

Park, Recreation, and Open Space Fund*

Digest by the Ballot Simplification Committee

Status: Draft for Consideration

On: Monday, February 29, 2016

Members: Packard, Fasick, Fraps, Jorgensen

Word count: *(suggested 300-word limit)*

Deadline to Request Reconsideration: TBD

The Way It Is Now: The City's Recreation and Parks Department (Department) operates and maintains hundreds of parks, playgrounds, recreation facilities, and open spaces throughout San Francisco.

In 2000, San Francisco voters created the Park, Recreation and Open Space Fund (Fund). Every year, the City must set aside a portion of the property tax it collects and deposit that money into the Fund. The Department must use that money to provide park and recreational services and facilities. The current amount of the set-aside is 2-1/2 cents for each \$100 of assessed property value.

The Fund will expire in 2031.

In addition to this set-aside, the Department receives money each year as part of the City's budget process. The City is not required to appropriate any particular amount to the Department beyond the set-aside in the Fund.

The Proposal: Proposition ____ would amend the Charter to:

- extend the Fund for an additional 15 years, to 2046;
- require the City, beginning in fiscal year 2016-2017, to annually budget to the Department a minimum "baseline amount," which would be in addition to the set aside in the Fund. The City would initially establish this baseline amount at the sum the City budgeted for the Department in fiscal year 2015-2016. Every year through the end of fiscal year 2026-2027 the City would increase that baseline amount by \$3 million. After fiscal year 2026-2027, the Controller would adjust the baseline amount annually based on the City's revenues. In any fiscal year, the City would not be required to make any increases if the City is facing a substantial budget deficit; and
- require the Department to analyze whether low-income neighborhoods and disadvantaged communities are receiving the same level of Department services and resources as the City as a whole. If the levels are not the same, then the Department would have to develop a plan to correct these imbalances.

A "YES" Vote Means: If you vote "yes," you want to extend the Fund until 2046 and require the City to budget a baseline amount to the Department.

A "NO" Vote Means: If you vote "no," you do not want to make these changes to the Charter.

**Working title, for identification only. The Director of Elections determines the title of each local ballot measure; measure titles are not considered during Ballot Simplification Committee meetings.*