

## **Homelessness Oversight Commission \***

**Digest** by the Ballot Simplification Committee

**Status:** Draft for Consideration  
**On:** Monday, August 1, 2020  
**Members:** Packard, Anderson, Merrill, Patterson

**Deadline to Request Reconsideration:** TBD

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**The Way It Is Now:** In 2016, the City established a Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing (HSH). HSH 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 HSH. A City commission does not oversee HSH.

The Local Homeless Coordinating Board (LHCB) is an advisory body that makes recommendations to HSH on homeless policy and budget allocations. The Mayor, the Board of Supervisors (Board), and the Controller appoint its members.

**The Proposal:** Proposition \_\_\_ is a Charter amendment that would create a Homelessness Oversight Commission (Commission) to oversee HSH.

The Commission would have seven members. They would serve four-year terms, except that three of the initial appointees would serve for two years. The Mayor would appoint four members, and the Board of Supervisors (Board) would appoint three members. The Mayor's appointees would be subject to Board approval.

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

- Seat 1 would be for a person who has experienced homelessness;
- Seat 2 would be for a person with significant experience providing services to or engaging in advocacy on behalf of persons experiencing homelessness;
- Seat 3 would be for a person with expertise in mental health service delivery or substance abuse treatment; and
- Seat 4 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:

- Seat 5 would be for a person who has personally experienced homelessness;
- Seat 6 would be for a person with significant experience working with homeless families with children and/or homeless youth; and
- Seat 7 would be 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 Mayor and the Board to make their appointments by March 1, 2023. The Commission would start meeting once four members are appointed or by May 1, 2023, whichever is later.

Under Proposition \_\_\_\_, the Commission may remove the Director of HSH. The Mayor may also recommend that the Commission remove the Director, and the Commission would have to remove or retain the Director within 30 days. For future Director vacancies, the Mayor would appoint the Director, after the Commission submits up to three qualified applicants.

Proposition \_\_\_\_ would require the Board to adopt an ordinance compelling the Commission to appoint all members of the LHCB.

**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.

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