Creating a Task Force to Recommend Changing, Eliminating or Combining City Commissions*

Digest by the Ballot Simplification Committee

Status:	Draft for Consideration
On:	Thursday, July 25, 2024
Members:	Packard, Anderson, Wong, Troy, Wang

Deadline to Request Reconsideration: TBD

The Way It Is Now: The City currently has a total of about 130 boards, commissions and advisory bodies ("commissions") that make policy or other decisions for the City or provide non-binding advice to City officials and departments.

The City created many commissions by ordinance, most of which do not have the authority to make City decisions and instead serve to advise City departments and officials. Members of the Board of Supervisors ("Board"), the Mayor and City departments have authority to introduce ordinances. An ordinance must be approved by a majority of the Board, and the Mayor has authority to veto the ordinance. The voters may also approve an ordinance and require their approval for any change to a voter-approved ordinance.

Other commissions are established in the Charter. Most of these Charter commissions oversee City departments and have authority to set City policy and make binding decisions. Only the voters may amend the Charter.

The Proposal: Proposition __ is a Charter amendment that would create a Commission Streamlining Task Force ("Task Force") to review the structure of the City's commissions and make recommendations to the Mayor and the Board by February 1, 2026, on ways the City could change, eliminate or combine commissions to improve the administration of City government.

The Task Force would include five members: the City Administrator, the Controller and the City Attorney, or their designees; a representative of organized labor representing the public sector appointed by the President of the Board; and an individual with expertise in open and accountable government appointed by the Mayor.

Proposition __ would require the Board's Budget and Legislative Analyst to prepare a report assessing the financial cost to the City of supporting each current commission, and the projected financial savings of eliminating that commission or consolidating it with another body.

Proposition __ would provide for the Task Force to implement its recommendations in these ways:

- If the Task Force recommends changes to commissions established by ordinance, the Task Force may introduce ordinances to make those changes. Any ordinance the Task Force introduces would take effect 90 days after introduction unless the Board rejects it by supermajority vote of at least eight members. If the Task Force recommends changes to commissions established by voter-approved ordinance, those changes may also require voter approval at a future election before the City may implement them.

- If the Task Force recommends changes to commissions established by the Charter, the City Attorney would be required to prepare a Charter amendment implementing the recommendations, for the Board to consider placing on the ballot for a future election.

The Task Force will sunset 24 months after its first meeting.

If Proposition ___ passes with more votes than Proposition ___, then Proposition __ would have no legal effect.

A "YES" Vote Means: If you vote "yes," you want to create a Task Force with authority to make recommendations by February 1, 2026 on ways the City could change, eliminate or combine commissions to improve the administration of City

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government ; require the Budget and Legislative Analyst to prepare a financial report on the City's commissions; and give the Task Force authority to introduce ordinances to implement its recommendations and if required provide for the City Attorney to draft any Charter amendment to submit to the voters at a future election to implement its other recommendations.

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