

Words You Need to Know – Approved February 29, 2012

Compostables (Proposition A): Organic matter that will decay over time, such as food scraps, food-soiled paper or plants.

Commercial value (Proposition A): Monetary worth, the ability to be sold for money.

Declaration of policy (Proposition B): A statement or expression of the will of the voters.

Garbage (Proposition A): Trash, recyclables or compostables.

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

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

Proposition (Propositions A and B): 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.

Qualified write-in candidate (Frequently Asked Questions): A person who has completed the required paperwork and signatures for inclusion as a write-in candidate. Although the name of this person will not appear on the ballot, voters can vote for this person by writing the name of the person in the space on the ballot provided for write-in votes and following the specific ballot instructions. The Department of Elections counts write-in votes only for qualified write-in candidates.

Rate Board (Proposition A): Consists of the Controller, City Administrator and General Manager of Public Utilities Commission and sets the rates for residential garbage collection.

Rate Tables (Proposition A): Prices charged for garbage services. The Rate Board sets the Rate Tables for residential garbage services. There are separate Uniform Commercial Rates.

Recovery and processing (Proposition A): sorting of recyclable materials.

Recyclables (Proposition A): Materials that can be reused or processed to make new items, such as metal, paper, glass and some plastics.

Trash (Proposition A): Refuse or solid waste that cannot be recycled or composted.

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.

WPA-era (Proposition B): A period of time in U.S. history – approximately 1933- 1943 – marked by the Great Depression and the government’s efforts through the New Deal to combat chronic unemployment. WPA stands for “Works Progress Administration”, a New Deal agency which employed millions of Americans to carry out public works projects, including construction of public buildings and roads as well as large arts projects.