



OFFICE OF THE CONTROLLER
CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

Greg Wagner
Controller
ChiaYu Ma
Deputy Controller

Mr. John Arntz
Department of Elections
City Hall 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place Room 48
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

August 12, 2024

RE: Proposition C – Inspector General

Dear Mr. Arntz,

Should the proposed Charter amendment be approved by the voters, in my opinion, it would have a moderate impact on the cost of government – ranging from \$725,000 to \$775,000 annually plus additional investigative legal support that is likely to vary year to year depending on need.

The proposed Charter amendment would establish the position of Inspector General within the Controller's Office and expand the Controller's investigative powers. The Inspector General's functions will be funded through the City Services Auditor's existing Charter-mandated set-aside of two-tenths of one percent of the City's overall budget. By redirecting existing funding to the new duties of the Inspector General, the amendment may reduce resources that would otherwise be available for alternative activities by the City Services Auditor to monitor the level and effectiveness of City services.

The amendment also expands the Controller's authority to subpoena witnesses, compel the production of evidence and execute search warrants to the extent permitted by State law. It also expands the scope of whistleblower complaints the Controller can receive to include those doing business with the City.

The proposed amendment would cost approximately \$725,000 to \$775,000 annually for an Inspector General and two staff positions within the City Services Auditor. Additionally, one-time office setup costs may cost between approximately \$125,000 and \$175,000. This cost does not include the cost for search warrants and subpoenas. For context, executing a subpoena may cost between \$1,000 and \$20,000 per subpoena depending on whether litigation is required to enforce the subpoena. Preparing a search warrant may cost between \$9,000 and \$20,000 per search warrant. To the extent the proposed amendment results in an increased number of whistleblower complaints, the cost of government may also increase, although at a level that cannot be determined at this time.

Note that the proposed amendment would change the duties of the Controller’s Office, which has prepared this statement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg Wagner", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Greg Wagner
Controller

Note: This analysis reflects our understanding of the proposal as of the date shown. At times further information is provided to us which may result in revisions being made to this analysis before the final Controller’s statement appears in the Voter Information Pamphlet.