguments for Proposition D

- Proposition D would strengthen privacy protection for San Franciscans.
- This measure would increase the public's confidence in government and prevent our City government from being tempted to sell private information.

Arguments against Proposition D

- This measure was placed on the ballot without a hearing. It is so broadly written and confusing that it might have unintended, negative consequences.
- Our City's current policies are strong enough and no new laws are needed.



Get complete, non-partisan information about this election including your polling place, personalized ballot, candidate profiles and election results at:

www.smartvoter.org

PROPOSITION E**PARKING TAX****ORDINANCE**

Placed on the Ballot by Supervisors Daly, Peskin, Ammiano, and Mirkarimi.

The Question

Should the City increase parking taxes from 25 to 35 percent, and extend that tax to include valet services?

The Background

Most major American cities charge for parking. The City currently imposes a 25 percent parking tax, which raised \$55 million in the last fiscal year. Of that amount, approximately \$22 million went to the Metropolitan Transportation Agency (which funds MUNI) and \$33 million went to the General Fund (some of which is set aside for senior programs). The parking tax does not currently apply to fees for valet parking.

If San Francisco were to raise its tax under Proposition E, it would have one of the highest rates in the nation.

Because Proposition E is a general tax, a simple majority is required for passage.

The Proposal

This measure would raise parking taxes from 25 to 35 percent, and extend the tax to cover valet parking. Proceeds of the additional tax would go to the General Fund (a portion of which funds MUNI through the Metropolitan Transportation Agency). The tax would not apply to parking meters on city streets.

Fiscal Effect

The Controller states: Should the proposed ordinance be approved by the voters, in my opinion, it would generate parking tax revenues for the City of about \$26 million each year, starting January 1, 2007.

The ordinance increases the parking tax from the current 25% to 35% as of January 1, 2007, and extends the parking tax to include parking valet services. Revenues generated by the proposed tax could be spent by the City for any public purpose.

Arguments for Proposition E

- This measure would raise much needed money for the City's General Fund.
- A higher parking tax might encourage more people to use public transportation, easing traffic and making the City safer for pedestrians and bicyclists.
- A big portion of the tax would be paid by non-residents (visitors and commuters), who would be doing their fair share to support City services.

Arguments against Proposition E

- There is no guarantee that the additional funds would be used to support public transit.
- The additional tax would hurt small businesses in the City since many potential consumers would opt to do business elsewhere due to high parking rates.
- The tax could hurt residents who must use their vehicles, such as seniors and people with disabilities.
- This proposition was put on the ballot without a public hearing before the Board of Supervisors.

PROPOSITION F**PAID SICK LEAVE ORDINANCE****ORDINANCE**

Placed on the Ballot by Supervisors Daly, Peskin, Ammiano, and Mirkarimi.

The Question

Should the City require employers to provide a minimum level of sick leave for their employees?

The Background

In recent years, the City has considered numerous measures with the goal of improving the quality of life for workers, including minimum wage and health care legislation.

According to a study by the Institute for Women's Policy Research, a significant number of San Francisco workers currently have either no paid sick leave or inadequate amounts of sick leave provided by their employers. Paid sick leave is less commonly offered to part-time and lower-income workers.

The Proposal

This measure would require that employers doing business within the City and County of San Francisco provide all of their employees with a minimum amount of paid sick leave. Employees would earn a certain number of paid sick leave hours per year based on the number of hours worked.

Small businesses (fewer than ten employees) would be allowed to cap the number of accrued hours at 40 per year, while larger business would be required to provide up to 72 hours of paid sick leave annually. Sick leave could be used for the employee's own health or to provide care for a close relative. Employers would be required to post their sick leave policies and keep records of their sick leave transactions for at least four years. Civil fines and penalties would be imposed on employers who do not comply with the ordinance. This law, if passed, would supersede collective bargaining contracts.

This measure requires a simple majority to pass.

Fiscal Effect

The Controller states: Should the proposed ordinance be approved by the voters, in my opinion, there would be an increase in the cost of government of approximately \$9.3 million annually for sick leave for groups of workers who do not earn paid time off and for administration of the ordinance.

Currently, workers in the In-Home-Supportive Services (IHSS) Program, who provide care for seniors and disabled persons, receive a higher wage rate but not paid time off. The City's added cost to provide sick leave for IHSS workers under the ordinance would be approximately \$5.9 million annually.

In addition, San Francisco would have new costs of approximately \$2.8 million annually to provide sick leave to part-time City employees and for childcare providers under contract to the City.

Under the proposed ordinance, there would be an estimated cost of approximately \$400,000 to provide educational materials, respond to complaints, audit some employers and administer appeal procedures. These costs could increase or decrease depending on how the City implements the ordinance, and fines collected from employers could offset a portion of the expense.

The City pays grants to welfare recipients who are required to perform work for public agencies and other agencies, but who do not earn paid time off. Under this proposal, these recipients would receive approximately 7,370 hours of sick leave, however their welfare eligibility would not change and the City would continue to pay the existing grant amounts. Administration of these and other provisions would cost an estimated \$250,000.

This estimate does not address the potential impacts of a paid sick leave requirement on employers or the local economy.

Arguments for Proposition F

- A minimum amount of paid sick leave would help ensure that workers in San Francisco could care for themselves and their families.
- When people go to work sick, it has a negative affect on their own health as well as on the health of their co-workers, families, and the larger community.
- By standardizing sick leave rules, this measure would level the playing field among businesses and protect the rights of workers.

Arguments against Proposition F

- Proposition F would be a costly new mandate for businesses, particularly small businesses such as restaurants. These businesses may choose to cut jobs as a result.
- Several new laws, including the City's minimum wage and new health care requirements, are increasing costs for businesses. The City is not considering how all these new laws taken together will affect the local economy.
- There was very little public discussion before this measure was placed on the ballot. There should be a public dialogue before ideas like this become law.

PROPOSITION G

LIMITATIONS ON FORMULA RETAIL STORES

ORDINANCE

Placed on the Ballot by Supervisors Peskin, Sandoval, Daly, and Mirkarimi.

The Question

Should the City require a hearing for approval of a “chain” store to operate in a neighborhood commercial district?

The Background

The protection of neighborhood character and locally-owned small businesses has long been a contentious topic in San Francisco.

The City designates certain neighborhood shopping areas and commercial intersections as Neighborhood Commercial Districts (NCDs). In 2004, the Board of Supervisors passed legislation that triggers Planning Commission review specifically *when a business location in an NCD changes use* from one type of business to a “formula” retail establishment (for example, when a local hardware store becomes a “formula” restaurant). “Formula” is defined as an establishment with eleven or more locations in the United States, sometimes referred to as “chains.” As part of the Planning Commission review, neighbors are notified and have the opportunity to request a public hearing.

Since 2004, some neighborhoods have requested that the Planning Commission review *all* proposals for “chains” (not just when a business changes use). The Board of Supervisors has granted this request on a neighborhood-by-neighborhood basis.

The Proposal

Proposition G amends the Planning Code to require all “formula” retail establishments to obtain a conditional use permit before locating in a neighborhood commercial district. The Planning Commission would first hold a public hearing before deciding if it will grant a conditional use permit.

This measure requires a simple majority for passage.

Fiscal Effect

The Controller states: Should the proposed ordinance be approved by the voters, in my opinion, it would have a neutral impact on the cost of government. The ordinance requires the City Planning Department to issue a type of permit called a conditional use authorization to establish certain types of retail businesses. The City would incur staff costs to provide the analysis and planning that would be required, however, fees are collected from applicants to fully recover such costs.

This estimate does not address the potential impact of this requirement on retail businesses or the local economy.

Arguments for Proposition G

- This measure would help protect the distinctive character that defines our neighborhoods and attracts visitors.
- This proposition would protect small, locally-owned businesses that cannot compete with large retail chains.
- It is fair and reasonable that the Planning Commission hold public hearing so people can make their voices heard and shape the character of their communities.

Arguments against Proposition G

- This measure is a “one size fits all” approach that takes away the ability of each neighborhood to decide for itself if it wants to attract formula retail businesses. Some economically depressed neighborhoods may want to attract chains, and this makes it more difficult.
- Decisions like this should be made by the Board of Supervisors and the Planning Department, not voters at the ballot box. Public dialogue is needed so that fair and flexible compromises can be reached.
- This measure will make it more difficult for successful local chains to expand.

PROPOSITION H

RELOCATION ASSISTANCE FOR NO FAULT TENANT REMOVAL

ORDINANCE

Placed on the Ballot by Supervisors Mirkarimi, McGoldrick, Ammiano, and Daly.

The Question

Should relocation payments for eligible tenants be increased when tenants are evicted through no fault of their own?

The Background

Current law requires that landlords pay relocation expenses to eligible tenants when they are evicted for reasons that are not the tenant's fault. Relocation expenses are currently set at between \$1,000 and \$1,500, depending on circumstances. These benefits have not been increased for a number of years. The relocation costs are separate from any security or refundable deposits.

The Proposal

Proposition H would increase the amount of relocation benefits to tenants who are evicted through no fault of their own, expand the reasons landlords must provide relocation payments, and expand who is eligible to receive benefits to include families with children under age 18, in addition to seniors and the disabled.

"No fault" eviction categories would be expanded to include when the owner intends to:

- Use the property for at least three continuous years as the landlord's principal residence or as the principal residence of the landlord's spouse, domestic partner, grandparents, grandchildren, parents, children, brother, sister, or the spouse or domestic partner of these persons;
- Demolish the rental unit;
- Permanently remove the rental unit from use as housing;
- Temporarily regain possession of the unit to make improvements; or
- Substantially rehabilitate the building.

Each eligible tenant evicted under these "no fault" circumstances would receive a \$4,500 relocation payment per eligible tenant, up to \$13,500 per unit. An additional payment of \$3,000 would be made to each eligible tenant who is disabled, 60 years of age or older, or who has a child under 18 years of age living in the same unit.

These relocation payment amounts would be increased annually to account for inflation. A landlord must provide the tenant with an eviction notice that states the tenant's right to receive relocation payments. This ordinance would apply retroactively to all eligible tenants who receive an eviction notice on or after August 10, 2006.

This measure requires a simple majority to pass.

Fiscal Effects

The Controller states: Should the proposed ordinance be approved by the voters, in my opinion, it would have a minimal impact of the cost of government.

This estimate does not address the potential impact of increased relocation payments on renters, landlords or the local economy.

Arguments for Proposition H

- Current relocation benefits are too low, and do not cover first and last months rent, security deposit, and moving costs. This often forces those who are evicted to leave the City.
- This measure could make it more difficult for owners to remove rental units from the housing market, thus preserving the City's existing rental housing stock.

Arguments against Proposition H

- Landlords would be required to pay a huge amount of money to tenants even if they are emptying the unit to make substantial improvements.
- This proposition would impact small building owners more severely – including those wanting to move in a needy family member.
- The relocation benefits are not tied to the real costs of moving and would have to be paid even if the renter can afford to move.

PROPOSITION I**ADOPTING A POLICY THAT THE MAYOR APPEAR MONTHLY AT A BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING****DECLARATION OF POLICY**

Placed on the Ballot by Supervisors Daly, Mirkarimi, Ammiano, and Sandoval.

The Question

Should the Mayor appear in person at one regularly-scheduled meeting of the Board of Supervisors each month?

The Background

Currently, the City Charter permits, but does not require, the Mayor to speak and be heard at any meeting of the Board of Supervisors or any of its committees. The current Mayor has not appeared before the board; however, members of the board are free to schedule meetings with the Mayor at any time.

Declaration of Policy

"It is the policy of the voters of San Francisco that the Mayor should appear in person at one regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Supervisors each month to engage in formal policy discussions with members of the Board."

This measure is non-binding and simply expresses the will of the voters. The measure requires a simple majority to pass.

Fiscal Effect

The Controller states: Should the proposed policy statement be approved by the voters, in my opinion, it would not increase the cost of government.

Arguments for Proposition I

- San Franciscans would benefit from increased public dialogue between the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors. The Mayor has not attended any board meetings in the past two and a half years to present his policy priorities.
- Interaction between the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors should be consistent regardless of the individuals in office.

Arguments against Proposition I

- Proposition I would create opportunities for divisive political grandstanding, not meaningful dialogue.
- This issue is more appropriately decided between the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors, not the voters.

PROPOSITION J**ADOPTING A POLICY CALLING FOR THE IMPEACHMENT OF PRESIDENT BUSH & VICE PRESIDENT CHENEY****DECLARATION OF POLICY**

Placed on the Ballot by Supervisors Daly, Mirkarimi, Ammiano, and McGoldrick.

The Question

Should the City call for the impeachment of President Bush and Vice President Cheney?

The Background

In February 2006, the Board of Supervisors passed a resolution (7-3) calling for a full investigation, impeachment, or resignation of President George W. Bush and Vice President Richard B. Cheney.

Similar measures have been passed or are under consideration in other California communities, including Santa Cruz and Berkeley.

Declaration of Policy

"It is the Policy of the people of the City and County of San Francisco to call for the impeachment of President George W. Bush and Vice President Richard B. Cheney for violating the public trust and for knowingly harming the United States of America, the State of California, and the City and County of San Francisco."

This measure is non-binding and simply expresses the will of the voters. The measure requires a simple majority to pass.

Fiscal Effect

The Controller states: Should the proposed policy statement be passed by the voters, in my opinion, it would not increase the cost of government.

Continued on page 11.

PROPOSITION J*Continued from page 10***ADOPTING A POLICY CALLING FOR THE IMPEACHMENT OF PRESIDENT BUSH & VICE PRESIDENT CHENEY****DECLARATION OF POLICY**

Placed on the Ballot by Supervisors Daly, Mirkarimi, Ammiano, and McGoldrick.

Arguments for Proposition J

- Proposition J would allow voters to express dissatisfaction with the Bush Administration's decision regarding the war in Iraq, response to Hurricane Katrina, and wiretapping surveillance. It is a legitimate form of political expression.
- San Francisco would join other cities around the country in calling for an impeachment of the President and Vice President. Raising this issue must begin at the local level.

Arguments against Proposition J

- San Franciscans have already passed a similar measure, and there is no need to do it twice.
- City government should keep its focus on important local issues.

PROPOSITION K**ADOPTING A POLICY RELATING TO THE HOUSING NEEDS OF SENIORS AND DISABLED ADULTS****DECLARATION OF POLICY**

Placed on the Ballot by Supervisors Daly, Ammiano, Maxwell, and Mirkarimi.

The Question

Should the City and County of San Francisco explore ways to address the housing needs of seniors, especially those who are disabled or of limited income?

The Background

Affordable housing is one of the most contentious and challenging issues in San Francisco. San Franciscans continually debate issues surrounding homelessness, affordable ownership options, and preservation of the rental housing stock. Additionally, as the City's population ages, the needs of seniors are increasingly in the spotlight.

While San Francisco's General Plan requires the Mayor's Office of Housing to find ways to build affordable rental housing for some sectors of its population, there is no specific provision to address the rental housing needs of low income seniors and adults with disabilities.

Declaration of Policy

This measure calls on the City to acknowledge the unique housing needs of persons with limited financial means who are 60 years of age or older and/or are disabled adults. Further, the measure asks the City to explore ways to address these housing needs. "Limited financial means" is defined as when a person spends more than 30 percent of his or her monthly income on rent.

This measure is non-binding and simply expresses the will of the voters. The measure requires a simple majority to pass.

Fiscal Effect

The Controller states: Should the proposed policy statement be approved by the voters, in my opinion, it would not increase the cost of government.

Arguments for Proposition K

- As our population grows older and the cost of living grows higher, the housing needs of our low income seniors and adults with disabilities must be considered.
- Affordable housing keeps citizens off of welfare and out of shelters.
- Providing more affordable housing units for seniors and adults with disabilities would help maintain San Francisco as a city rich in diversity which values all of its citizens.

Arguments against Proposition K

- Proposition K could be the beginning of another plan to tax citizens or pass costly bonds, neither of which we can afford.
- There are many worthy policy goals. It would be better to constructively address them through public hearings and studies rather than meaningless declarations of policy.



League of Women Voters Recommends November 7, 2006 General Election



[YES ON PROPOSITION 1B](#) -- Highway Safety, Traffic Reduction, Air Quality, Port Security Bond Act of 2006

Proposition 1B is part of the bond package developed to help rebuild California's infrastructure. It will raise \$19.9 billion for transportation improvements that reduce congestion on roads and highways, expand public transportation and improve air quality.



[YES ON PROPOSITION 1C](#) -- Housing and Emergency Shelter Trust Fund Act of 2006.

Proposition 1C will fund housing programs that assist the most vulnerable Californians and provide affordable homes for working families. It will help cities and counties finance infrastructure, parks, and environmental cleanup to support infill development.



[YES ON PROPOSITION 1D](#) -- Education Facilities: Kindergarten-University Public Education Facilities Bond Act of 2006

A quality education is the best investment in our children's future. California has not kept up with the need for school modernization and new school construction. Proposition 1D funds will reduce overcrowding, build vocational education facilities, and provide for our growing community college population.



[YES ON PROPOSITION 1E](#) -- Disaster Preparedness and Flood Prevention Bond Act of 2006.

This bond measure will provide funds for flood protection, levee repairs and improvements in the Sacramento- San Joaquin Delta, and storm water management. The League supports Proposition 1E to protect our existing water supply infrastructure and prevent pollution in our streams and the ocean.



[YES ON PROPOSITION 84](#) -- Water Quality, Safety and Supply. Flood Control. Natural Resource Protection. Park Improvements. Bonds. Initiative Statute

This initiative continues the League's past support of efforts to insure that California has adequate water supplies. Proposition 84 will fund projects for safe drinking water, flood control, protection of rivers, lakes and streams, forest and wildlife conservation, coastal protection, and state parks.



[NO ON PROPOSITION 85](#) -- Termination of Minor's Pregnancy. Waiting Period and Parental Notification.

Parents rightfully want to be involved in their teenagers' lives, but good family communication can't be imposed by government. Mandatory notification laws may sound good, but in the real world, they just put the health and safety of teenagers at risk. Proposition 85 isn't really about parental rights; it's about the political agenda of abortion opponents.

**YES ON PROPOSITION 86 -- Tax on Cigarettes.**

Proposition 86 increases the state tax on cigarettes by \$2.60 per pack. The estimated \$2.1 billion in annual revenue will fund children's health coverage, emergency care services, nursing education, tobacco-use prevention and control programs, and research, prevention and treatment of serious health conditions including cancers, heart disease, stroke, asthma, and obesity. Proposition 86 will cut tobacco use drastically and keep hundreds of thousands of kids from starting to smoke. It will save billions of dollars in health care costs.

**NO ON PROPOSITION 88 -- Classroom Learning and Accountability Act. Real Property Parcel Tax.**

This measure would impose a \$50 tax on each real property parcel to help fund several K-12 education programs. While the League supports access to quality education for all, this measure contradicts good government finance principles of equity and adequacy. It proposes to earmark funds via a constitutional amendment without providing sufficient funding to even bring education spending up to the national average. It would also involve the state for the first time in taxing property—a precedent we do not support.

**YES ON PROPOSITION 89 -- California Nurses Clean Money and Fair Elections Act of 2006. Public Financing of Campaigns. Corporate Tax Increase.**

Proposition 89, the California Clean Money and Fair Elections Act, will limit influence by special interests and level the playing field so elections are decided by ideas, not by money. Candidates who demonstrate broad-based support and agree to limit their spending will receive public campaign financing. This measure also imposes sensible new limits on campaign contributions and bans contributions by lobbyists and state contractors. Funding will be provided by an increase of 0.2 percent in the corporate income tax rate. With Proposition 89 we can clean up the system and make politicians accountable to voters, not to big money donors.

**NO ON PROPOSITION 90 -- Government Acquisition, Regulation of Private Property**

Californians deserve protection from eminent domain abuse, but Proposition 90 is a radical proposal that goes too far. Its extreme provisions would make it difficult for government to protect the environment, regulate growth and development, or enact new consumer protection laws. This "Taxpayer Trap" would drive up the cost of infrastructure projects our communities need. It is poorly worded and would likely result in costly litigation.

The League has no position on Proposition 83 (Sex Offenders, Sexually Violent Predators. Punishment, Residence Restrictions and Monitoring) and is neutral on Proposition 1A (Transportation Investment Fund) and Proposition 87 (Severance or Extraction Tax on California Oil Producers).

**BE AN ADVOCATE FOR GOOD GOVERNMENT
VOTE WITH THE LEAGUE ON NOVEMBER 7**



Thanks to our Voter Services Volunteers

November 7, 2006 Election

The work of the League could not be possible without the outstanding commitment of our volunteers. Special thanks to our Voter Services Chair Suzanne Stassevitch.

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Calendar of Events

Thursday, November 2, 7-9 pm

Election Observer Training

Saturday, November 4, 2-4 pm

Mechanics Institute, 57 Post Street, San Francisco

Tuesday, November 21

Board Meeting

Saturday, December 2

Holiday Party

Metropolitan Club, 640 Sutter Street,
San Francisco, 10 am to 12 noon

An annual bash to recognize volunteers, partners and
members. *All are welcome.*

Saturday, January 27

Bay Area League Day

Details to be announced soon.



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