

Member, Board of Supervisors  
District 8



City and County of San Francisco

**SCOTT WIENER**  
**威善高**

August 10, 2016

Barbara Carr  
Voter Information Division, Publications  
Department of Elections, City and County of San Francisco  
City Hall Room 48  
1 Dr. Carlton B Goodlett Place  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: Suggested Edits to the Responsibility for Maintenance of Street Trees Measure

Dear Ms. Carr,

After reviewing the digest for the Responsibility for Maintenance of Street Trees ballot measure, I am submitting the following requested edits in bold:

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The Way It Is Now: City law generally requires property owners to maintain trees in the public sidewalk area next to their property as well as the sidewalk around those trees (**“street trees”**).\*\*

*\*\*I believe that collapsing street trees and sidewalks around street trees into the term “Street Trees” would be confusing for the voters. Doing so over-emphasizes trees and underemphasizes sidewalk repair. A primary aspect of the program is the release of liability and repair of sidewalk damage caused by trees.*

A property owner is usually liable for injuries and property damage other people may suffer resulting from the owner’s failure to maintain street trees **and sidewalk damage caused by street trees**.

The San Francisco Unified School District (School District) is responsible for maintaining trees on its property.

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The Proposal: Proposition \_\_\_ is a Charter amendment that would transfer responsibility **from property owners** to the City for maintaining **all street trees and sidewalks around street trees**. The City would then be liable for injuries and property damage resulting from the failure to maintain street trees **and to repair sidewalks damaged by street trees**. **Property owners would be relieved of these responsibilities and liability**.

The City would pay for maintaining street trees **and sidewalks** by setting aside \$19 million per year **in dedicated funding** from the City's General Fund, adjusted annually based on the City's revenue.

The City could give up to \$500,000 per year from the set-aside to the San Francisco Unified School district to help pay for the cost of maintaining ~~or removing~~ trees on public school property.

Up until January 1, 2017, the Mayor would have the one-time authority to terminate the fund and the set-aside immediately, based on the Mayor's review of the City's financial condition.

A "YES" Vote Means: If you vote "yes," you want to amend the Charter to transfer responsibility for maintaining **all street trees and sidewalks around street trees** from ~~adjoining adjacent~~ property owners to the City and you want the City to pay for maintaining street trees **and repairing sidewalks around street trees** by setting aside from its General Fund \$19 million per year, adjusted annually based on City revenues.

A "NO" Vote Means: If you vote "no," you do not want to make these changes.

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Thank you for your consideration of these changes and for your service.

Sincerely,



Scott Wiener  
Member, San Francisco Board of Supervisors