

Public Utilities Revenue Bonds*

Digest by the Ballot Simplification Committee

Status: Final digest

On: Monday, February 26, 2018

Members: Packard, Anderson, Patterson

Deadline to Request Reconsideration: 4 p.m. on Tuesday, February 27

The Way It Is Now: The City owns several public utilities, including power, water and sewer systems operated by the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (PUC). The PUC uses the money customers pay for power, water and sewer service to operate these utilities and to repay bonds the City has issued to build and improve sewer and water facilities.

When the City issues a revenue bond to pay for PUC facilities, the City pays back the money with interest using customer funds collected by the PUC.

In 2002, the voters passed Proposition E to authorize the PUC to issue revenue bonds to build or improve water and sewer facilities, with approval by two-thirds of the Board of Supervisors. Revenue bonds to build or improve power facilities must be approved by the voters.

The Proposal: Proposition ___ would amend the Charter to authorize the PUC to issue revenue bonds to build or improve clean power facilities, with approval by two-thirds of the Board of Supervisors.

Proposition ___ would require the PUC to use revenue bond funds to finance new power facilities that deliver clean energy, enhance reliability and safety, and increase sustainability. The measure would also prohibit the PUC from financing construction of power plants that generate electricity from fossil fuels or nuclear power.

A "YES" Vote Means: If you vote "yes," you want to authorize the PUC to issue revenue bonds to build or improve the City's clean power facilities, with approval by two-thirds of the Board of Supervisors, and to prohibit the PUC from financing construction of power plants that generate electricity from fossil fuels or nuclear power.

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

**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.*