

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Charter Amendment - Public Works Commission, Sanitation and Streets Commission, and Sanitation and Streets Department]

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 create a Public Works Commission to oversee the Department of Public Works; to create the Sanitation and Streets Department to succeed to specific duties currently performed by the Department of Public Works; to create a Sanitation and Streets Commission to oversee the Sanitation and Streets Department; and affirming the Planning Department's determination under the California Environmental Quality Act.

Existing Law

Under the Charter, the Department of Public Works' responsibilities are determined by the City Administrator and include the responsibility for maintaining and cleaning the public right of way.

Charter section 4.102 provides that a commission of the executive branch has the responsibility to formulate, evaluate and approve goals, set policies, develop Annual Statements of Purpose for the departments under its jurisdiction, and approve departmental budgets.

Charter section F1.102 provides that the City Auditor shall develop quantifiable, measurable, objective standards for street, sidewalk, and park maintenance in consultation with the Department of Public Works.

Amendments to Current Law

This Charter amendment would remove the Department of Public Works from the purview of the City Administrator. The amendment would create a new Public Works Commission which would have oversight over the Department of Public Works. At the same time, the responsibilities for cleaning and maintaining the public right of way, and certain other responsibilities such as the maintenance of street trees in the public right of way would be transferred to a newly created Department of Sanitation and Streets. The new Department would also be responsible for maintaining City buildings. The amendment would also create a Sanitation and Streets Commission which would have oversight responsibilities over the new Department of Sanitation and Streets. The new Department and Commission would have a focus on street cleaning, including measurement of the City's performance using objective metrics. Street cleaning would include the deep cleaning of sidewalks using methods such as power washing.

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