

Public Health and Safety Bond*

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 San Francisco Department of Public Health (Department) operates the Priscilla Chan and Mark Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center campus (SFGH). SFGH, the City's acute care hospital, treats more than 1,500 patients every day and almost 100,000 a year. Some of the buildings on the campus do not meet the higher state building safety standards for hospitals and are not expected to remain functional in the event of a major earthquake.

The Department also operates 10 neighborhood health clinics, including the Southeast Health Center in San Francisco's Bayview neighborhood. These neighborhood health clinics mainly provide primary care services.

The facility that houses City-owned ambulances also does not meet state seismic safety standards. Various City neighborhood fire stations are in need of repair and modernization.

The Department also operates homeless shelters throughout the City, as well as non-residential sites that provide services to homeless people.

The Citizens' General Obligation Bond Oversight Committee oversees the City's use of general obligation bond funds.

The Proposal: Proposition A is an ordinance that would allow the City to borrow up to \$350 million by issuing general obligation bonds. The City would use this money to build, acquire, and improve health care, emergency response and safety, and homeless facilities. The use of the funds would be as follows:

- \$272 million to fund seismic retrofits and fire response system improvements at SFGH; renovate and expand the Southeast Health Center; and upgrade high-demand neighborhood health clinics by making improvements to expand access to mental health, urgent care, substance abuse, dental care, and social services;
- \$58 million to build a new, larger, seismically safe facility to house City-owned ambulances, and to repair and modernize neighborhood fire stations Citywide; and
- \$20 million to build, acquire, and improve facilities to better serve homeless individuals and families at homeless shelters and homeless service sites.

Proposition A would allow an increase in the property tax to pay for the bonds, if needed. Landlords would be permitted to pass through up to 50% of any resulting property tax increase to tenants.

Proposition A also would require the Citizens' General Obligation Bond Oversight Committee to review the spending of bond funds. One-tenth of one percent (0.1%) of the bond funds would pay for the committee's audit and oversight functions.

Approval of this measure requires two-thirds of votes cast.

**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.*

A "YES" Vote Means: If you vote "yes," you want the City to issue \$350 million in general obligation bonds to:

- fund seismic retrofits and fire response system improvements at SFGH;
- renovate and expand the Southeast Health Center;
- improve high-demand community health centers;
- build, acquire, improve, retrofit, and upgrade the San Francisco Fire Department Ambulance Deployment Facility;
- repair and modernize neighborhood fire stations; and
- build, acquire, and improve facilities to better serve homeless individuals and families at homeless shelters and homeless service sites.

A "NO" Vote Means: If you vote "no," you do not want the City to issue these bonds.