

**Ballot Simplification Committee**  
**FINAL Approved Digest – August 7, 2008**  
**Approved by: Packard, Chisnell, Fasick, Fraps, Jorgensen**

**Any Requests for Reconsideration must be received by 11:20 a.m. on August 8, 2008**

**Community Justice Center**

**THE WAY IT IS NOW:**

The San Francisco Superior Court's criminal division hears misdemeanor and felony cases. If defendants are found guilty, they may be subject to fines or imprisonment.

The City has acted to establish a new Community Justice Center (CJC), which will include a court as well as access to health and social services. The CJC Court will handle some criminal misdemeanor and non-violent felony cases normally heard by the Superior Court. The Court will handle cases in which defendants are charged with committing crimes in the Tenderloin, South of Market Area, Civic Center, and Union Square neighborhoods, as well as any other areas of the City selected by the Mayor's office and the Superior Court. Defendants appearing before the CJC Court will be offered health and social services case management.

In 2008, the Board of Supervisors approved the following actions:

- Provided \$998,145 to create and operate the CJC in the 2008-2009 fiscal year. The Board of Supervisors has the authority to change this funding, subject to the Mayor's veto.
- Authorized the Department of Public Health to accept a federal grant of up to \$984,000 in additional funds.
- Authorized the Director of Property to enter into a lease to house the CJC. The Director of Property has entered into that lease.

**THE PROPOSAL:**

Proposition \_\_\_ would:

- Guarantee that the City provide first-year funding for the CJC,
- Authorize the Director of Property to lease space for the CJC, and
- Define the CJC's scope and operations.

Proposition \_\_\_ would guarantee \$1.77 million for the 2008-2009 fiscal year to set up the CJC and fund its first year of operations. The Board of Supervisors would not have the authority to reduce these funds for the 2008-2009 fiscal year.

Proposition \_\_\_ would also authorize the Director of Property to enter into a lease or take other actions to obtain facilities for the CJC.

Proposition \_\_\_ states the CJC Court would hear criminal cases concerning misdemeanors, non-violent felonies, and other crimes considered appropriate by the Superior Court and the Mayor's office. The Court would handle cases in which defendants are charged with committing crimes in the Tenderloin, South of Market Area, Civic Center, and Union Square neighborhoods, as well as any other areas of the City selected by the Mayor's office and the Superior Court. In the CJC Court, a single judge would preside over cases to help ensure that defendants appear in court and obtain needed social services. The CJC would provide access to social, health and community services to defendants and other community members.

**A "YES" VOTE MEANS:** If you vote "yes," you want to guarantee that the City provide first-year funding for the Community Justice Center (CJC), authorize the Director of Property to lease space for the CJC, and define the CJC's scope and operations.

**A "NO" VOTE MEANS:** If you vote "no," you do not want the City to take these actions.

word count: 382 [suggested word limit: 300]