

Member, Board of Supervisors
District 9



City and County of San Francisco

DAVID CAMPOS

August 4, 2016

Chair Betty Packard and Members of the Ballot Simplification Committee
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
City Hall, Room 48
San Francisco, CA 94102

Via email to: publications@sfgov.org

Re: **Public Advocate – Draft Digest**

Dear Chair Packard and Members of the Committee:

As the legislative sponsor of the Public Advocate Charter Amendment, I write with comments and suggested edits to the Draft Digest for the measure that I ask you to consider.

"The Way It is Now" Section

The final Legislative Digest prepared by the City Attorney for the Board of Supervisors as we considered placing the Public Advocate Charter Amendment on the ballot is straightforward and in clear language explains the existing state of affairs in this area to voters as follows:

"The City currently does not have a particular official or central office responsible for overseeing how City departments interact with the public. The Controller reviews some City programs and services and runs the City's whistleblower program.

The City has an Office of Citizen Complaints ("OCC"), which investigates complaints of misconduct and neglect of duty by police officers, and may, in certain circumstances, file disciplinary charges against the officers. The Mayor appoints a Director of the OCC from nominees selected by the Police Commission, and the Board of Supervisors confirms the Mayor's appointment."

In contrast, the Draft Digest does not explain that there is currently no city official or central office responsible for this oversight. It instead discusses the functions of the 311 Customer Service Center, which would not be directly affected by this ballot measure. It also features a paragraph and four bullet points outlining in detail the functions of the Controller's office, which is not the subject of this ballot measure. I am concerned that this information would mislead a voter into thinking that these two city departments are the subject of this measure.

Instead, I would suggest that the Committee track the Legislative Digest more closely as stated above. Regarding the description of the OCC, the language of both the Legislative Digest and the Draft Digest is nearly identical and I am not suggesting that it be changed.

"The Proposal" Section

The bullet points in this section describing the duties of the Public Advocate can be shortened and still provide voters the information they need to understand what the office would do. I would suggest these changes below (**additions in bold**) to the bullet points in this section:

"Under Proposition ____, the Public Advocate would:

- investigate and attempt to resolve complaints from members of the public concerning City services and programs;
- receive and investigate confidential whistleblower **concerning City services and programs** ~~complaints concerning incorrect, unreasonable, or unfair decisions or rulings of City officers or agencies, inconsistent enforcement, or failure to enforce, laws, rules or regulations, poor or inadequate service delivery or treatment, poor communication, including unreasonably long response or wait times and unreasonable response delays, or inequitable or inefficient provision of City services;~~
- review the administration of City programs, **management practices, and contracting procedures and make recommendations to improve them**, ~~including the distribution of programs and services throughout the City, the effectiveness of the public information and service complaint programs of City agencies, and the responsiveness of City agencies to individual and group requests for data or information regarding the agencies' structure, activities, and operations; and;~~
- ~~review the management and employment practices of City officers and departments;~~
- ~~review the City's contracting procedures and practices; and~~
- appoint a Director of the **office** ~~Office of Citizen Complaints (or any agency that assumes the Office's duties)~~, which investigates complaints of police misconduct, from nominees selected by the Police Commission, subject to the Board of Supervisors' approval.

"A 'YES' Vote Means" Section

I would suggest explaining in one sentence what voting Yes on the Public Advocate ballot measure would do as follows:

"A 'YES' Vote Means: If you vote "yes," you want to create a new citywide elected office called the Public Advocate which would be responsible for investigating and attempting to resolve public complaints concerning City services and programs, reviewing the administration of City programs, practices, and contracting procedures and making recommendations to improve them, and

appointing a Director of the office which investigates complaints of police misconduct.”

Making these changes will better inform voters as to the nature and impact of the measure. I would appreciate your consideration of these suggestions during your discussions.

Thank you very much for your dedicated service to the people of San Francisco.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Campos". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a prominent loop at the end.

Supervisor David Campos