

City and County of
San Francisco



AARON PESKIN
市參事 佩斯金

Board of Supervisors,
President

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July 25, 2024

Ballot Simplification Committee
c/o Karlie O'Toole, Elections Division Manager
City Hall, Room 48 [Via e-mail BSC.Clerk@sfgov.org]
Re: Response to TogetherSF Letter on Commission Streamlining

Dear Chair Packard and Members of the Ballot Simplification Committee,

I have reviewed the 6 recommendations for challenges to the ballot digest proposed by Together SF, who are the authors of a competing measure on this topic.

Recommendations No. 3 through No. 6 would be, in my opinion, be misleading to voters and are not justified by the actual text of the Charter Amendment itself.

Point 3:

TogetherSF seeks to add a power to the Streamlining Task Force that simply doesn't exist in the legal text of the measure itself – namely, the power to not just eliminate, consolidate and combine commissions, but the power to “add” commissions.

The text of the measure is clear:

[The Commissions Streamlining Task Force] “shall be convened for the purpose of advising the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors **on ways to eliminate, consolidate, or limit** the powers and duties of appointive boards and commissions for the more effective, efficient, and economical administration of City and County government, and introducing one or more ordinances to effectuate its recommendations.”

The purpose of the Task Force, as outlined in the Charter Amendment, is clearly stated. There is no language in the Charter Amendment that gives the Task Force the objective of “adding” commissions. Therefore, I request that you do not change these two sections as requested by TogetherSF.

Point 4:

TogetherSF seeks to remove the word “improve” from the ballot digest as a purpose of the Streamlining Task Force. This is contradictory to the exact language and purpose of the Charter Amendment.

Again, the text of the measure is clear:

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[The Commissions Streamlining Task Force] “shall be convened for the purpose of advising the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors on ways to eliminate, consolidate, or limit the powers and duties of appointive boards and commissions **for the more effective, efficient, and economical administration of City and County government**, and introducing one or more ordinances to effectuate its recommendations.”

If the Ballot Simplification Committee seeks to use another phrase other than “improve the administration of city government,” the word “improve” could be replaced with the more specific language of the Charter Amendment:

“...on ways the City could change, eliminate or combine commissions to improve the administration of City government for the more effective, efficient and economical administration of City and County government ...

Point 5:

Together SF seeks to change the title of the measure by adding the phrase “and make laws.” This language is inaccurate, and the process by which the recommendations of the Task Force can become law is clearly explained in the digest. The Board of Supervisors, whether by action or inaction, is the body that is making law, not the Task Force. The Board of Supervisors retains all its Charter authority and powers of law-making in this process; the Task Force simply doesn't have that power as outlined by the legal language of the Charter Amendment.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Aaron Peskin".

Aaron