

## LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Municipal Elections Code - Voter Information Pamphlets]

**Ordinance amending the Municipal Elections Code to remove the requirement that the Department of Elections publish the legal text of ballot measures in the Voter Information Pamphlet sent to voters before each election, and to allow the Director of Elections to determine the format of the Voter Information Pamphlet without the Ballot Simplification Committee's approval.**

### Existing Law

The Municipal Elections Code requires the Department of Elections ("Department") to prepare a Voter Information Pamphlet ("VIP") in advance of every municipal election. The VIP includes information about candidates and local ballot measures to be voted on at the election, as well as general election information. The Department provides the VIP to every registered San Francisco voter.

Section 500 of the Municipal Elections Code specifies the material that must be printed in the VIP. The VIP must include the full legal text of each ballot measure amending the Charter. The VIP must include the full legal text of all other local ballot measures unless the text exceeds 100 pages. In that event, the VIP must contain the first 20 pages of the legal text. When the full legal text of a ballot measure is not included in the VIP, the Department posts the legal text of that measure on its website, provides the legal text to the San Francisco Public Library, and mails a copy of the legal text to any voter upon request. The VIP also includes notices explaining how voters can access the full legal text.

The Director of Elections determines the format of the VIP, subject to the approval of the Ballot Simplification Committee ("BSC").

Section 501 of the Municipal Elections Code specifies the format for printing the legal text of ballot measures and requires that Charter Amendment proposals submitted to the electors by the Board of Supervisors be published in the official newspaper of the City.

### Amendments to Current Law

This ordinance would amend Section 500 of the Municipal Elections Code by removing the requirement that the legal text of all local ballot measures be printed in the VIP. The ordinance would also remove the BSC's authority to approve the VIP format. The ordinance also amends Section 501 of the Municipal Elections Code to remove related printing specifications for legal text and makes other clarifying and non-substantive amendments.