

## **Mental Health and Homelessness, Parks, and Streets Bond\***

**Digest** by the Ballot Simplification Committee

**Status:** Draft for Consideration  
**On:** Monday, July 20, 2020  
**Members:** Packard, Anderson, Girardin, Patterson

**Deadline to Request Reconsideration:** TBD

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**The Way It Is Now:** Between July 1, 2018 and June 30, 2019, the City provided services to about 18,000 people experiencing homelessness. About 4,000 of those individuals have a history of both mental health and substance use disorders. Every day, about 8,000 people experience homelessness in the City. The City offers temporary shelter to approximately 3,400 people per night through shelters, navigation centers, stabilization beds, and temporary housing. The City also administers long-term affordable and supportive housing with on-site social services to persons exiting homelessness.

The City operates and maintains 220 public parks and other open spaces, and dozens of other recreation facilities, throughout San Francisco.

The City maintains about 1,200 miles of streets, 50,000 curb ramps, 371 street structures, and nine plazas.

The Citizens' General Obligation Bond Oversight Committee oversees the spending of general obligation bond proceeds.

**The Proposal:** Proposition \_\_\_ is a bond measure that would authorize the City to borrow up to \$487.5 million by issuing general obligation bonds. The City would spend this money on improvements to mental health and homelessness projects, parks, open spaces, and recreation facilities, and streets, curb ramps, street structures, and plazas, under the following allocations.

The City could use up to \$207 million of the bond proceeds on mental health and homelessness projects such as:

- supportive housing units,
- shelters,
- psychiatric, residential treatment, behavioral health, and detox and sobering facilities,
- a new centralized behavioral health access center, and
- community health facilities.

The City could use up to \$239 million of the bond proceeds on parks, open spaces, and recreation facilities, a portion of which may be used to finance certain identified projects. The identified projects include:

- India Basin,
- Gene Friend Recreation Center,
- Herz Playground Recreation Center,
- Buchanan Street Mall, and
- Japantown Peace Plaza.

*\*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.*

The City could use up to \$41.5 million of the bond proceeds on:

- repaving and repair of streets,
- curb ramps,
- street structures, and
- plazas.

Proposition \_\_\_ would require the Citizens' General Obligation Bond Oversight Committee to review how these bond funds are spent.

If needed, Proposition \_\_\_ would allow an increase in the property tax to pay for the bonds. City policy limits the amount of money it borrows by issuing new bonds only as prior bonds are paid off. Landlords would be permitted to pass through up to 50 percent of any resulting property tax increase to tenants.

**A "YES" Vote Means:** If you vote "yes," you want the City to issue \$487.5 million in general obligation bonds to fund mental health and homelessness projects, parks, open spaces, and recreation facilities, and improvements to streets, street structures, plazas and curb ramps; with a duration of up to 30 years from the date of issuance, at an estimated average tax rate of \$0.014 per \$100 of assessed property value, and with projected average annual revenues to the City of \$40 million; subject to independent citizen oversight; and authorizing landlords to pass-through to residential tenants in rent-controlled units up to 50% of the increase in the real property taxes.

**A "NO" Vote Means:** If you vote "no," you do not want the City to issue these bonds.