

**Ballot Simplification Committee  
DRAFT for Consideration  
Thursday, July 31, 2008**

**Treatment on Demand**

**THE WAY IT IS NOW:**

The San Francisco Department of Public Health (DPH) is the City agency primarily responsible for providing public health services, including substance abuse treatment.

DPH provides substance abuse treatment services through its Community Substance Abuse Services (CSAS) program. Under CSAS, DPH assesses the scope of alcohol and drug abuse problems in the City and provides prevention, treatment, and outreach services.

The Local Homeless Coordinating Board (LHCB) is one of the City's policy bodies responsible for planning and coordinating homeless programs and services. Earlier this year, the LHCB completed a five-year strategic plan entitled "Toward Ending Homelessness in San Francisco." The strategic plan identified a number of policies to prevent and eliminate homelessness in San Francisco, including substance abuse treatment. On February 26, 2008, the Board of Supervisors (Board) adopted a

resolution declaring that the five-year strategic plan is the City's official policy on homelessness.

### **THE PROPOSAL:**

Proposition \_\_ would require DPH to maintain an adequate level of free and low-cost substance abuse treatment services and residential treatment capacity sufficient to meet existing demand. Proposition \_\_ would also require DPH to provide an annual report to the Board assessing demand for substance abuse treatment and presenting a plan to meet such demand. The City's budget would include the DPH plan. The City would be required to provide a variety of substance abuse treatment services.

The City would also be required to prevent any reduction in funding for City substance abuse treatment programs, staffing for such programs, or the number of substance abuse treatment slots, as long as there is unmet demand.

**A “YES” VOTE MEANS:** If you vote "yes," you want to require DPH to provide enough free and low-cost medical substance abuse treatment services to meet demand and require the City to maintain funding for such services.

**A “NO” VOTE MEANS:** If you vote “no,” you do not want to make this change to City law.

word count: 305 [suggested word limit: 300]