

D

Non-Citizen Voting in School Board Elections

Shall the City allow non-citizen residents of San Francisco who are 18 years of age or older and have children living in the San Francisco Unified School District to vote for members of the Board of Education?

YES  
NO  

Digest by the Ballot Simplification Committee

The Way It Is Now: The San Francisco Unified School District operates 140 public schools in San Francisco for students from pre-kindergarten through grade twelve. The San Francisco Board of Education oversees and sets policy for the School District. The Board of Education has seven members who are elected by San Francisco voters. Elections for members of the Board of Education are held in November of even-numbered years.

San Francisco residents who are 18 years of age or older, United States citizens, and not in prison or on parole for a felony conviction are eligible to register to vote in San Francisco elections.

The Proposal: Proposition D is a Charter amendment that would allow any non-citizen resident of San Francisco to vote for members of the Board of Education if the resident:

- is the parent, legal guardian or legally-recognized caregiver for a child living in the School District, and
- is 18 years of age or older and not in prison or on parole for a felony conviction.

Proposition D would apply to the November 2012, 2014, and 2016 elections for members of the Board of Education. The measure would expire after the 2016 election unless the Board of Supervisors adopts an ordinance allowing it to continue.

A “YES” Vote Means: If you vote “yes,” you want to allow non-citizen residents of San Francisco who are 18 years of age or older and have children living in the San Francisco Unified School District to vote for members of the Board of Education.

A “NO” Vote Means: If you vote “no,” you do not want to allow non-citizen residents of San Francisco who are 18 years of age or older and have children living in the San Francisco Unified School District to vote for members of the Board of Education.

Controller’s Statement on “D”

City Controller Ben Rosenfield has issued the following statement on the fiscal impact of Proposition D:

Should the proposed Charter amendment be approved by the voters, in my opinion, it would increase the cost of government, as estimated by the Department of Elections, by approximately \$152,000 per election to print and distribute voting materials, train poll workers and develop procedures. Should the election take place by absentee ballot only, which would require a subsequent ordinance by the Board, costs may be reduced to approximately \$100,000.

The amendment would permit non-citizens 18 years of age or older who have children in the San Francisco public schools to vote in the elections for the School Board. The amendment would sunset on December 31, 2016, but could be extended by ordinance.

How “D” Got on the Ballot

On July 20, 2010, the Board of Supervisors voted 9 to 2 to place Proposition D on the ballot.

The Supervisors voted as follows:

Yes: Supervisors Alioto-Pier, Avalos, Campos, Chiu, Daly, Dufty, Mar, Maxwell and Mirkarimi.

No: Supervisors Chu and Elsbernd.

This measure requires 50%+1 affirmative votes to pass.

Arguments for and against this measure immediately follow this page. The full text begins on page 178. Some of the words used in the ballot digest are explained on page 61.