



AARON PESKIN

July 30, 2018

Ballot Simplification Committee
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 48
San Francisco, CA 94102
CC: Barbara Carr

Dear Committee Members Packard, Anderson, Patterson, Raveche:

Thank you for taking up Item 2 on today's agenda. We respectfully request that the Ballot Simplification Committee consider the following additions to the "Partial Allocation of Hotel Tax for Arts and Cultural Purposes" digest. We have attached a "track changes" version of the digest that reflects the language we request for these suggested changes:

1. We request that the first sentence in the "**The Way It Is Now**" section include the bolded language below:
 - "The City **currently** imposes a hotel tax on the rental of hotel rooms."
 - *Rationale:* This would make explicit that the hotel tax is a tax that already exists and will not place an additional tax on, or raise taxes for, San Franciscans. This was also the language used in the 2016 digest to describe the purpose of the Hotel Tax.
2. We request that first paragraph in the "**The Way It Is Now**" section include:
 - Language that clarifies that the original hotel tax allocated a portion of its funds to San Francisco arts.
 - *Rationale:* This would put the proposed changes in context with the history of the hotel tax and clarify for voters that this is not a new system of allocations, does not raise any taxes, and is only a reallocation of existing revenue sources.
3. We request that the following language be added as an additional section to the description of The Arts Commission in the "**The Way It Is Now**" section:
 - "The Arts Commission provides money to the City's Cultural Equity Endowment Fund, from which the City gives grants to:
 - arts organizations that represent historically underserved communities;
 - individual artists; and
 - non-profit organizations that provide affordable facilities for artists and arts organizations."
 - *Rationale:* This would make clear the impact that The Arts Commission has and the work they accomplish for communities and the City. This was also the full language used in the 2016 digest discussing the Arts Commission's purposes.

4. We request that the final sentence in the “**The Way It Is Now**” section change to:
 - “In addition to funding the Arts Commission, the City runs other programs that fund non-profit organizations to support arts activities, **bring arts education to our schools**, and help neighborhoods maintain their unique cultural heritage.”
 - *Rationale:* This will make clear that this measure will significantly boost arts education funding to provide more arts education to schools in San Francisco.
5. We request that the final sentence in “**The Proposal**” section be cut:
 - “The allocations could also be used for related administration costs.”
 - *Rationale:* The overwhelming majority of the funding is dedicated for granting to arts and culture groups. This sentence would misconstrue the central purposes of the allocations.

Thank you for your consideration and for all of your time and effort devoted to the work of the Committee.

Sincerely,



Aaron Peskin
Supervisor



Katy Tang
Supervisor