

## **Eliminating Department of Sanitation and Streets \***

**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:** The Department of Public Works is generally responsible for designing, constructing and improving the City's infrastructure, including buildings, streets, sidewalks, bridges, and public stairways.

In November 2020, the voters approved a Charter amendment creating a new Department of Sanitation and Streets with the following responsibilities:

- 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.

The Charter amendment also required the City to create a new Sanitation and Streets Commission to oversee the Department of Sanitation and Streets and a new Public Works Commission to oversee DPW.

The Sanitation and Streets Commission has five members who must meet certain qualifications:

- a small business owner;
- a person with experience in project management;
- a person who has a background in finance and audits;
- a person who has a background in either urban forestry, urban design, or environmental services; and
- a person with significant experience in cleaning and maintaining public spaces.

The Public Works Commission also has five members who must meet certain qualifications:

- a registered professional engineer licensed in the State of California, with a background in civil, mechanical, or environmental engineering;
- a registered architect licensed in the State of California;
- a person with a background in finance with at least 5 years in auditing experience; and
- two at-large members who do not have to fill any specific qualifications.

Each commission is responsible for making recommendations to the Mayor for appointment of the department head of the department it oversees, and for removing the department head.

*\*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 Proposal:** Proposition \_\_\_\_ would amend the Charter to eliminate the Department of Sanitation and Streets and transfer its duties to the Department of Public Works.

Proposition \_\_ would retain the Sanitation and Streets Commission. The Sanitation and Streets Commission would hold public hearings and set policies for the Department of Public Works regarding sanitation standards and protocols, maintenance of the public right of way, and minimum standards of cleanliness for streets.

The Public Works Commission would set policy and generally oversee the Department of Public Works, except in areas within the scope of the Sanitation and Streets Commission. The Public Works Commission will continue to have authority to make recommendations to the Mayor for appointment of the Director of Public Works, and whether to remove the Director.

Proposition \_\_\_\_ would also remove the required qualifications for members of the two commissions, and instead list desirable qualifications for the commissioners.

**A "YES" Vote Means:** If you vote "yes," you want to eliminate the Department of Sanitation and Streets, keep the Sanitation and Streets Commission, and remove required qualifications for the Sanitation and Streets Commission and Public Works Commission.

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