



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 23, 2022

RE: File 220626 – Charter amendment extending the Library Preservation Fund

Dear Ms. Calvillo,

Should the proposed Charter amendment be approved by the voters, in my opinion, it would have a minimal impact on the cost of government. It would renew existing uses of property tax funds and other city revenues for the Library.

The amendment renews a voter-approved Charter requirement that property tax revenues in the amount of 2.5 cents out of every \$100 of assessed valuation be used exclusively by the Library for services and materials. The amendment extends the period of the property tax set-aside for twenty-five years, through fiscal year (FY) 2047-2048. Property tax revenues provide the Library with approximately \$83.1 million annually in FY 2022-23.

In addition, the proposed measure extends the current baseline requirement that the City maintain and increase discretionary revenues allocated for library services. The baseline amount is approximately \$112.8 million annually in FY 2022-23 and would change in future years given changes in overall discretionary revenues. The amendment would allow the City to temporarily freeze increases to baseline funding in years when the City projects a budget deficit in the upcoming year of more than \$300 million.

The charter amendment would also require the Library to continue to provide at least 1,400 permanent system-wide service hours and existing permanent branch hours until 2028.

Sincerely,

Janice Levy FOR

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.