

Words You Need to Know by the Ballot Simplification Committee

Charter Amendment (Proposition A): A change to the City's Charter. The Charter is the City's Constitution. The Charter can only be changed by a majority of the votes cast.

Combined Election: An election that includes a combination of municipal, district, state or federal candidates or measures.

Initiative (Proposition C): A proposition placed on the ballot by voters. Any voter may place an initiative on the ballot by gathering the required number of signatures on a petition.

Ordinance (Proposition B): A local law passed by the Board of Supervisors or by the voters.

Parent (Proposition C): An adult, including a guardian, who is responsible for the care, custody and control of a minor child.

Proposition (Propositions A-C): Any measure that is submitted to the voters for approval or disapproval.

Provisional Ballot: A ballot cast at a polling place that will not be counted until the Department of Elections verifies the voter's eligibility to cast that ballot.

State Election: An election for California offices or ballot measures, such as the Governor, members of the State Senate or Assembly, or an amendment to the State Constitution.

Vote-by-Mail Ballots (Frequently Asked Questions): Ballots mailed to voters or given to voters in person at the Department of Elections. Vote-by-mail ballots can be mailed to the Department of Elections, turned in at the Department of Elections office in City Hall, or turned in at any San Francisco polling place on Election Day. Also known as absentee ballots. See page [X](#) for more information.