

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

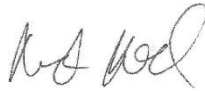
BUDGET AND LEGISLATIVE ANALYST

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November 14, 2025

TO: Budget and Finance Committee

FROM: Budget and Legislative Analyst



SUBJECT: November 19, 2025 Budget and Finance Committee Meeting

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Item 1
File 25-0978

Department:
Elections

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Legislative Objectives

- The proposed ordinance would appropriate \$4,508,500 from state cost reimbursement revenue to fund the special election in San Francisco on November 4, 2025.

Key Points

- Earlier this year, the California Legislature passed and the Governor signed a constitutional amendment known as the “Election Rigging Response Act.” The resolution proposed a ballot measure that would amend the State Constitution to provide for using district boundaries on a temporary basis until new congressional boundary lines can be drawn by the Citizens Redistricting Commission in 2031 and every ten years thereafter. The measure was approved by voters in a special election that took place on November 4, 2025.
- The Legislature and Governor also appropriated funding for counties to conduct the November 4, 2025 statewide special election. The law states that any excess funds received by counties shall be used to offset state costs for the next statewide election conducted by the county. San Francisco received \$4,508,500 from the State to fund election costs.

Fiscal Impact

- According to the Department of Elections, the total state appropriation of \$4,508,500 will cover all costs for the special election.
- The majority of costs—\$3,168,500 (70 percent)—is budgeted for professional and specialized services including printing of ballot and informational materials, postage, stipends for poll workers and polling place providers, translation or other professional services, and vehicle rental.

Recommendation

- Approve the proposed ordinance.

MANDATE STATEMENT

City Charter Section 9.113(c) states that a supplemental appropriation ordinance recommended by the Mayor or a member of the Board of Supervisors after the adoption of the budget and prior to the close of the budgetary cycle containing any item which had been rejected by the Mayor in his review of departmental budget estimates for the budgetary cycle or which had been rejected by the Board of Supervisors in its consideration of the Mayor's proposed budget for the budgetary cycle, shall require a two-thirds vote of all members of the Board of Supervisors.

BACKGROUND

In 2008, California voters approved Proposition 11, an initiative state constitutional amendment that established a Citizens Redistricting Commission charged with establishing district boundaries for Assembly, State Senate, Board of Equalization, and the U.S. House of Representatives. The California Constitution requires the Citizens Redistricting Commission to adjust the boundary lines of the congressional, State Senate, Assembly, and State Board of Equalization districts in the year following the year in which the national decennial census is taken and requires the districts be redrawn in conformance with specified standards.

Earlier this year, the California Legislature passed and the Governor signed Assembly Constitutional Amendment No. 8 known as the "Election Rigging Response Act." The resolution proposed a ballot measure that would amend the State Constitution to provide for using districts reflected in companion legislation—Chapter 99, Statutes of 2025 (AB 604, Aguiar-Curry)—on a temporary basis until new congressional boundary lines can be drawn by the Citizens Redistricting Commission in 2031 and every ten years thereafter. The measure was approved by voters in a special election that took place on November 4, 2025. The Legislature and Governor also approved Chapter 97, Statutes of 2025 (SB 280, Cervantes) which appropriated funding for counties to conduct the November 4, 2025 statewide special election. The law states that any excess funds received by counties shall be used to offset state costs for the next statewide election conducted by the county.

The total statewide cost of the special election is \$282 million, including \$251 million for counties and \$31 million for the Secretary of State's office for printing and mailing the voter information guide, voter outreach, staffing and logistics, according to the state Department of Finance.

DETAILS OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

The proposed ordinance would appropriate \$4,508,500 from State revenue to fund the special election on November 4, 2025. The San Francisco Department of Elections administers elections, including the operation of 100 polling locations and 37 vote-by-mail drop boxes for 29 days of early voting.

FISCAL IMPACT

The legislation includes ten categories of funding, as shown in Exhibit 1. According to the Department of Elections, the total appropriation of \$4,508,500 will cover all costs for the special election.

Exhibit 1: Proposed Expenditures for November 4, 2025 Special Election

Category	Amount	Description
Professional and Specialized Services	\$3,168,500	Services include: printing of ballot and informational materials, postage, stipends for poll workers and polling place providers, translation or other professional services, and vehicle rental.
Temporary Staffing	700,000	Temporary employees for ballot processing, collections, voter assistance, polling place recruitment, poll worker recruitment, and warehouse assistance.
Mandatory Fringe Benefits	200,000	Temporary staff receive a lower level of fringe benefits and temporary staff who exceed 1,040 hours receive health care benefits.
Sheriff	200,000	City requirement for secure transport of ballots from polling locations and drop boxes.
Overtime	100,000	Overtime for staff who work on weekends close to election day as well as election day itself.
Other Equipment	100,000	Rented equipment includes a forklift, tower lights, and porta-potties for the warehouse where election supplies are stored.
DT Telecomm Services	15,000	Staff are issued cell phones for three months to manage election-related tasks.
Other Office Supplies	13,000	Office supplies include pens, extra paper, and stationary supplies for polling locations.
Reproduction	10,000	Copies of election materials such as the roster of voters for polling places.
Rec & Park Gardener	2,000	Staff time for gardeners to unlock and lock certain park facilities used as polling places.
Total	\$4,508,500	

Source: Department of Elections and Proposed Ordinance

A total of \$4,178,500 of the total allocation of \$4,508,500 requires a two-thirds vote of the Board of Supervisors for approval because the associated accounts decreased from FY 2024-25 to FY 2025-26. The accounts are associated with salary and mandatory fringe benefits, non-personnel services, and services of other departments for reproduction and mail services, according to the ordinance.

RECOMMENDATION

Approve the proposed ordinance.