

President, Board of Supervisors
District 7



City and County of San Francisco

NORMAN YEE

MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 20, 2020

TO: Members of the Ballot Simplification Committee

FROM: Jen Low, Chief of Staff, President Norman Yee

SUBJECT: Recommendations and Comments to First Draft of Ballot Digest for Charter Amendment on Requirements for Members of City Bodies

Dear Members of the Ballot Simplification Committee,

We write to ask for your consideration on our recommendations to the first draft of the ballot digest for the Charter Amendment regarding requirements for city bodies.

We are requesting clarifying language to capture the intent of the measure, which is to expand the eligibility for San Francisco residents who seek to serve as members of City bodies. The measure would remove the requirement that one must be an “elector” to serve, which currently means being a United States citizen and being registered to vote. The recommended changes are attached in redlined form. While the Committee does not decide on the title of the local ballot measure, we respectfully request the Working Title to better reflect the Charter Amendment. The Working Title “Removing Requirements for Membership of City Bodies” or “Expanding Eligibility for Membership on City Bodies” would be more suitable.

Thank you for your dedication and service to this important part of the election process.

Sincerely,

Jen Low

Attachments:

Redlined Document of Recommended Changes to First Draft of Ballot Digest

Removing Citizenship Requirements Expanding Eligibility for

Members of City Bodies* Digest by the Ballot Simplification Committee

Status: Draft for Consideration
On: Tuesday, July 21, 2020
Members: Packard, Anderson, Girardin, Patterson

Deadline to Request Reconsideration: TBD

The Way It Is Now: The City government includes many boards, commissions, and advisory bodies (City Bodies). In general, City Bodies are created through either the City's Charter or an ordinance. Members to City Bodies are appointed by an appointing officer or entity.

People who serve on City Bodies created through the Charter must be registered to vote in San Francisco, unless the Charter sets a different rule. Currently, to register to vote in San Francisco, a person must be a United States citizen, a San Francisco resident and of voting age, and cannot be in state or federal prison, be on parole for a felony conviction or have been found mentally incompetent to vote by a court.

People who serve on City Bodies created through an ordinance are required to be registered to vote in San Francisco unless:

- The Board of Supervisors has removed the requirement; or
- The public official making the appointment to a City Body waives the San Francisco residency requirement because a qualified San Francisco resident could not be found.

People who serve on all City Bodies, whether created through the Charter or an ordinance, must be U.S. citizens.

The Proposal: Proposition would allow all San Francisco residents of voting age to serve on boards, commissions, and advisory bodies by removing the requirement that a person must be a registered voter and a U.S. citizen to serve on any City Body.

Proposition would still require that members of City Bodies created through the Charter be old enough to vote in City elections and be San Francisco residents, unless the Charter sets a different rule for a particular City Body.

For City Bodies created through an ordinance, the Board of Supervisors could remove the voting age or residency requirements; or the official making the appointment could waive these requirements if a person meeting those requirements cannot be found.

A "YES" Vote Means: If you vote "yes," you want to amend the City's Charter to expand eligibility to all San Francisco residents remove the requirement that people to serving on the City's boards, commissions, and advisory bodies by removing the requirement that they generally must be U.S. citizens and registered voters.

A "NO" Vote Means: If you vote "no," you do not want to make this change.

**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.*

Commented [LJ(1): While the Ballot Simplification Committee does not decide on the Working Title, we would recommend clarification of it as it oversimplifies the measure and does not capture the intent. "Expanding Eligibility for Members of City Bodies" or "Removing Requirements for Members of City Bodies" would be more suitable.

Commented [LJ(2): Clarification that these City Bodies are not elected, but appointive.