

BOARD of SUPERVISORS



City Hall
Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244
San Francisco 94102-4689
Tel. No. 554-5184
Fax No. 554-5163
TDD/TTY No. 554-5227

MEMORANDUM

TO: Ben Rosenfield, City Controller, Office of the Controller

FROM: Victor Young, Assistant Clerk, Rules Committee
Board of Supervisors

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Victor Young".

DATE: May 26, 2020

SUBJECT: CHARTER AMENDMENT INTRODUCED
November 3, 2020 Election

The Board of Supervisors' Rules Committee has received the following Charter Amendment for the November 3, 2020, Election. This matter is being referred to you in accordance with Rules of Order 2.22.3.

File No. 200507

Charter Amendment (First Draft) to amend the Charter of the City and County of San Francisco to provide that future annual adjustments in baseline funding for the following Charter-mandated funds will not take into account changes in City revenue resulting from voter-approved business taxes on the November 3, 2020, ballot: the Municipal Transportation Fund, the Park, Recreation and Open Space Fund, the Children and Youth Fund, the Library Preservation Fund, the Housing Trust Fund, the Public Education Enrichment Fund, the Dignity Fund, and the Street Tree Maintenance Fund; at an election to be held on November 3, 2020.

Please review and prepare a financial analysis of the proposed measure prior to the first Rules Committee hearing.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call me at (415) 554-7723 or email: victor.young@sfgov.org. To submit documentation, please email or forward to me at the Board of Supervisors, City Hall, Room 244, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, San Francisco, CA 94102.

c: Todd Rydstrom, Deputy City Controller
Peg Stevenson, City Performance Director
Natasha Mihal, City Services Auditor

1 [Charter Amendment - Adjustment of Baseline Funding]

2
3 **Describing and setting forth a proposal to the voters at an election to be held on November**
4 **3, 2020, to amend the Charter of the City and County of San Francisco to provide that**
5 **future annual adjustments in baseline funding for the following Charter-mandated funds**
6 **will not take into account changes in City revenue resulting from voter-approved business**
7 **taxes on the November 3, 2020, ballot: the Municipal Transportation Fund, the Park,**
8 **Recreation and Open Space Fund, the Children and Youth Fund, the Library Preservation**
9 **Fund, the Housing Trust Fund, the Public Education Enrichment Fund, the Dignity Fund,**
10 **and the Street Tree Maintenance Fund.**

11
12 Section 1. The Board of Supervisors hereby submits to the qualified voters of the City
13 and County, at an election to be held on November 3, 2020, a proposal to amend the Charter of
14 the City and County by revising Sections 8A.105, 16.107, 16.108, 16.109, 16.110, 16.123-2,
15 16.128-3, and 16.129, to read as follows:

16 NOTE: **Unchanged Charter text and uncodified text** are in plain font.
17 **Additions** are *single-underline italics Times New Roman font*.
18 **Deletions** are ~~*strike-through italics Times New Roman font*~~.
19 **Asterisks (* * * *)** indicate the omission of unchanged Charter
20 subsections.

21 **SEC. 8A.105. MUNICIPAL TRANSPORTATION FUND.**

22 (a) There is hereby established a fund to provide a predictable, stable, and adequate
23 level of funding for the Agency, which shall be called the Municipal Transportation Fund. The
24 fund shall be maintained separate and apart from all other City and County funds. Monies therein
25 shall be appropriated, expended, or used by the Agency solely and exclusively for the operation
including, without limitation, capital improvements, management, supervision, maintenance,
extension, and day-to-day operation of the Agency, including any division subsequently created

1 or incorporated into the Agency and performing transportation-related functions. Monies in the
2 Fund may not be used for any other purposes than those identified in this Section.

3 (b) Beginning with the fiscal year 2000-2001 and in each fiscal year thereafter, there is
4 hereby set aside to the Municipal Transportation Fund the following:

5 1. An amount (the "Base Amount") which shall be no less than the amount of all
6 appropriations from the General Fund, including all supplemental appropriations, for the fiscal
7 year 1998-1999 or the fiscal year 1999-2000, whichever is higher (the "Base Year"), adjusted as
8 provided in subsection (c), below, for (1) the Municipal Railway; and (2) all other City and
9 County commissions, departments and agencies providing services to the Municipal Railway,
10 including the Department of Human Resources and the Purchasing Department, for the provision
11 of those services. The Base Amount for the Department of Parking and Traffic and the Parking
12 Authority shall be established in the same fashion but using fiscal years 2000-2001 and 2001-
13 2002 for the services being incorporated into the Agency.

14 2. Subject to the limitations and exclusions in Sections 4.113, the revenues of the
15 Municipal Railway, and, upon their incorporation into the Agency, the revenues of the
16 Department of Parking and Traffic, and the Parking Authority; and

17 3. All other funds received by the City and County from any source, including
18 state and federal sources, for the support of the Agency.

19 (c) The Base Amount shall initially be determined by the Controller. Adjustments to the
20 Base Amount shall be made as follows:

21 1. The Base Amount shall be adjusted for each year after fiscal year 2000-2001
22 by the Controller based on calculations consistent from year to year, by the percentage increase
23 or decrease in aggregate City and County discretionary revenues. In determining aggregate City
24 and County discretionary revenues, the Controller shall only include revenues received by the
25 City which are unrestricted and may be used at the option of the Mayor and the Board of

1 Supervisors for any lawful City purpose. Additionally, in determining aggregate City and
2 County discretionary revenues, the Controller shall not include revenues received by the City
3 under any gross receipts tax measures or payroll expense tax measures approved by the voters at
4 the general municipal election on November 3, 2020. Errors in the Controller's estimate of
5 discretionary revenues for a fiscal year shall be corrected by adjustment in the next year's
6 estimate.

7 2. An adjustment shall also be made for any increases in General Fund
8 appropriations to the Agency in subsequent years to provide continuing services not provided in
9 the Base Year, but excluding additional appropriations for one-time expenditures such as capital
10 expenditures or litigation judgments and settlements.

11 3. Commencing with the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2015, the Controller
12 shall also adjust the Base Amount annually by the percentage increase in the San Francisco
13 population based on data from the source(s) the Controller, in his or her sole discretion, finds
14 most reliable for the most recent available calendar year. The Controller's population growth
15 adjustment shall be based on the greater of the increase in daytime or night-time population. For
16 any year in which the Controller determines that neither the daytime nor night-time population
17 has increased, the Controller shall make no adjustment under this subparagraph 3 to the Base
18 Amount. For purposes of the initial adjustment for the year commencing July 1, 2015, the
19 Controller shall adjust the Base Amount based on the increase in City daytime or night-time
20 population for the most recent ten-year period for which data are available instead of the most
21 recent available calendar year. The Agency shall use the amount of any increase in the Base
22 Amount resulting from the adjustment required by this subparagraph 3 exclusively as follows: 75
23 per cent shall be used to make transit system improvements to the Municipal Railway to improve
24 the system's reliability, frequency of service, capacity, and state of good repair, and 25 per cent
25 shall be used for transportation capital expenditures to improve street safety for all users.

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3 **SEC. 16.107. PARK, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE FUND.**

4 (a) **Establishment of Fund.** There is hereby established the Park, Recreation and Open
5 Space Fund (“Fund”) to be administered by the Recreation and Park Department (“Department”)
6 as directed by the Recreation and Park Commission (“Commission”). Monies in the Fund shall
7 be expended or used solely by the Department, subject to the budgetary and fiscal provisions of
8 the Charter, to provide park and recreational services and facilities. The Department embraces
9 socio-economic and geographic equity as a guiding principle and commits to expending the
10 funds across its open space and recreational programs to provide park and recreational access to
11 all of San Francisco’s diverse neighborhoods and communities.

12 * * * *

13 (c) **Baseline Maintenance of Effort.** The annual set-aside shall be used exclusively to
14 increase the aggregate City appropriations to and expenditures by the Recreation and Park
15 Department for Department purposes. To this end, beginning in fiscal year 2016-2017 and
16 thereafter through fiscal year 2045-2046, the City shall not reduce the baseline general fund
17 support amount appropriated to the Department below the amount appropriated in fiscal year
18 2015-2016, as calculated by the Controller, except that the baseline amount shall be adjusted as
19 follows:

20 (1) Each year in fiscal years 2016-2017 through 2025-2026, the City shall
21 increase the baseline appropriation by \$3 million over the prior year.

22 (2) Each year in fiscal years 2026-2027 through 2045-2046, the City shall adjust
23 the baseline by the percentage increase or decrease in aggregate City discretionary revenues, as
24 determined by the Controller, based on calculations consistent from year to year. In determining
25 aggregate City discretionary revenues, the Controller shall only include revenues received by the

1 City which are unrestricted and may be used at the option of the Mayor and the Board of
2 Supervisors for any lawful City purpose. Additionally, in determining aggregate City
3 discretionary revenues, the Controller shall not include revenues received by the City under any
4 gross receipts tax measures or payroll expense tax measures approved by the voters at the
5 general municipal election on November 3, 2020. The Controller is authorized to increase or
6 reduce budgetary appropriations as required by this subsection (c) to align the baseline amount to
7 the amount required by formula based on actual revenues received during the fiscal year.

8 * * * *

9
10 **SEC. 16.108. CHILDREN AND YOUTH FUND.**

11 * * * *

12 (b) **Fund for Children and Youth Services.** Operative July 1, 2001, there is hereby
13 established a fund to expand children’s services, which shall be called the Children and Youth
14 Fund (“Fund”). Monies in the Fund shall be expended or used only to provide services for
15 children and youth as provided in this ~~§~~Section 16.108.

16 * * * *

17 (h) **Baseline.** The Fund shall be used exclusively to increase the aggregate City
18 appropriations and expenditures for those services for children and Disconnected Transitional-
19 Aged Youth that are eligible to be paid from the Fund (exclusive of expenditures mandated by
20 state or federal law). To this end, the City shall not reduce the amount of such City
21 appropriations for eligible services (not including appropriations from the Fund and exclusive of
22 expenditures mandated by state or federal law) under this section below the amount so
23 appropriated for the fiscal year 2000-2001 (“the base year”) as set forth in the Controller’s
24 baseline budget, as adjusted (“the base amount”).

1 The Controller shall calculate City appropriations made in fiscal year 2013-2014 for
2 services for Disconnected Transitional-Aged Youth aged 18 through 24 years. Beginning with
3 fiscal year 2014-2015, that amount shall be added to the base amount and adjusted as provided
4 below. The City shall not reduce the amount of such City appropriations for services for
5 Disconnected Transitional-Aged Youth (not including appropriations from the Fund and
6 exclusive of expenditures mandated by state or federal law) under this section below the amount
7 so appropriated for fiscal year 2013-2014, as adjusted.

8 The base amount shall be adjusted for each year after the base year by the Controller
9 based on calculations consistent from year to year by the percentage increase or decrease in
10 aggregate City and County discretionary revenues. In determining aggregate City and County
11 discretionary revenue, the Controller shall only include revenues received by the City and
12 County that are unrestricted and may be used at the option of the Mayor and the Board of
13 Supervisors for any lawful City purpose. Additionally, in determining aggregate City and County
14 discretionary revenues, the Controller shall not include revenues received by the City under any
15 gross receipts tax measures or payroll expense tax measures approved by the voters at the
16 general municipal election on November 3, 2020. ~~The method used by the Controller to~~
17 ~~determine discretionary revenues shall be consistent with method used by the Controller to~~
18 ~~determine the Library and Children's Baseline Calculations dated June 20, 2000, which the~~
19 ~~Controller shall place on file with the Clerk of the Board in File No. 000952.~~ Errors in the
20 Controller's estimate of discretionary revenues for a fiscal year shall be corrected by an
21 adjustment in the next year's estimate. Within 90 days following the end of each fiscal year
22 through Fiscal Year 2040-2041, the Controller shall calculate and publish the actual amount of
23 City appropriations for services for children and Disconnected Transitional-Aged Youth that
24 would have been eligible to be paid from the Fund but are paid from other sources, separately
25 identifying expenditures mandated by state or federal law.

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3 **SEC. 16.109. LIBRARY PRESERVATION FUND.**

4 (a) **Establishment of Fund.** There is hereby established the Library Preservation Fund
5 (“the Fund”) to be administered by the Library Department as directed by the Library
6 Commission. Monies therein shall be expended or used solely by the Library Department,
7 subject to the budgetary and fiscal provisions of the Charter, to provide library services and to
8 construct, maintain and operate library facilities.

9 * * * *

10 (c) **Baseline Maintenance of Effort.** The Annual Set-Aside shall be used exclusively to
11 increase the aggregate City appropriations and expenditures for services, materials, facilities and
12 equipment that will be operated by the Library for Library purposes. To this end, in any of the
13 fifteen years during which funds are required to be set aside under this Section, the City shall not
14 reduce the Baseline for the Library Department below the fiscal year 2006-2007 Required
15 Baseline Amount (as calculated by the Controller), except that the Baseline shall be adjusted as
16 provided below.

17 The Baseline shall be adjusted for each year after fiscal year 2006-2007 by the Controller
18 based on calculations consistent from year to year, by the percentage increase or decrease in
19 aggregate City and County discretionary revenues. In determining aggregate City and County
20 discretionary revenues, the Controller shall only include revenues received by the City which are
21 unrestricted and may be used at the option of the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors for any
22 lawful City purpose. Additionally, in determining aggregate City and County discretionary
23 revenues, the Controller shall not include revenues received by the City under any gross receipts
24 tax measures or payroll expense tax measures approved by the voters at the general municipal
25 election on November 3, 2020. Errors in the Controller’s estimate of discretionary revenues for

1 a fiscal year shall be corrected by adjustment in the next year’s estimate. For purposes of this
2 subsection, (i) aggregate City appropriations shall not include funds granted to the City by
3 private agencies or appropriated by other public agencies and received by the City, and (ii)
4 Library Department appropriations shall not include funds appropriated to the Library
5 Department to pay for services of other City departments or agencies, except for departments or
6 agencies for whose specific services the Library Department was appropriated funds in fiscal
7 year 2006-2007. Within 180 days following the end of each fiscal year through fiscal year 2023-
8 2024, the Controller shall calculate and publish the actual amount of City appropriations for the
9 Library Department.

10 * * * *

11
12 **SEC. 16.110. HOUSING TRUST FUND.**

13 (a) **Creation of Fund.** There is hereby established a Housing Trust Fund to support
14 creating, acquiring and rehabilitating affordable housing and promoting affordable home
15 ownership programs in the City, as provided in this Section 16.110.

16 * * * *

17 (c) **Funding.**

18 (1) In the Fiscal Year 2013-2014 budget, the City shall appropriate to the
19 Housing Trust Fund \$20 million.

20 (2) For the next 11 fiscal years, in each of the annual budgets for Fiscal Year
21 2014-2015 through Fiscal Year 2024-2025, the City shall appropriate to the Housing Trust Fund
22 an amount increasing by \$2.8 million per year, until the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 budget.

23 (3) In the annual budgets for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 through Fiscal Year 2042-
24 43, the City shall appropriate to the Housing Trust Fund an amount equal to the prior year’s
25 appropriation, adjusted by the percentage increase or decrease in General Fund Discretionary

1 Revenues budgeted for the year compared to the prior year’s original budgeted amount of
2 General Fund Discretionary Revenues.

3 (4) Should the City adopt a fixed two-year budget under Charter Section 9.101,
4 the adjustment for the Housing Trust Fund appropriation for the two years of the two-year
5 budget shall be based on the amount of General Fund Discretionary Revenues estimated for the
6 two-year period included in the budget.

7 (5) During Fiscal Years 2025-2026 through 2042-2043, if the Controller submits
8 a revised estimate of General Fund Discretionary Revenues for a given Fiscal Year or two-year
9 budget period that is lower than the amount originally budgeted for that period, then the Board
10 may, by ordinance, reduce the appropriation to the Housing Trust Fund for that budget period in
11 an amount that does not exceed the amount proportionate to the percentage shortfall in the
12 discretionary revenue projection.

13 (6) The Controller’s method of calculating the amount of and changes in General
14 Fund Discretionary Revenues shall be consistent from fiscal year to fiscal year and with the
15 Controller’s method for calculating those figures under Charter Sections 8A.105, 16.108, and
16 16.109. The Controller shall treat General Fund appropriations to the Housing Trust Fund as
17 reductions in General Fund Discretionary Revenues when calculating other funding allocations
18 that are tied to General Fund Discretionary Revenues, including funding allocations under
19 Charter Sections 8A.105, 16.108, and 16.109. Additionally, in determining General Fund
20 Discretionary Revenues, the Controller shall not include revenues received by the City under any
21 gross receipts tax measures or payroll expense tax measures approved by the voters at the
22 general municipal election on November 3, 2020. The Controller shall correct errors in the
23 estimate of discretionary revenues for a fiscal year through an adjustment to the next fiscal year’s
24 estimate.

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2 **SEC. 16.123-2. PUBLIC EDUCATION ENRICHMENT FUND.**

3 (a) **Creating the Fund.** There shall be a Public Education Enrichment Fund. The City
4 shall each year appropriate monies to the Public Education Enrichment Fund according to
5 subsections (b), (c), and (d), below.

6 (b) **Baseline Appropriations.** The Fund shall be used exclusively to increase the
7 aggregate City appropriations to and expenditures for the San Francisco Unified School District.
8 To this end, the City shall not reduce the amount of such City appropriations (not including
9 appropriations from the Fund and exclusive of expenditures mandated by state or federal law) in
10 any year during which funds are required to be set aside under this Section below the amount so
11 appropriated for Fiscal Year 2002-2003 ("the base year"). These baseline appropriations shall be
12 separate from the City's annual contributions to the Public Education Enrichment Fund under
13 subsection (c), and shall be appropriated by the City to the School District each year through and
14 including Fiscal Year 2040-2041.

15 The amount of the City's baseline appropriations to the School District shall be adjusted
16 for each year after the base year by the Controller based on calculations consistent from year to
17 year by the percentage increase or decrease in City and County discretionary General Fund
18 revenues. In determining City and County discretionary General Fund revenues, the Controller
19 shall only include revenues received by the City and County that are unrestricted and may be
20 used at the option of the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors for any lawful City purpose.

21 Additionally, in determining aggregate City and County discretionary General Fund revenues,
22 the Controller shall not include revenues received by the City under any gross receipts tax
23 measures or payroll expense tax measures approved by the voters at the general municipal
24 election on November 3, 2020. Errors in the Controller's estimate of discretionary revenues for a
25 fiscal year shall be corrected by an adjustment in the next year's estimate. Using audited

1 financial results for the prior fiscal year, the Controller shall calculate and publish the actual
2 amount of City appropriations that would have been required under this baseline for the School
3 District.

4 (c) **Annual Contributions to the Fund FY 2005-2006 through FY 2009-2010.** In
5 addition to the annual baseline appropriation provided above, the City shall, for years two
6 through six of this measure, contribute the following amounts to the Public Education
7 Enrichment Fund:

- 8 Fiscal Year 2005-06 \$10 million
- 9 Fiscal Year 2006-07 \$20 million
- 10 Fiscal Year 2007-08 \$30 million
- 11 Fiscal Year 2008-09 \$45 million
- 12 Fiscal Year 2009-10 \$60 million

13 (d) **Annual Contributions to the Fund – FY 2010-11 and Thereafter.** For Fiscal
14 Years 2010-11 and thereafter, the City’s annual contribution to the Public Education Enrichment
15 Fund shall equal its total contribution for the prior year, beginning with Fiscal Year 2009-2010,
16 adjusted for the estimated increase or decrease in discretionary General Fund revenues for the
17 year. In determining the increase or decrease in discretionary General Fund revenues, the
18 Controller shall not include revenues received by the City under any gross receipts tax measures
19 or payroll expense tax measures approved by the voters at the general municipal election on
20 November 3, 2020.

21 * * * *

22
23 **SEC. 16.128-3. ANNUAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FUND.**

24 (a) **Annual Baseline Contributions to the Fund.** Each year during the term of Charter
25 Section 16.128-1et seq., the City shall make an annual baseline contribution to the Fund in the

1 amount of \$38 million, representing the amount the City spent in fiscal year 2016-2017 to
2 provide eligible services as identified in Section 16.128-4 to Seniors and Adults with
3 Disabilities.

4 (b) **Additional Contributions for FY 2017-2018 through FY 2026-2027.** For fiscal
5 year 2017-2018, the City shall increase its contribution to the Fund over the baseline amount in
6 subsection (a) by \$6 million. For each fiscal year from 2018-2019 through 2026-2027, the City
7 shall increase its additional contribution to the Fund under this subsection (b) by \$3 million over
8 the prior year.

9 * * * *

10 (d) **Additional Contributions for FY 2027-2028 through FY 2036-2037.** For fiscal
11 years 2027-28 through 2036-2037, the City’s annual contribution to the Fund shall equal its total
12 contribution, including the baseline amount under subsection (a), for the prior year, beginning
13 with Fiscal Year 2026-2027, adjusted by the percentage increase or decrease in aggregate City
14 discretionary revenues, as determined by the Controller, based on calculations consistent from
15 year to year. In determining aggregate City discretionary revenues, the Controller shall not
16 include revenues received by the City under any gross receipts tax measures or payroll expense
17 tax measures approved by the voters at the general municipal election on November 3, 2020.

18 For purposes of this subsection (d), the “additional contribution” for these years shall mean the
19 amount in excess of the baseline amount.

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21
22 **SEC. 16.129. STREET TREE MAINTENANCE.**

23 * * * *

24 (f) **Creating the Street Tree Maintenance Fund; Annual City Contributions.** There
25 shall be a Street Tree Maintenance Fund (the “Fund”). Each fiscal year, beginning in fiscal year

1 2017-2018, the City shall contribute \$19 million to the Fund. The Fund shall also include any
2 other monies appropriated or allocated to the Fund. Beginning in fiscal year 2018-2019, the
3 Controller shall adjust the amount of the City’s annual \$19 million contribution to the Fund
4 under this subsection (f) by the percentage increase or decrease in aggregate City discretionary
5 revenues, as determined by the Controller, based on calculations consistent from year to year. In
6 determining aggregate City discretionary revenues, the Controller shall only include revenues
7 received by the City that are unrestricted and may be used at the option of the Mayor and the
8 Board of Supervisors for any lawful City purpose. Additionally, in determining aggregate City
9 discretionary revenues, the Controller shall not include revenues received by the City under any
10 gross receipts tax measures or payroll expense tax measures approved by the voters at the
11 general municipal election on November 3, 2020. ~~The method used by the Controller to~~
12 ~~determine discretionary revenues shall be the same as the method used by the Controller to~~
13 ~~determine the Library and Children’s Fund Baseline calculations, as provided in Charter~~
14 ~~Section 16.108(h).~~ The change in aggregate discretionary revenues will be adjusted following the
15 end of the fiscal year when final revenues are known. The Controller is authorized to increase or
16 reduce budgetary appropriations as required under this subsection (f) to reflect changes in
17 aggregate discretionary revenues following the end of the fiscal year when final revenues are
18 known. The Controller shall set aside and maintain the above amounts, together with any interest
19 earned thereon, in the Fund, which shall be subject to appropriation. Any amount unspent or
20 uncommitted at the end of the fiscal year shall be deemed to have been devoted exclusively to a
21 specified purpose within the meaning of Charter Section 9.113(a), shall be carried forward to the
22 //
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1 next fiscal year, and, subject to the budgetary and fiscal limitations of this Charter, shall be
2 appropriated then or thereafter for the purposes set forth in this Section 16.129.

3 * * * *

4 APPROVED AS TO FORM:
5 DENNIS J. HERRERA, City Attorney

6 By: _____
7 JON GIVNER
8 Deputy City Attorney

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LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Charter Amendment - Adjustment of Baseline Funding]

Describing and setting forth a proposal to the voters at an election to be held on November 3, 2020, to amend the Charter of the City and County of San Francisco to provide that future annual adjustments in baseline funding for the following Charter-mandated funds will not take into account changes in City revenue resulting from voter-approved business taxes on the November 3, 2020, ballot: the Municipal Transportation Fund, the Park, Recreation and Open Space Fund, the Children and Youth Fund, the Library Preservation Fund, the Housing Trust Fund, the Public Education Enrichment Fund, the Dignity Fund, and the Street Tree Maintenance Fund.

Existing Law

The Charter provides for guaranteed annual funding in a number of special funds, including: the Municipal Transportation Fund, the Park, Recreation and Open Space Fund, the Children and Youth Fund, the Library Preservation Fund, the Housing Trust Fund, the Public Education Enrichment Fund, the Dignity Fund, and the Street Tree Maintenance Fund. These funding requirements are commonly known as “baselines,” where the Charter sets a base amount of funding for a particular purpose. In adopting the annual budget, the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor have no discretion to provide lower amounts of funding than the Charter-mandated baselines require.

Under the Charter, the amount of each of these baselines may increase or decrease each year depending on the amount of discretionary revenue the City receives that year. In this calculation, discretionary revenue includes any money received by the City that is unrestricted and may be used at the option of the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors for any lawful City purpose.

Amendments to Current Law

The proposed Charter amendment would modify the way the City calculates increases or decreases in these baseline funds each year. The amount of each of the baselines would still increase or decrease each year depending on the amount of discretionary revenue the City receives that year. But the Charter amendment would exclude from that calculation any revenues the City receives from businesses paying tax under a gross receipts tax measure or payroll expense tax measure that the voters adopted on the November 2020 ballot.

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