

Funding for Seniors and Adults with Disabilities*

Digest by the Ballot Simplification Committee

Status: Final Digest

On: Thursday, July 28, 2016

Members: Packard, Anderson, Fasick, Jorgensen

Deadline to Request Reconsideration: 12:45 p.m. on Friday, July 29

The Way It Is Now: The City's Department of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS) is responsible for planning, coordinating and advocating for services for seniors and adults with disabilities. The City's Commission on Aging oversees many of DAAS' activities. DAAS provides a range of programs and services for seniors and adults with disabilities, including:

- in-home supportive services,
- nutrition and wellness programs,
- senior centers and activity centers and
- legal services.

DAAS is also responsible for administering the Community Living Fund, which helps fund programs to assist individuals to age in their own homes, assisted living facilities or supportive housing.

Each year, the City determines the funding for DAAS' programs and activities, including the Community Living Fund. The City is not required to appropriate any specific annual amount for DAAS in the budget.

In addition to DAAS, the City has established a Long Term Care Coordinating Council to advise and coordinate community-based long-term care planning services for older adults and adults with disabilities.

The Proposal: Proposition ___ is a Charter amendment that would create a Dignity Fund to provide guaranteed funding for programs and services for seniors and adults with disabilities. This Fund would expire on June 30, 2037.

Services and programs would include home- and community-based long-term care and support, food and nutrition, consumer and caregiver education and support, seniors/disabled community and service centers, legal services, health and wellness, and targeted outreach.

Under Proposition ___, the City would be required to set aside monies from its General Fund each year to contribute to the Dignity Fund, as follows:

- for the first year, the City would contribute at least \$38 million, the same amount the City budgeted in fiscal year 2016-17 for services that could be funded in the future by the Dignity Fund;
- for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018, the City would contribute at least \$44 million;
- for fiscal years from July 1, 2018, until June 30, 2027, the City would increase its contribution by \$3 million each year, until it reaches \$71 million a year. If the City faced a projected budget deficit exceeding \$200 million, the City would not have to increase the contribution to this Fund;
- for fiscal years from July 1, 2027, until June 30, 2037, the City's contribution to this Fund would equal the prior year's contributions, adjusted for changes in the City's revenues.

**Working title, for identification only. The Director of Elections determines the title of each local ballot measure; measure titles are not considered during Ballot Simplification Committee meetings.*

Under Proposition __, this Fund would pay for many of the same types of programs and services currently provided by DAAS. Proposition __ would also establish a four-year planning process and require a regular evaluation of the services and programs this Fund supports.

In addition to the Long Term Care Coordinating Council, Proposition __ would create an 11-member Oversight and Advisory Committee to monitor and participate in the administration of this Fund.

A "YES" Vote Means: If you vote "yes," you want to amend the Charter to establish the Dignity Fund and set aside at least \$38 million a year, plus scheduled increases, from the General Fund until June 30, 2037, to pay for programs and services to assist seniors and adults with disabilities.

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