

City-Funded Legal Representation for Residential Tenants in Eviction Lawsuits*

Digest by the Ballot Simplification Committee

Status: Final digest

On: Thursday, March 1, 2018

Members: Packard, Anderson, Patterson, Raveche

Deadline to Request Reconsideration: 4 p.m. on Friday, March 2

The Way It Is Now: The City and County of San Francisco funds nonprofit organizations that provide free legal representation to some San Francisco residential tenants who face eviction.

To evict a residential tenant, the landlord must give the tenant a written notice of eviction. If a tenant does not move, the landlord may file a lawsuit asking a court to order eviction.

The Proposal: Proposition ___ would adopt a policy that San Francisco shall provide legal representation to all residential tenants facing eviction.

Proposition ___ would require the City to:

- Establish, fund and run a program to provide legal representation for all tenants in San Francisco facing eviction;
- Provide a lawyer for a tenant within 30 days after the tenant receives an eviction notice or immediately upon receipt of a lawsuit seeking eviction, whichever is sooner. The lawyer would provide legal representation to the tenant through all stages of the eviction process until resolved; and
- Implement this program within 12 months after this measure is adopted.

Proposition ___ would not require the City to provide legal representation to tenants who reside in the same dwelling unit with their landlord.

A "YES" Vote Means: If you vote "yes," you want to require the City to establish, fund and run a program to provide legal representation for all residential tenants in San Francisco facing eviction.

A "NO" Vote Means: If you vote "no," you do not want to create this program.

**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.*