

From: [Josephine Zhao](#)
To: [REG - BSC Clerk](#)
Subject: Request changes for the Great Highway ballot measure
Date: Monday, July 22, 2024 9:23:19 PM

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Dear Members of the Ballot Simplification Committee:

Thank you for your work on this digest of the Great Highway ballot measure. We greatly appreciate your efforts to craft easy to understand explanations of policy measures. Your thoughtfulness does not go unnoticed, and we appreciate you taking the time to ensure that all voters have a clear understanding of what they will be voting on.

We respectfully request your consideration of the key points below as you make final recommendation to the language that will be presented to voters this upcoming November:

1) **Clarifying the direct impact of the measure**

In the Proposal section, we believe you should be addressing the actual impact of the measure upfront, which is the closure of the Upper Great Highway to private vehicles. The most tangible difference voters and residents will gather from the ordinance is the closure of the highway to private vehicles, so this should be addressed immediately to avoid any confusion.

Specific amendment requested:

Proposition ___ is an ordinance that would allow the City to permanently close the Upper Great Highway to private motor vehicles seven days a week, with limited exceptions. This ordinance would allow the City to reserve the Upper Great Highway as public open recreation space.

2) **Removing language not in the legal text**

In the Proposal section, it states that “The General Manager of the Recreation and Parks Department would have the authority to allow private motor vehicles to use the Upper Great Highway during an emergency as determined by the General Manager.”

We believe since this language is not in the legal text anywhere and therefore it should not be included in the digest. It may confuse residents and voters. During an emergency the Executive Branch would already have these powers and it’s not clear why the digest would need to reassert that.

3) **Ensuring that the YES/NO section reflect each other**

The committee did a very good job describing the “NO Vote” line and is accurate and concise and focuses on the immediate impact to residents.

We recommended aligning the “YES vote” to be clear and concise as well.

Specific amendment requested:

"If you vote “yes,” you want the City to permanently close the Upper Great Highway seven days a week to private motor vehicles with limited exceptions."

We believe these changes will help bring clarity to the measure and help ensure that residents and voters have a strong, clear understanding of the impact of the measure.

Thank you again for all of your work for our City.

Josephine

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President of Chinese American Democratic Club

