

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Municipal Elections Code - Publication of Legal Text of Proposed Measures]

Ordinance amending the Municipal Elections Code to specify that the Voter Information Pamphlet will not include the legal text of any ballot measure that exceeds 20 pages.

Existing Law

The Municipal Elections Code requires the Department of Elections (“Department”) to prepare a Voter Information Pamphlet (“VIP”) in advance of every municipal election. The VIP includes information about candidates and ballot measures to be voted on at the election, as well as general election information. The Department provides the Voter Information Pamphlet to every registered San Francisco voter.

Section 500 of the Municipal Elections Code specifies the material that must be printed in the VIP. For each local ballot measure, the VIP must include the letter and title of the measure, the City Attorney's ballot question, the Ballot Simplification Committee's digest, the Controller's financial analysis, an explanation of how the measure qualified for submission to the voters, ballot arguments for and against the measure, and the full legal text of each measure.

Amendments to Current Law

This ordinance would amend Section 500 of the Municipal Elections Code to change the requirement that the VIP include the full legal text of every ballot measure. Under the proposed ordinance, if the legal text of a ballot measure is over 20 pages, the Department would not print the legal text of that measure in the Voter Information Pamphlet. Instead, the Department would be required to post the legal text of that measure on its website, provide the legal text to the Main Library and every branch of the San Francisco public library, and mail a copy of the legal text to any voter upon request.