

**Ballot Simplification Committee - DRAFT for Consideration on Wednesday, August 3, 2011**

**Road Repaving and Street Safety Bonds** *(working title only, subject to change)*

**THE WAY IT IS NOW:**

The City maintains about 850 miles of streets and more than 35,000 street trees. The City also maintains over 340 street structures, such as bridges, tunnels, and stairways. The City has paid for this maintenance with federal, state, and local funds.

The City uses property tax revenues to pay the principal and interest on general obligation bonds.

The City's Citizen's General Obligation Bond Oversight Committee is a nine-member body that monitors the City's use of funds generated by issuing general obligation bonds. The members of this committee are appointed by the Mayor, the Board of Supervisors (Board), the Controller, and the Civil Grand Jury.

**THE PROPOSAL:**

Proposition \_\_\_ is a bond measure that would authorize the City to borrow up to \$248 million by issuing general obligation bonds to improve and repair streets, sidewalks, and street structures.

The City could use this money to:

- repair and repave City streets;
- repair street structures;
- redesign street corridors by adding or improving pedestrian signals, lighting, sidewalk extensions, bicycle lanes, trees, and landscaping;
- construct and renovate curb ramps and sidewalks to increase accessibility and safety for persons with disabilities and residents; and
- add and repair traffic signals to improve Muni service.

These proposed uses of the bond funds would be subject to review and further changes by the Mayor and the Board.

Proposition \_\_\_ would allow for an increase in the property tax to pay for the bonds. It would permit landlords to pass through 50% of the resulting property tax increase to their tenants.

Proposition \_\_\_ would require 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.

Two-thirds of the voters must approve this measure for it to pass.

**A “YES” VOTE MEANS:** If you vote "yes," you want the City to issue \$248 million in general obligation bonds to repair streets, stairways, bridges and overpasses, redesign streetscapes, improve safety for pedestrians and bicyclists, renovate traffic signals to improve Muni service, and increase sidewalk access and safety for persons with disabilities and residents, subject to independent oversight and audits, and authorizing landlords to pass-through 50% of the resulting increase in the real property taxes to their tenants.

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

word count: 393 [suggested word limit: 300]