

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Charter Amendment - Children and Families Council; San Francisco Children and Families Plan]

A proposal to the qualified voters of the City and County of San Francisco to amend the Charter of the City and County of San Francisco at an election to be held on November 4, 2014, by adding Section 16.126, to create a Children and Families Council, which shall prepare and maintain a San Francisco Children and Families Plan for making the City more supportive of children and families.

Existing Law

The City currently does not have a Children and Families Council.

Amendments to Current Law

The proposal is a Charter amendment that would create a Children and Families Council (“the Council”) to advise the City on the unmet needs of children and families in San Francisco and on priorities, program goals, and best practices for addressing those needs through the creation of a Children and Families Plan for the City.

The Mayor would chair the Council, and would invite the Superintendent of the San Francisco Unified School District to serve as a co-chair of the Council. Other members of the Council would include the heads of City and School District departments, and members of the community. The Board of Supervisors would adopt an ordinance further addressing the structure and functions of the Council.

No later than May 1, 2016, and every fifth year after that, the Council would prepare and adopt a Children and Families Plan for the City, which would include a comprehensive assessment of City policies and programs, both public and private, addressing the needs of children and families in San Francisco, and policy level recommendations for making the City more supportive of children and families. And each year, the Council would hold a public hearing to review the City’s overall progress under the Plan and to discuss the status of the next Plan. Every five years, the Controller would review the Council’s operations and the Plan, and submit the results of the review to the Council, the Board of Supervisors and the San Francisco Board of Education.

Nothing in the proposal would limit the control of the City and the School District over their own program and funding decisions.