



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 28, 2022

RE: File 220638 – Charter amendment changing city elections to even-numbered years

Dear Ms. Calvillo,

Should the proposed Charter amendment be approved by the voters, in my opinion, it would decrease the cost of government by approximately \$6.9 million in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-2024 and in subsequent odd-numbered years, by consolidating elections and eliminating municipal elections in odd-numbered years. However, these savings would be reduced or eliminated if a special election is required in an odd-numbered year.

The proposed Charter amendment would require elections for Mayor, Sheriff, District Attorney, City Attorney and Treasurer to be held in even-numbered years. To do so, the amendments provides that the people elected to these offices in 2019 would serve a five-year term. The next election for these offices would be in November 2024 followed by elections for these offices every four years in even-numbered years.

These changes would save the City approximately \$9 million for the cost of running general municipal elections in odd-numbered years, offset by approximately \$2.1 million for the cost of printing and mailing ballot cards and voter information pamphlets, temporary staffing costs, and other materials and services that would be shifted from one year to the next, for a net savings of \$6.9 million over two years beginning in FY 2023-24.

The proposal would also change the signature threshold for initiative ordinances to two percent of the last number of registered voters in San Francisco, instead of five percent of the turnout in the last mayoral election.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Janice Levy".

Ben Rosenfield
Controller

FOR

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.