

July 27, 2016

Members, Ballot Simplification Committee  
Department of Elections  
City and County of San Francisco  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 48  
San Francisco, CA 94102

VIA PDF E-MAIL

**Re: Request for Reconsideration of Approved Digest for  
“Competitive Bidding for Affordable Housing Projects on  
City-Owned Property” Initiative**

Dear Members of the Ballot Simplification Committee:

Thank you for your time and consideration in approving the digest for the “Competitive Bidding for Affordable Housing Projects on City-Owned Property” Initiative (the Initiative) at your July 26th meeting.

I write on behalf of Working Families Fighting to Stay in San Francisco, however, to request that the Committee reconsider its decision to delete a sentence that was briefly included in the “A ‘YES’ Vote Means” section regarding the fact that the Initiative would make current bidding practices of the Housing Office a part of City law.

As several commenters noted yesterday, whether or not the Housing Office currently considers some or all of the specified criteria in its evaluation of bids as a matter of voluntary practice, the Initiative does nevertheless work a change on that front by incorporating the criteria into City law, thereby making them legally binding and enforceable obligations.

While we believe that the City Attorney’s original draft was preferable insofar as it set those new legally-enforceable obligations out in appropriate detail, we believe that *some* mention of that fact should be informed of that fact in “A ‘YES’ Vote Means.” Otherwise, a chief point and purpose of the measure will be omitted. At the least, that section should track the language of the language found in “The Proposal,” that “Proposition \_\_ also would make most current practices part of City law.”

[CES8440.01]

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Thus, we respectfully request that the City amend the Approved Digest's discussion of "A 'YES' Vote Means" as follows (new language in underline):

A "YES" Vote Means: If you vote "yes," you want to prohibit the City from proceeding with an affordable housing project on City-owned property unless the Housing Office receives at least three proposals. You also want to make most current bidding practices part of City law.

\* \* \* \* \*

Many thank in advance for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Christopher E. Skinnell