

Homelessness Oversight Commission *

Digest by the Ballot Simplification Committee

Status: Final Digest
On: Friday, August 5, 2022
Members: Packard, Anderson, Merrill, Patterson

The Way It Is Now: In 2016, the City established a Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing (Department). The Department manages and directs housing, programs and services for persons experiencing homelessness, including street outreach, homeless shelters, transitional housing and permanent supportive housing.

The mayor appoints and may remove the director of the Department. The City Charter does not require audits of homelessness services, and a City commission does not oversee the Department.

The City's Local Homeless Coordinating Board and other advisory bodies make recommendations on homeless policy and budget allocations. The mayor, the Board of Supervisors (Board) and the controller appoint members to the advisory bodies.

The Proposal: Proposition __ would create a Homelessness Oversight Commission (Commission) to oversee the Department.

The Commission would have seven members who would serve four-year terms. The mayor would appoint four members, and the Board of Supervisors would appoint three. The mayor's appointees would be subject to Board approval.

The mayor's four appointees must have the following qualifications:

- one seat would be for a person who has experienced homelessness;
- one seat would be for a person with significant experience providing services to or engaging in advocacy on behalf of persons experiencing homelessness;
- one seat would be for a person with expertise in providing mental health services or substance abuse treatment; and
- one seat would be for a person who has participated in a merchants' or small-business association, or a neighborhood association.

In addition to these qualifications, at least one of the mayor's appointees must also have experience in budgeting, finance and auditing.

The Board's appointees must have the following qualifications:

- one seat would be for a person who has personally experienced homelessness;
- one seat would be for a person with significant experience working with homeless families with children or homeless youth; and
- one seat would be for a person with significant experience providing services to or engaging in advocacy on behalf of persons experiencing homelessness.

**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 City controller to conduct audits of homelessness services.

A "YES" Vote Means: If you vote "yes," you want to establish a Homelessness Oversight Commission to oversee the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing and require the City controller to conduct audits of homelessness services.

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