

**Ballot Simplification Committee
DRAFT for Consideration
Monday, August 4, 2008**

**San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center
General Obligation Bond**

THE WAY IT IS NOW:

The San Francisco Department of Public Health (DPH) operates the San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center (SFGH) located in the City's Mission District. SFGH, the City's acute care hospital, treats more than 1,500 patients every day and almost 100,000 a year.

SFGH is an aging facility, and the main acute care hospital building is over 30 years old. In 2000, DPH commissioned a study concluding that SFGH is seismically vulnerable and may not be able to continue to provide services after a major earthquake. The City's ten-year capital plan identified SFGH as one of the City's highest priority earthquake safety projects.

Under state law, SFGH must meet seismic safety standards by 2013 or it will be forced to close its acute care facilities. The 2013 deadline may be extended by the state under certain circumstances.

Property tax revenues pay for the principal and interest on general obligation bonds.

THE PROPOSAL:

Proposition ___ is a bond measure that would authorize the City to borrow \$887,400,000 by issuing general obligation bonds for building and/or rebuilding and improving the earthquake safety of SFGH.

As described in the City's environmental impact report for the project, the bond proceeds would primarily fund the construction of a new building on the current SFGH site. The building would meet the state's new higher standards for seismic

safety for acute care hospitals. The building would provide 284 beds for acute care treatment and would house the SFGH emergency department, obstetrics, pediatrics, intensive care and critical care units, and operating rooms.

In 2009, existing SFGH facilities would be relocated and replaced so that patient treatment could continue during construction. Construction would begin in 2010, and it is estimated that the new building would be complete in 2015.

Proposition ___ requires the Citizen's General Obligation Bond Oversight Committee to provide independent oversight of 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.

Proposition ___ would require an increase in the property tax to pay for the bonds. It would permit landlords to pass-through 50 percent of the resulting property tax increase to tenants.

A two-thirds majority vote is required for the passage of this bond measure.

A “YES” VOTE MEANS: If you vote "yes," you want the City to issue \$887,400,000 in general obligation bonds, subject to independent oversight and regular audits, and authorize landlords to pass-through 50% of the increase in property taxes, to ensure that SFGH would continue to operate after an earthquake by improving its seismic safety.

A “NO” VOTE MEANS: If you vote “no,” you do not want the City to issue these bonds.

word count: 433 [suggested word limit: 300]