



**OFFICE OF THE CONTROLLER**  
CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

Ben Rosenfield  
Controller  
Todd Rydstrom  
Deputy Controller

Ms. Angela Calvillo  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place Room 244  
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

June 24, 2020

RE: File 200509 – Charter amendment to create the Office of the Public Advocate

Dear Ms. Calvillo,

Should the proposed Charter amendment be approved by the voters, in my opinion, it would have a moderate impact on the cost of government.

The proposed new Office of the Public Advocate would review the administration of City programs and services and to receive, investigate, and attempt to resolve complaints regarding City services and programs. Additionally, the Public Advocate would have the authority to receive and investigate certain whistleblower complaints. The authority and responsibility to perform these functions currently exists in various City departments, which remain largely unchanged in the proposed measure.

The amendment mandates a minimum staffing requirement of four positions for this new office, at a likely cost of between \$725,000 and \$925,000. The amendment also states that the Public Advocate may have other staff but does not specify the type or number. The Public Advocate would also have the authority to introduce legislation and would be elected at the first citywide general or special election occurring after January 1, 2021 with a salary set by the Civil Service Commission.

This proposed amendment is not in compliance with a non-binding, voter-adopted city policy regarding mandatory expenditures. This policy seeks to limit voter-mandated expenditure requirements that limit the discretion of the Mayor and Board of Supervisors in the City's budget process. Note that the proposed amendment would change the duties of the Controller's Office, which has prepared this statement.

Sincerely,

Ben Rosenfield  
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.