FILE NO. 260536

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Charter Amendment – Department, Board, Commission, and Advisory Body Updates]

Describing and setting forth a proposal to the voters at an election to be held on November 3, 2026, to amend the Charter of the City and County of San Francisco by 1) requiring or authorizing the Board of Supervisors to amend specified initiative ordinances; 2) transferring from the Charter to the Municipal Code certain commissions and advisory bodies, in some cases with modified functions; 3) requiring that the Commission Streamlining Task Force be convened every ten years; 4) removing the general requirements that boards and commissions develop and keep an annual statement of purpose, appoint an executive secretary, and prepare an annual report; 5) changing the membership qualifications, composition, and member selection process for certain bodies; 6) eliminating, consolidating, and changing the functions and authorities of certain bodies; 7) converting the Children, Youth, and their Families Oversight and Advisory Committee to a commission with limited oversight authority over the Department of Children, Youth, and Their Families ("DCYF"), and making other related changes to the functioning of DCYF and its commission and advisory council; 8) specifying that elected members of the Retirement Board, Health Service Board, and Retiree Health Care Trust Fund Board may be removed only for official misconduct; 9) making various changes to departments' operations and reporting requirements; 10) expanding the Public Utilities Commission's exclusive charge over matters related to water, power, and sewer infrastructure and services; 11) providing that the Board of Supervisors shall approve settlements or dismissals of legal proceedings recommended by the City Attorney by resolution, rather than by ordinance; and 12) making clarifying edits, deleting obsolete language, and updating out-of-date references in various sections.

Amendments to Current Law

This Charter amendment would make various changes to the current Charter language in the categories listed below.

1. General Clean-up and Modernizing Amendments. The Charter amendment would delete obsolete language, and make clarifying edits consistent with the intent of current Charter language, in various Charter sections related to the Board of Supervisors, the Mayor, rates, fees and similar charges, the Port Commission, the Building Inspection Commission, the Police Department, the Historic Preservation Commission, the Department of Police Accountability, the Department of Public Works, the Law Library, the Municipal Transportation Agency, refunding bonds, the Health Service System, the Redistricting Board, the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Advisory Committee, the Children and Youth Fund, transition provisions, and contractors' working conditions.

2. Board of Supervisors' Modification of Initiative Ordinances. The Charter amendment would:

- Require the Board of Supervisors to amend initiative ordinances to eliminate the Advisory Committee of Street Artists and Crafts Examiners; to adjust membership criteria for the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force; to rename the Citizens' General Obligation Bond Oversight Committee; to rename the Sugary Drinks Distributor Tax Advisory Committee, specify that the Department of Public Health will provide administrative support, and provide for the body's sunset upon expiration of the Sugary Drinks Distributor Tax; to eliminate a specific procedural requirement of the Legacy Business Program; and to move the Refuse Collection and Disposal Ordinance to the Administrative Code.

- Authorize the Board of Supervisors to amend the Official Newspapers initiative ordinance by a two-thirds vote, and to amend or eliminate the Our City Our Home Oversight Committee by a majority vote.

3. Boards, Commissions and Advisory Bodies. The Charter amendment would make the following changes impacting boards, commissions, and advisory bodies:

- Require that the Commission Streamlining Task Force be convened every ten years, without the existing requirements that the Budget and Legislative Analyst prepare a report and the City Attorney prepare a draft Charter Amendment implementing the Task Force's recommendations.

- Remove the general requirement that Boards and Commissions develop and keep an annual statement of purpose, appoint an executive secretary, and prepare an annual report.

- Move to code the Charter sections establishing the Human Services Commission, the Disability and Aging Services Commission, the Abatement Appeals Board, Access Appeals Commission, Code Advisory Committee, any technical boards and advisory committees under the Department of Building Inspection, the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Advisory Committee, PUC's Citizens' Advisory Council and Rate Fairness Council, and the MTA's Citizens' Advisory Council.

- For the Youth Commission, eliminate language prohibiting compensation or expense reimbursements for commissioners.

- For the Homelessness Oversight Commission, authorize the Mayor to make appointments to the Commission, make current qualifications for members desirable rather than mandatory, but require that two seats be held by people who have personally experienced homelessness.

- For the Asian Art Commission, authorize the Commission members to elect new members and to change the total number of members (not to exceed 20).

- For the Fine Arts Museums Board of Trustees, remove language purporting to authorize the Board to act by majority of members present at the meeting and reduce the maximum number of Trustees.

- Authorize the governing board of the War Memorial to enter into agreements with an outside entity to develop or operate the War Memorial and to raise funds for its support.

- For the Public Utilities Commission ("PUC"), make current qualifications for members desirable rather than mandatory, and add a requirement that one seat be held by a person with experience in labor representation.

- Specify that Retirement Board, Health Service Board, and Retiree Health Care Trust Fund Board elected members may only be removed for official misconduct.

- Eliminate the Sanitation and Streets Commission, the Public Works Commission, and the Dignity Fund Oversight and Advisory Committee Service Provider Working Group.

- Convert the Children, Youth, and their Families Oversight and Advisory Committee to a Commission with limited oversight authority over the Department of Children, Youth, and Their Families; rename the Service Provider Working Group as the Service Provider Advisory Council, with that Council advising the Commission on various matters; and update the five-year planning cycle to restart in 2026-2027.

- Combine the Our Children, Our Families Council with the Our Children, Our Families Initiative, to be responsible for developing and implementing a five-year plan for supporting children, youth, and families.

- Combine the Dignity Fund Oversight and Advisory Committee and the Advisory Council to the Disability and Aging Services Commission into a new advisory body named the Disability and Aging Services Advisory and Oversight Council. Transfer the new body to code, with changes to its name and composition, and provide for the sunset of the Advisory Council to the Disability and Aging Services Commission.

4. Department Operations and Reporting Requirements. The Charter amendment would make changes impacting departments that include the following:

- Remove the requirement that the Planning Department consult with the City Administrator in preparing the General Plan.

- For the Municipal Transportation Authority ("MTA"), codifying the MTA's existing authority over taxi-related functions, fares, fees, and personnel; simplifying the standard for the MTA Board to use in determining on-time performance; and conforming to the current state of the law the language addressing the evidentiary standard for an employee organization to meet in a mediation or arbitration.

- For the Public Utilities Commission department, make general updates; expand the PUC's exclusive charge to encompass design, in addition to construction, management, operation, and use of water, power, and sewer infrastructure, facilities, and associated real, personal, and financial assets.

- Eliminate the requirement that funds received by utilities operated by the PUC be paid into separate funds in the City treasury.

- Change the frequency of the City Administrator's submission of a report on implementation of the Privacy First Policy from every three to every five years.

- Streamline the responsibilities of the City Services Auditor, and remove the requirement that employees involved in the preparation of audits be designated as confidential employees.

- Move to code the requirement that the Controller assess departments' compliance with customer service plan requirements.

- Move to code the requirements that each department provide the Mayor and Board of Supervisors mission-driven budget details together with certification of commitment to perform at a specified level, and that the Controller report departmental savings and revenue gains within 30 days of the annual financial report.

- Remove specific dates for the submission of various plans related to the Park, Recreation and Open Space Fund and update the required contents of the Capital Expenditure Plan.

5. Other Changes. The Charter amendment would make the following other changes:

- Provide that the Board of Supervisors shall approve settlements or dismissals of legal proceedings recommended by the City Attorney by resolution, rather than by ordinance.

- In compliance with a decision from the California Public Employee Relations Board, remove provisions allowing disciplinary action against non-Police and Fire striking employees.