

Words You Need to Know

Affordable housing (Proposition B): Residential units that persons or households within a certain range of incomes would be able to afford.

Affordable housing fund (Proposition B): The Citywide Affordable Housing Fund was established by the City to collect fees from residential development projects to fund affordable housing projects in San Francisco.

Charter amendment (Proposition A): A change to the City's Charter. The Charter is the City's Constitution. The Charter can only be changed by a majority of the votes cast.

Declaration of policy (Proposition D): A statement or expression of the will of the voters.

Early voting (Frequently Asked Questions): Voting in person at City Hall before Election Day or mailing a vote-by-mail ballot before Election Day. See page X for more information.

Facilities (Propositions B and C): Buildings or structures used for particular purposes.

Fully funded (Proposition A): A trust fund account is fully funded when assets in the account are sufficient to pay then-projected retiree health care costs as they come due.

General Fund (Proposition A): That part of the City's annual budget used for basic City services such as public safety, health and human services and public works. Each year, the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors decide how the General Fund will be used. Money for the General Fund comes mainly from property, business, sales, and other taxes and fees. Currently, the General Fund is 50% of the City's budget.

Initiative (Propositions B and D): A proposition placed on the ballot by voters. Any voter may place an initiative on the ballot by gathering the required number of signatures of registered voters on a petition.

Inpatient services (Proposition D): Services provided to a patient who is admitted to a hospital or clinic for treatment that requires at least one overnight stay.

Institutional health services (Proposition D): Health services provided at the San Francisco Jail.

Jurisdiction (Propositions B and C): The authority to develop, manage, and maintain property.

Legal building height limits (Propositions B and C): Limits set by the City as to how tall a building may be built.

Mixed-use building (Proposition B and C): A building that has more than one significant use, such as housing, restaurants, recreation and retail shops.

Ordinance (Propositions B and C): A local law passed by the Board of Supervisors or by the voters.

Outpatient services (Proposition D): Services provided to a patient who does not remain in a hospital or clinic overnight.

Proposition (Propositions A–D): Any measure that is submitted to the voters for approval or disapproval.

Provisional ballot (Frequently Asked Questions): A ballot cast at a polling place that will not be counted until the Department of Elections verifies the voter’s eligibility to cast that ballot.

Qualified write-in candidate: A person who has completed the required paperwork and signatures for inclusion as a write-in candidate. Although the name of this person will not appear on the ballot, voters can vote for this person by writing the name of the person in the space on the ballot provided for write-in votes and following specific ballot instructions. The Department of Elections counts write-in votes only for qualified write-in candidates. See page X for more information.

Referendum (Proposition C): The process by which voters can approve or reject legislation enacted by the Board of Supervisors.

Retiree Health Care Trust Fund (Proposition A): An account that is kept separate from other accounts and contains assets that can only be used to pay retiree health care costs.

Revenue (Proposition B): Income.

San Francisco Port Commission (Propositions B and C): The City commission responsible for managing and maintaining the seven and one-half miles of the City’s waterfront along the San Francisco Bay.

Site (Propositions B and C): A specific plot of land.

Special use district (Proposition B): An area where some rules, including zoning, can be different from those that would otherwise apply.

Trust fund (Proposition A): See “Retiree Health Care Trust Fund.”

Vote-by-mail ballots (Frequently Asked Questions): Ballots mailed to voters or given to voters in person at the Department of Elections. Vote-by-mail ballots can be mailed to the Department of Elections, turned in at the Department of Elections office in City Hall, or turned in at any San Francisco polling place on Election Day. Also known as absentee ballots. See page X for more information.

Walkways (Propositions B and C): Any passage for walking, including sidewalks, paths, and trails.