OFFICE OF THE CONTROLLER

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

Greg Wagner
Controller

ChiaYu Ma
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 16, 2026

RE: File 260536 – Charter Amendment – Department, Board, Commission, and Advisory Body Updates

Dear Ms. Calvillo,

Should the proposed Charter amendment be approved by the voters, in my opinion, it would have a moderate impact on the cost of government, saving $365,000 to $450,000 annually. Additional costs and savings are dependent on the decisions that the Mayor and Board of Supervisors make through the normal budget process.

The proposed Charter amendment 1) modifies boards, commissions, and advisory bodies; 2) changes departmental operations and reporting requirements; 3) changes how the Board of Supervisors must approve settlements or dismissals of legal proceedings recommended by the City Attorney; 4) removes provisions allowing disciplinary action against non-Police and Fire striking employees; and 5) makes other edits and changes to the Charter and past voter-approved ordinances. The Charter amendment may reduce required staff time to support boards, commissions, and advisory bodies—freeing staff to work on other government functions.

The proposed Charter amendment creates cost savings ranging from $365,000 to $450,000 annually by eliminating the Sanitation and Streets Commission, Public Works Commission, and the Street Artists and Craftsmen Examiners Advisory Committee. The Sanitation and Streets Commission and Public Works Commission shared two full-time staff members with annual costs of $336,000.

Convening the Commission Streamlining Task Force (CSTF) every ten years would require staff to implement and administer the CSTF, including conducting analyses, writing public reports, and holding public meetings. The proposed Charter amendment removes the existing requirements for the Budget and Legislative Analyst to prepare a report and the City Attorney to prepare a draft Charter amendment implementing the CTSF's recommendations from CSTF's mandate. For context, convening the CSTF in 2025 required approximately 5,900 hours of staff time.

Additional costs and savings are dependent on the decisions that the Mayor and Board of Supervisors make through the normal budget process. For example, the proposed Charter amendment removes the restriction on compensating Youth Commission members which may

lead to future costs, likely ranging from $5,000 to $85,000 annually, should policymakers seek compensation for the members. Certain appointive boards and commissions pay stipends to the commissioners on a per meeting basis ranging from $25 to $500 per meeting. Other commissioners are paid between $100 and $500 per month. Not all commissioners receive stipends. The amount of cost savings attributed to removing the requirement of hiring an executive secretary for commissions cannot be determined at this time as bodies may opt not to fill the position.

The proposed amendment updates commission responsibilities and membership requirements for remaining commissions and boards but will not directly impact the total cost to government. The amount of staff time needed to support commissions and boards may decrease—freeing staff to work on other government functions, although at a level that cannot be determined at this time.

Note that the proposed amendment would change the duties of the Controller's Office, which has prepared this statement.

Sincerely,

Greg Wagner
Controller

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.