



MYRNA MELGAR

Member, Board of Supervisors
District 7

HILLARY RONEN

Member, Board of Supervisors
District 9

July 24, 2024

SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL TO: BSC.Clerk@sfgov.org

RE: Charter Amendment - Accountability for Funding Children and Youth Services for City Departments and the School District; Clarifying Uses of the Student Success Fund

Dear Members of the Ballot Simplification Committee,

Thank you for your service and diligent review of the ballot measures. As the main sponsors of the Children's Funding Accountability Charter Amendment, we are respectfully offering suggested edits to the Draft Digest to promote accuracy and clarity.

We are including an attachment with the proposed changes and a summary is provided below:

- "The Way It Is Now" section
 - The first paragraph describes how the City funds children, youth, and their families, and the second paragraph describes the School District as a separate agency. To help connect the two paragraphs, it would be helpful to add that the School District also receives some earmarked and discretionary funding from the City and County of San Francisco.
- "The Proposal" description
 - The Proposal description does not fully encapsulate what the measure would do. The most important aspect of the Charter Amendment is that it would not require stronger monitoring and assessment of funding directed towards children, youth, and families.
 - The second paragraph describes the "Our Children, Our Families Initiative" as supporting "the Council," but that is not a relevant piece of information for the voters. The Initiative is tasked with supporting a citywide community needs assessment, and the development of a citywide Plan and Outcomes Framework, which would be used to evaluate expenditures supporting children, youth, and their families.
- "A 'YES' Vote Means" description
 - To provide more clarity on the main points of the measure, the description should include that the "Our Children, Our Families Initiative" will align goals and monitor outcomes for funding that support services to children, youth, and their families.
 - The reporting requirements will not be applied to the Children and Youth Fund, but the baseline. It would be more accurate to state that it would apply to the "Children and Youth Fund baseline, the Public Education Enrichment baseline, and the Public Education Enrichment Fund."

Thank you for your consideration and for your service to this important part of the ballot process.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Myrna Melgar in blue ink.

Myrna Melgar
Supervisor, District 7

Handwritten signature of Hillary Ronen in blue ink.

Hillary Ronen
Supervisor, District 9

Funding Programs Serving Children, Youth, and Families*

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 funds services for children, youth, and their families in various ways, including the Children and Youth Fund, the Public Education Enrichment Fund and the Student Success Fund.

The San Francisco Unified School District (“School District”) is a public agency that is separate from the City and operates the San Francisco public school system through 12th grade that also receives some earmarked and other discretionary funding from the City and County of San Francisco.

The Our Children, Our Families Council (“Council”) is an advisory body created by the voters and co-led by the Mayor and the Superintendent of the School District. The Council coordinates City, School District, and community efforts to improve outcomes for children, youth and their families.

Children and Youth Fund

The Children and Youth Fund supports services for children and youth through 24 years old. The Charter requires the City to contribute to this fund a dedicated portion of the property tax revenues the City collects each year. Based on a community needs assessment produced by the Department of Children, Youth and their Families, the City uses these funds to provide services including child care, health services, job training, social services, educational, recreational and cultural programs and delinquency prevention services. The City must use this fund to increase the total amount the City spends on these services above the amount it spent in Fiscal Year 2000–2001, referred to as the “Children and Youth Fund Baseline.”

Public Education Enrichment Fund

The Public Education Enrichment Fund (“PEEF”) supports early childhood education programs as well as services the School District provides for general education programs and programs for art, music, sports and libraries. The Charter requires the City to contribute a certain amount to this fund each year, adjusted annually. The City must use this fund to increase the total amount the City spends on these services above the amount spent in Fiscal Year 2002–2003, referred to as the “PEEF Baseline.” The Board of Supervisors and Mayor may provide extra funding to the School District, in addition to the PEEF funding required by the Charter.

Student Success Fund

The City grants money from the Student Success Fund to the School District and individual schools for programs that improve student academic achievement and social/emotional wellness. The Charter requires the City to contribute money to the fund each year through Fiscal Year 2037–2038. In Fiscal Year 2024–2025, the City must place \$35 million into this fund. That amount will continue to increase each year, though the City may place less money in the fund under certain circumstances.

The Proposal: Proposition __ is a Charter amendment that would change the way the City ~~administers evaluates~~ funding for services to children, youth, and their families by monitoring outcomes.

Proposition __ would create an Our Children, Our Families Initiative (“Initiative”), led by the Mayor and the Superintendent of the School District and staffed by employees of the City and the School District to align systems and to develop a citywide community needs assessment, Plan, and Outcomes Framework on children, youth, and their families. to support the Council. This ~~group Initiative~~ would evaluate expenditures from the Children and Youth Fund and the PEEF using an outcomes framework and would report each year to the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors. The Board of Supervisors and the Mayor would approve the expenditures as part of the budget process.

**Working title, for identification only. The Director of Elections determines the title of each local ballot measure; measure titles are not considered during Ballot Simplification Committee meetings.*

Proposition __ would require SFUSD to provide a report to the Initiative each year about its spending of PEEF funds, and to submit a proposal every five years describing how it plans to use PEEF funds consistent with guidelines set forth in City law. The City's future contributions to SFUSD from the PEEF would depend on the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor approving the School District's proposal.

Proposition __ would prohibit the City from crediting expenditures from the Student Success Fund when calculating the Children and Youth Fund Baseline, the PEEF Baseline, or other similar provisions. Proposition __ would not change the minimum contributions by the City to the Children and Youth Fund, the PEEF, or the Student Success Fund.

A "YES" Vote Means: If you vote "yes," you want to amend the Charter to create an Our Children, Our Families Initiative, that will align goals for the School District and the City; and add additional reporting requirements and guidelines for the Children and Youth Fund baseline and the Public Education Enrichment Fund to be consistent with a citywide plan and outcomes framework for children, youth, and families; and prohibit the City from crediting expenditures from the Student Success Fund when also calculating the Children and Youth Fund Baseline, the Public Education Enrichment Fund Baseline, or other similar provisions.

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