

**Public Works Commission, Department of Sanitation and Streets, and Sanitation and Streets Commission\***  
**Digest** by the Ballot Simplification Committee

**Status:** Final digest  
**On:** Tuesday, July 21, 2020  
**Members:** Packard, Anderson, Girardin, Patterson

**Deadline to Request Reconsideration:** 4 p.m. on Wednesday, July 22

---

**The Way It Is Now:** The City's Department of Public Works, which was created by the City Charter, has four divisions:

- Operations, which maintains City buildings, streets, sewers, street trees, sidewalk trash cans and sidewalks, and removes graffiti;
- Building Design and Construction, which designs, builds and renovates City buildings and structures;
- Infrastructure Design and Construction, which maintains City streets, sidewalks, curb ramps, plazas, bridges, tunnels and stairways; and
- Finance and Administration.

The City Administrator oversees the Department of Public Works and appoints its director with the Mayor's approval.

**The Proposal:** Proposition \_\_\_ is a Charter amendment that would create a Department of Sanitation and Streets, which would take over some of the duties of the Department of Public Works.

This new Department of Sanitation and Streets would be responsible for:

- Sweeping streets and cleaning sidewalks;
- Providing and maintaining sidewalk trash cans;
- Removing graffiti and illegally dumped waste; and
- Maintaining City buildings, public restrooms and street trees.

Under Proposition \_\_\_, the Board of Supervisors, by a two-thirds vote, could modify these duties.

The Department of Public Works would continue to provide all other services required by law.

Proposition \_\_\_ would create a five-member Sanitation and Streets Commission to oversee the Department of Sanitation and Streets. The Board of Supervisors would appoint two members to this commission, the Mayor would appoint two, and the City Controller would appoint one.

The Mayor would appoint the Director of Sanitation and Streets from candidates selected by the Sanitation and Streets Commission.

Proposition \_\_\_ would also create a five-member Public Works Commission to oversee the Department of Public Works. The Board of Supervisors would appoint two members to this commission, the Mayor would appoint two, and the City Controller would appoint one.

The Mayor would appoint the Director of Public Works from candidates selected by the Public Works Commission.

*\*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.*

Proposition \_\_\_ would require the Services Audit Unit to evaluate whether there are inefficiencies or waste in the administration, operations and spending of both departments each year.

**A "YES" Vote Means:** If you vote "yes," you want to create a Department of Sanitation and Streets with oversight from a Sanitation and Streets Commission, and you want to establish a Public Works Commission to oversee the Department of Public Works.

**A "NO" Vote Means:** If you vote "no," you do not want to make these changes.