

Words You Need to Know (DRAFT)

California State Lands Commission (Proposition __): The State commission responsible for managing and maintaining state lands, waterways, and other resources.

Charter amendment (Proposition __): 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 __): A statement or expression of the will of the voters.

Fully funded (Proposition __): 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 __): The part of the City's annual budget that can be used for any City purpose. Each year, the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors decide how the General Fund will be used. Money for the General Fund comes from property, business, sales, and other taxes and fees. Currently, the General Fund is 47% of the City's budget.

Initiative (Proposition __): A proposition placed on the ballot by voters. Any voter may place an initiative on the ballot by gathering the required number of valid signatures on a petition.

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

Jurisdiction (Proposition __): The authority to develop, manage, and maintain land.

Legal height limits (Proposition __): Limits set by the City as to how tall a building or other structure may be built.

Mixed use building (Proposition __): A building that has more than one significant use, such as housing, restaurants, and retail.

Ordinance (Proposition __): A local law passed by the Board of Supervisors or by the voters.

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

Referendum (Proposition __): The process by which voters can overturn legislation enacted by the Board of Supervisors.

Revenue (Proposition __): Income.

San Francisco Planning Commission: The City commission responsible for adopting and maintaining a comprehensive, long term general plan for future improvement and development of the City's land.

San Francisco Port Commission (Proposition __): 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 (Proposition __): A plot of land.

Special use district (Proposition __): An area that can contain different zoning rules from other parts of the City.

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

Walkways (Proposition __): Any passage for walking, including sidewalks, paths, and trails.

Other usual inclusions:

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.

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

Qualified write-in candidate (Frequently Asked Questions): 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.