

Renewal of Library Preservation Fund*

Digest by the Ballot Simplification Committee

Status: Final Digest
On: Friday, July 29, 2022
Members: Packard, Anderson, Merrill

The Way It Is Now: The City Charter establishes a Library Preservation Fund (Fund), set to expire on June 30, 2023. The Fund pays for library services and construction and maintenance of library facilities at the Main Library and its 27 branches (Library). The City dedicates a portion of its annual property taxes to the Fund at a rate of 2½ cents per \$100 of assessed property value.

The Fund supports the Library in addition to minimum funding that the Charter requires the City to provide each year. This minimum funding was originally set as the amount the City provided in the 2006-07 fiscal year and has since been adjusted based on changes in the City's discretionary revenues.

The Charter requires the Library to be open to the public for at least 1,211 hours every week. To change the total number of hours that libraries must be open, the Library Commission must hold public hearings in the district of each member of the Board of Supervisors.

The Proposal: Proposition ___ is a Charter amendment that would renew the Fund for 25 years, until June 2048. The money in the Fund would still come from the same annual property tax, with no increase in the tax rate. The Fund would continue to pay for library services and construction and maintenance of the facilities of the Library.

Proposition ___ would also:

- allow the City to temporarily freeze increases to the annual minimum funding when the City anticipates a budget deficit over \$300 million; and
- require the Main Library and its branches to be open for at least 1,400 hours per week. After July 1, 2028, the Library Commission may modify these hours every five years, after holding public hearings in the district of each member of the Board of Supervisors.

A "YES" Vote Means: If you vote "yes," you want to renew the Library Preservation Fund for 25 years, allow the City to temporarily freeze the annual minimum funding for the Library when the City anticipates a budget deficit over \$300 million, and require the Main Library and its branches to increase the minimum hours they must be open per week.

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