

From: [Chris Jerdonek](#)
To: [Jalipa, Brent \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Elections "Opt-out" Ordinance (File No. 230663)
Date: Thursday, July 13, 2023 11:23:48 AM
Attachments: [AB1416 Slide - June 2023 Budget Presentation.pdf](#)

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Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors:

I'm writing in regard to File No. 230663, the proposed ordinance to permanently opt San Francisco out of AB 1416's requirement to show on the ballot a short list of the supporters and opponents of each local ballot measure.

I have been serving as the Board's appointee to the Elections Commission for the past nine years, though I'm writing this email as an individual.

I encourage you to at least consider limiting the opt-out in the ordinance to the elections covered by the proposed budget, which are the 2024 elections. This way, greater voter transparency can remain the City's baseline requirement, and San Francisco can look for ways to bridge any budgetary or technical gaps for the next time. This would also let the City see how the new requirement works for state measures before making any decision on local measures.

For comparison, an April 19 Mercury News article reported that Santa Clara County, Los Angeles County, and Orange County have said they plan to remain opted in.

AB 1416 (2021-22) was supported by a long list of good-government groups, including California Common Cause, the Western Center on Law & Poverty, the League of Women Voters of California, California Environmental Voters, CALPIRG, and California Clean Money Campaign, as well as by our own state legislators.

AB 1416's author Assemblymember Santiago acknowledged in the bill analyses that while the voter guide contains detailed information about the measures, this information isn't necessarily easy to access:

Although voters can look to the voter information guide to decipher the facts on ballot measures, this document can be long and confusing for voters to navigate.

For example, in the case of the November 8, 2022 election, the supporters and opponents of San Francisco's 14 local measures were spread and interspersed across 130 pages of San Francisco's 256-page booklet (pp. 63 - 192).

For your convenience, I'm attaching a 1-page mock-up that Director Arntz included in his slide presentation to the Board's Budget and Appropriations Committee on June 14, as I don't think this slide was posted online. It illustrates how ballot measures might look on the ballot with and without opting out.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Chris Jerdonek

[1] AB-1416 (2021-22):

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220AB1416

[2] 4/19/2023 Mercury News article: <https://www.mercurynews.com/2023/04/19/contra-costa-will-not-list-supporters-and-opponents-on-election-ballots/>



Ordinance: Municipal Elections Code

Ordinance amending the Municipal Elections Code to opt out of state law that would require the names of supporters and opponents of a local ballot measure to be listed in the ballot statement or question for the measure

Prior to State Law

■ **31 REFERENDUM ON 2020 LAW THAT WOULD PROHIBIT THE RETAIL SALE OF CERTAIN FLAVORED TOBACCO PRODUCTS.** A "Yes" vote approves, and a "No" vote rejects, a 2020 law prohibiting retail sale of certain flavored tobacco products. **Fiscal Impact:** Decreased state tobacco tax revenues ranging from tens of millions of dollars annually to around \$100 million annually.

■ **REFERENDUM SA 2020 BATAS NA MAGBABAWAL SA RETAIL NA PAGBEBENTANG ILANG PARTIKULAR NA PRODUKTONG TABAKO NA MAY FLAVOR.** Nag-aaprubang ang botong "Oo" at tumatanggi ang botong "Hindi" sa isang 2020 batas na nagbabawal sa retail na pagbebenta ng ilang partikular na produktong tabako na may flavor. **Epekto sa Pananalapi:** Mas kaunting kita sa buwis sa tabako ng estado na mula sampu-sampung milyong dolyar bawat taon hanggang sa humigit-kumulang \$100 milyon taun-taon.

■ YES / OO

■ NO / HINDI

■ **CITY AND COUNTY PROPOSITIONS / MGA PROPOSISYON NG LUNGSOD AT COUNTY**

■ **A** Shall the City amend the Charter to allow City employees who retired before November 6, 1996, to receive a supplemental cost of living adjustment to their pensions even if the retirement system is not fully funded and allow the Retirement Board to have an individual employment contract with its executive director?

■ Dapat bang amayendahan ng Lungsod ang Tarter upang mapahintulutan ang mga empleyado ng Lungsod, na nagretiro bago ang Nobyembre 6, 1996, na makatanggap ng karagdagang pera sa kanilang pensiyon at nang makaayon sa halaga ng pamumuhay, kahit na hindi lubusang napopondohan ang sistema para sa pagreretiro, at pahintulutan ang Retirement Board na magkaroon ng pang-indibidwal na kontrata sa pag-eepleyo sa ehekutibong direktor nito?

■ YES / OO

■ NO / HINDI

State Measures Only

■ **31 REFERENDUM ON 2020 LAW THAT WOULD PROHIBIT THE RETAIL SALE OF CERTAIN FLAVORED TOBACCO PRODUCTS.** A "Yes" vote approves, and a "No" vote rejects, a 2020 law prohibiting retail sale of certain flavored tobacco products. **Fiscal Impact:** Decreased state tobacco tax revenues ranging from tens of millions of dollars annually to around \$100 million annually. **Supporters:** Kate Font, Director, Pediatricians CA; Kim Ryder, President, Heart Health CA; Jorge Reyes, Chair, Cancer Action Network **Opponents:** Mike Goa, Director, CA Finance League; Josh Courts, President, Independent Commerce Counsel; Tim Hao, CFO, Taxpayers Together

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■ YES / OO

■ NO / HINDI

■ **CITY AND COUNTY PROPOSITIONS / MGA PROPOSISYON NG LUNGSOD AT COUNTY**

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■ YES / OO

■ NO / HINDI

State and Local Measures

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■ YES / OO

■ NO / HINDI

■ **CITY AND COUNTY PROPOSITIONS / MGA PROPOSISYON NG LUNGSOD AT COUNTY**

■ **A** Shall the City amend the Charter to allow City employees who retired before November 6, 1996, to receive a supplemental cost of living adjustment to their pensions even if the retirement system is not fully funded and allow the Retirement Board to have an individual employment contract with its executive director? **Supporters:** Supervisors: Safai, Walton, Chan, Dorsey, Melgar, Mandelman, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, and Stefani **Opponents:** CSFNI; CRS; District 11 League; EMIA; Save Our Amazing City; OMI Cultural Participation Project; Harold Chin

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■ YES / OO

■ NO / HINDI

From: [Hickey, Jacqueline \(BOS\)](#)
To: [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Jalipa, Brent \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: FW: OPPOSING Budget and Appropriations Committee Agenda Item #8 [Municipal Elections Code - Supporters and Opponents in Ballot Questions for Local Measures] File #230663
Date: Wednesday, June 14, 2023 11:08:36 AM

From: aeboken <aeboken@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 13, 2023 10:38 PM
To: BOS-Supervisors <bos-supervisors@sfgov.org>; BOS-Legislative Aides <bos-legislative_aides@sfgov.org>
Subject: OPPOSING Budget and Appropriations Committee Agenda Item #8 [Municipal Elections Code - Supporters and Opponents in Ballot Questions for Local Measures] File #230663

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TO: Budget and Appropriations Committee members and Board of Supervisors members

I am opposing the Mayor's legislation to opt out of AB1416 (Santiago) (2021 - 2022).

Eileen Boken,
President

Sunset-Parkside Education and Action Committee (SPEAK)*

*For identification purposes only.

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone