

Subject: Request for Reconsideration of Approved Digest “City Commissions and Mayoral Authority”

Dear Chair Packard and Members of the Ballot Simplification Committee,

We thank you for the work you have done so far summarizing our charter amendment in a concise and easy to understand manner.

This is a very thorough measure, having been crafted by us with direct input from an independent policy think tank with experience in analyzing City government structures along with input from the hundreds of thousands of community members who make up our community. This measure would not be on this ballot without the signatures of tens of thousands of SF residents.

We appreciate the care and consideration you’ve taken during this process.

We respectfully request as the authors of this measure that you consider the following information and changes to the currently approved digest of our measure.

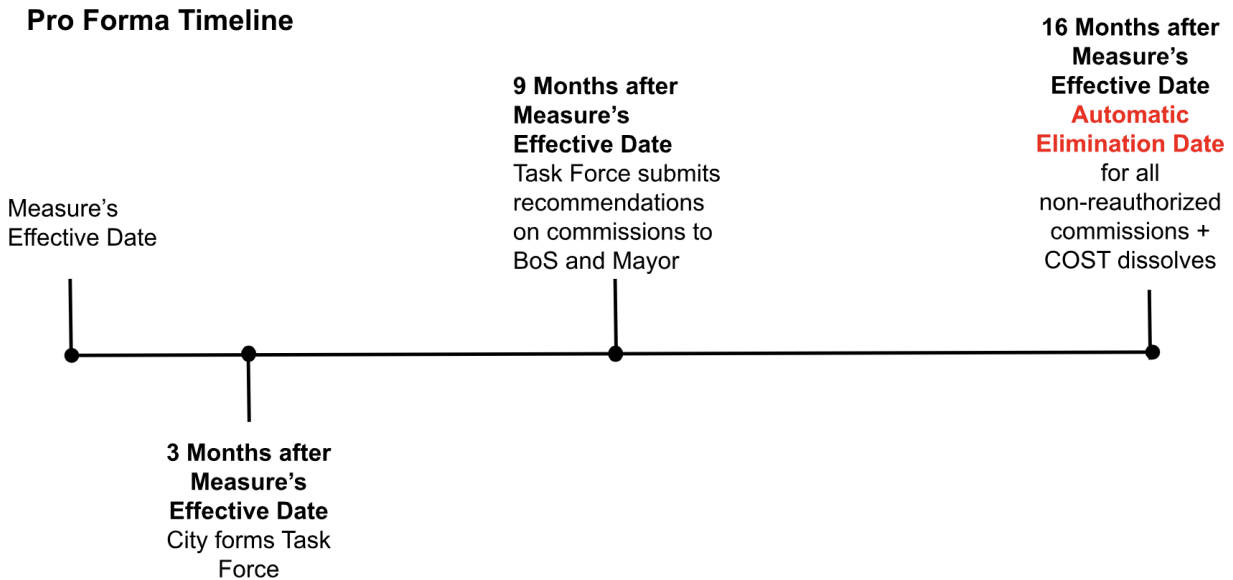
Clarification of Measure’s Timeline:

We would first like to clarify the timeline of our measure for the commission review process since there appeared to be some confusion over it during the 7/26/24 meeting.

For clarity, here is a written out 16-month timeline for our measure and the linear order of operations. This is detailed in the measurer’s legislation text in [Sec 4.100 section](#), specifically subsections (c), (d)(1), (b)(1), and (e)(2)(i).

1. If our measure is passed, the effective date would be in January 2025
2. Then, 3 months after our measure’s effective date, a City task force would form
3. Then, 9 months after our measure’s effective date, a City task force would make recommendations on which commissions should be reauthorized/restructured/consolidated, subject to the 65 limit, by the Board of Supervisors via ordinance past the 16-month dissolution date.
 - a. To be clear, before the 16-month dissolution date kicks in, no commission is actually dissolved
4. Then, and finally only then, is 16-months after our measure’s effective date would the automatic dissolution date dissolve all commissions (with the exception of both the 22 retained commissions and all state/federally required commissions) if the Board of Supervisors fails to enact via ordinance the task force’s recommendations on which commissions to reauthorize/restructure/consolidate subject to the 65 limit on number of commissions.

Below is a concise visual to make the timeline clearer:



The main point we want to make clear is if this measure passes, no commissions get immediately dissolved. The city is required to follow a public process to assess, evaluate, and recommend how to streamline and consolidate commissions. The Board of Supervisors then holds the power to legislate via ordinance which commissions should be reauthorized, restructured and/or consolidated.

Given the above information, below are our requested amendments we respectfully request for your consideration:

Requested Amendment: Clarify the 3rd bullet point in “The Proposal” section for accuracy and clarity

Modify the current 3rd bullet point “The Proposal” section, which currently reads

- Dissolve all other commissions, including Public Health, Library, Human Rights, Human Services, Arts, Environment, Small Business and Juvenile Probation 16 months after the measure’s effective date, subject to a process for the City to consider reauthorizing or restructuring them within the 65-commission limit.

We would like to offer 2 options for the Ballot Simplification Committee (BSC) to consider choosing from in order to offer voters the most objective and clear description:

Option 1:

Rewrite the 3rd bullet point sentence in “The Proposal” section to the following:

- ~~● Dissolve all other commissions, including Public Health, Library, Human Rights, Human Services, Arts, Environment, Small Business and Juvenile Probation 16 months after the measure’s effective date, subject to a process for the City to consider reauthorizing or restructuring them within the 65-commission limit.~~

All other commissions will be subject to a process for the City to consider reauthorizing or restructuring them to comply with the 65-commission limit. The commissions under this review process will be subject to dissolution 16 months after the measure's effective date if the review process does not result in their re-authorization.

Option 2:

We understand based on Friday July 26th’s conversation there was a desire to state in the digest that some commissions are removed from the charter, which is a means for ensuring these former charter commissions can be subject to the task force’s review process.

In that case, we offer the following alternative edit to our option #1 to take that concern into consideration in an objective manner by revising the 2nd and 3rd bullet points in “The Proposal” section. This would have the added benefit of concision, something that the Committee emphasized throughout it’s proceedings:

- ~~● Retain 22 commissions, including those overseeing the Port, Public Utilities, Airport, Municipal Transportation Agency, Civil Service, Planning, Fire, Police, Recreation and Park, Disability and Aging Services, Ethics, Elections, Board of Appeals, War Memorial and Performing Arts Center, City museums, City employee retirement and health benefits, redistricting, residential rent control, and garbage rates. The measure would also allow the City to retain commissions that federal or state law require.~~
- ~~● Dissolve all other commissions, including Public Health, Library, Human Rights, Human Services, Arts, Environment, Small Business and Juvenile Probation 16 months after the measure’s effective date, subject to a process for the City to consider reauthorizing or restructuring them within the 65-commission limit.~~
- Retain 22 commissions. All other commissions, including charter commissions, will be subject to a process for the City to consider reauthorizing or restructuring them to comply with the 65-commission limit. The commissions in this review process will be subject to dissolution 16 months after the measure's effective date if the review process does not result in their re-authorization.**

We then recommend that the 22 commissions that our measure retains and the other commissions under the purview of the task force’s review process and subject to the 16-month

dissolution date be listed out in detail in the “Words You Need to Know” section of the voter pamphlet for readers to refer to in full.

Rationale for Amendment

Point 1

The way that the 3rd bullet point is currently written in “The Proposal” section could misleadingly suggest that all other commissions, including those removed from the charter, are immediately dissolved and then some time later are re-authorized by the task force.

As noted from the [Clarification of Measure’s Timeline section](#) from above, this is not the order of operations for the ballot measure’s timeline.

After the measure’s effective date (if passed), the first action is a task force will be formed.

Charter and other commissions not in the retained 22 commissions (as already mentioned in the 2nd bullet point of “The Proposal” section) will then be subject to the task force’s reauthorization/restructured/consolidation process, to comply with 65 cap on number of commissions, and subject to the 16-month dissolution deadline if they are not re-authorized past that date.

It’s only if the Board of Supervisors fails to act on implementing the task force’s recommendations for reauthorization/restructuring/consolidation via ordinance that the non-22 retained commissions would be dissolved at the 16-month deadline.

Point 2

The highlighting of certain commissions that are under the purview of the task force’s reauthorization/restructuring/consolidation process, specifically in the phrase “...including *Public Health, Library, Human Rights, Human Services, Arts, Environment, Small Business and Juvenile Probation...*” in the 3rd bullet point is completely subjective.

Why specifically reference these commissions when there are other commissions that are also subject to the task force’s review process? A non-exhaustive list of other commissions that would fall under the purview of the task force’s review process that could also be highlighted include:

- Graffiti Advisory Board
- Sanitation and Streets Commission
- Citizens Advisory Committee for Street Utility Construction
- Committee for Planning Utility Construction Program
- Committee for Utility Liaison on Construction and Other Projects
- Service Provider Working Group
- Advisory Committee of Street Artists and Craftsmen Examiners

- Sugary Drinks Distributor Tax Advisory Committee
- City Hall Preservation Advisory Commission
- Street Utilities Coordinating Committee

Why not highlight these commissions instead of the ones currently highlighted?

As the sentence in the bullet point is written, there appears to be no objective criteria for why those commissions were specifically identified as being subject to the task force's review process.

Requested Amendment: Change Order of Bullet Points for “The Proposal” section to reflect linear timeline of measure

Move the 4th and 5th bullet points in “The Proposal” section to be the 3rd and 4th bullets respectively.

New order of bullet points in “The Proposal” section would be as follows - new ordered bullet highlighted in yellow:

- Limit the City to a total of 65 commissions.
- Retain 22 commissions....
- A five-member task force would recommend within nine months which commissions should be reauthorized or restructured. This task force would be appointed by the Mayor, the President of the Board, the Controller, the City Administrator and the City Attorney.
- The Board could by ordinance reauthorize or restructure those commissions within the 16-month period to prevent them from being dissolved. The Board could later reestablish and create new commissions, subject to the 65- commission limit.
- Dissolve all other commissions....

Rationale for Amendment

As per the above [Clarification of Measure's Timeline section](#), we would like to restructure the order of the bullet points in “The Proposal” section to more accurately reflect the linear order of operations of our measure's timeline.

To reiterate,

1. If our measure is passed, the effective date would be in January 2025
2. Then, 3 months after our measure's effective date, a City task force would form
3. Then, 9 months after our measure's effective date, a City task force would make recommendations on which commissions should be reauthorized/restructured/consolidated, subject to the 65 limit, by the Board of Supervisors via ordinance past the 16-month dissolution date.
 - a. To be clear, before the 16-month dissolution date kicks in, no commission is actually dissolved
4. Then, and finally only then, is 16-months after our measure's effective date would the automatic dissolution date dissolve all commissions (with the exception of both the 22 retained commissions and all state/federally required commissions) if the Board of Supervisors fails to enact via ordinance the task force's recommendations on which commissions to reauthorize/restructure/consolidate subject to the 65 limit on number of commissions.