

## Use of Tasers by San Francisco Police Officers\*

Digest by the Ballot Simplification Committee

**Status:** Draft for Consideration  
**On:** Thursday, March 1, 2018  
**Members:** Packard, Anderson, Patterson

**Deadline to Request Reconsideration:** TBD

---

**The Way It Is Now:** Conductive energy devices (“CEDs”) are weapons that discharge electrical currents into an individual, causing incapacitation. CEDs are sometimes referred to as tasers. Taser is a brand name of one type of CED.

San Francisco police officers do not currently use CEDs.

The San Francisco Police Commission (“Commission”) sets policy for the San Francisco Police Department (“SFPD”). In November 2017, the Commission authorized the SFPD to use CEDs starting in December 2018.

Automated External Defibrillators (“AED”s) are portable devices that deliver an electric shock to the heart, and can allow a normal rhythm to resume following sudden cardiac arrest. About half of SFPD patrol vehicles have AEDs.

The City’s Charter establishes the City’s budget process. Under that process, the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor must approve the City’s budget each year.

**The Proposal:** Proposition \_\_\_ would authorize the SFPD to purchase CEDs for each police officer. This measure would authorize officers to use CEDs, subject to all the following conditions:

- only officers who have successfully completed training would be authorized to use CEDs;
- officers could only use SFPD-issued CEDs and holsters;
- officers would be required to carry their CEDs in holsters on the opposite side of their body from their firearm;
- SFPD vehicles in police districts where CEDs are deployed would be required to carry AEDs;
- the SFPD would be required to investigate each time an officer used a CED.

Proposition \_\_\_ would require the SFPD to request that the City appropriate sufficient funds each year to implement this measure. The SFPD would have to make the first request for appropriation of funds 45 days after this measure is enacted.

**A "YES" Vote Means:** If you vote “yes,” you want to authorize the San Francisco Police Department to purchase tasers for each police officer, and to authorize officers to use tasers, subject to specific conditions.

**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.*