

Ballot Simplification Committee
FINAL Approved Digest – August 4, 2008
Approved by: Packard, Chisnell, Fasick, Fraps, Jorgensen

San Francisco Public High School Students' Participation in the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC)

THE WAY IT IS NOW:

The Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) is a program offered to high school students. Each branch of the military – the Army, Marines, Air Force, Navy and Coast Guard – allows local high schools to apply for and make available a JROTC program for their students. In San Francisco, JROTC instructors hold California Special Subject teaching credentials and are retired members of the Armed Forces. Students who participate in JROTC must attend school full-time and may enroll in the program at the ninth-grade level or above.

The San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) has participated in JROTC for 90 years, offering Army and Navy JROTC programs at seven public high schools.

On November 14, 2006, the San Francisco Board of Education (School Board) passed a resolution to phase-out all JROTC programs in San Francisco public schools by the end of the 2007-08 school year. The resolution also called for a task force to develop alternative, creative, and career driven programs. The resolution directed the task force to develop recommended alternatives that offer elements of the existing JROTC program that students have indicated are important to them.

The School Board later extended the JROTC programs through the 2008-09 school year to provide additional time to develop and implement alternative programs. JROTC programs are scheduled to end in June 2009.

THE PROPOSAL:

Proposition ___ would make it City policy to encourage the Board of Education to reverse its action to terminate the JROTC program and to continue to offer the program in San Francisco public high schools.

A “YES” VOTE MEANS: If you vote "yes," you want to make it City policy to encourage the Board of Education to reverse its action to terminate the JROTC program and to continue to offer the program in San Francisco public high schools.

A “NO” VOTE MEANS: If you vote “no,” you do not want to adopt this declaration of City policy.

word count: 306

[suggested word limit: 300]