

Ballot Simplification Committee

APPROVED Digest – 10:05 a.m. on Tuesday, August 2, 2011 – Packard, Fraps, Fasick, Jorgensen, Unruh

Amending Initiative Ordinances and Policy Declarations *(working title only, subject to change)*

Any Requests for Reconsideration due Wednesday, August 3, 2011, at 10:05 a.m.

The Way It Is Now:

The City's Charter allows the voters, the Board of Supervisors (Board), and the Mayor to place proposed measures (initiative ordinances and declarations of policy) on the ballot. The voters can place measures on the ballot by collecting the required valid signatures from San Francisco voters. The Board can place measures on the ballot by a majority vote of its members at a public meeting. And four or more individual Board members or the Mayor can independently submit measures to the ballot.

The Board and the Mayor cannot amend or repeal a voter-approved measure unless the measure itself allows them to do so.

The Proposal:

Proposition ___ is a Charter Amendment that would apply only to measures placed on the ballot by the Board and the Mayor and not to those placed on the ballot by collecting voter signatures. Proposition ___ would allow the Board and the Mayor to amend or repeal measures that the Board, individual Board members or the Mayor place on the ballot and that the voters approve, under these three conditions:

- for three years after the measure takes effect, the Board and Mayor may not amend or repeal it;
- after the first three years, and until seven years after the measure takes effect, the Board and the Mayor may amend or repeal the measure with a two-thirds vote of the Board; and
- after seven years, the Board and the Mayor may amend or repeal the measure with a majority vote of the Board.

Unless the measure itself provides otherwise, Proposition ___ would not allow the Board and Mayor to amend or repeal:

- measures that the voters approved before January 1, 2012, or
- measures that the voters place on the ballot by collecting required signatures.

Proposition __ would not apply to Charter Amendments or bond measures.

A “YES” Vote Means: If you vote "yes," you want to amend the Charter to allow the Board and the Mayor to amend or repeal measures that the Board, individual Board members or the Mayor place on the ballot and that the voters approve after January 1, 2012, under certain conditions.

A “NO” Vote Means: If you vote “no,” you do not want to make this change to the Charter.

word count: 363 [suggested word limit: 300]