



BALLOTS & BREWS

San Francisco

2024

California State Measures

California

California (CA)



4

**Bonds for safe drinking water, wildfire prevention,
and protecting communities and natural lands
from climate risks**

About 4:

Authorizes the state to issue \$10 billion in general obligation bonds to finance projects that reduce fire risk and restore fire-damaged areas; restore and protect watersheds, wetlands, and coastal resources; reduce climate impacts on vulnerable communities; and improve the resiliency of the state's water supplies and agricultural lands.

FUNDING CATEGORIES

Prop 4:

Establishes annual independent audits of bond funding

Requires full transparency on spending

Requires a simple majority (50 percent plus one vote) to pass.

Key Goals of Proposition 4 Bond Funds

(In Millions)

Category	Key Goals	Amount
Drought, Flood, and Water Supply	Increase the amount and quality of water available for people to use and reduce the risk of flooding.	\$3,800
Forest Health and Wildfire Prevention	Improve the health of forests and protect communities from wildfires.	1,500
Sea-Level Rise and Coastal Areas	Reduce the risks from sea-level rise, restore coastal areas, and protect fish.	1,200
Land Conservation and Habitat Restoration	Protect and restore natural areas.	1,200
Energy Infrastructure	Support the state's shift to more renewable sources of energy, such as offshore wind.	850
Parks	Expand, renovate, and repair local and state parks.	700
Extreme Heat	Reduce the effects of extreme heat on communities.	450
Farms and Agriculture	Help farms respond to the effects of climate change and become more sustainable.	300
Total		\$10,000

PROS (+)

- **Nearly one million Californians, mostly low-income, lack access to clean drinking water. Improvements in drinking water infrastructure, funded by the bond, will improve clean water access and could reduce costs for Californian's most vulnerable residents.**
- **The bond will help the state shift from a disaster response strategy to a prevention strategy, which could save the state, local governments, and California residents billions of dollars in avoided disaster recovery costs including property damages and increased insurance rates.**

CONS (-)

- **Bond repayment will cost the state about \$400 million annually for 40 years.**

SPUR RECOMMENDS

YES

on Prop 4

55

Allows Local Bonds for Affordable Housing and Public Infrastructure With 55% Voter Approval

About 5:

Lowers the voting requirement needed to approve local bonds and increase local property taxes to pay off bond debt that funds affordable housing or public infrastructure projects such as fire and flood protection, libraries, and public transit. Specifically, it would lower the voter approval requirement from two-thirds to 55%.

PROS (+)

- **More local bond measures for affordable housing and public infrastructure would likely pass, thereby increasing community investments in these needs.**
- **Local funding often creates the opportunity for jurisdictions to become eligible for and leverage additional state, federal, and private sector resources to finance public works projects.**
- **The 55% voter approval threshold is more democratic than the two-thirds threshold and aligns with the existing threshold for local school facilities bonds. Under the current rules, a one-third minority of voters can block community investments and improvements.**
- **Given the financial benefits homeowners receive under Prop. 13, Prop. 5 is a reasonable measure to allow local voters to choose to slightly increase the property tax in order to invest in improvements to the community.**

CONS (-)

- SPUR could not identify any downsides to this measure.

SPUR RECOMMENDS

YES

on Prop 5

33

**Authorizes cities and counties to enact or expand
rent control ordinances**

About 33:

**Fully repeals the Costa-Hawkins Rental Housing Act of 1995, a state law that restricts local rent control laws. California cities currently have the ability to pass rent control ordinances
If Prop. 33 passes, local jurisdictions could regulate rents for any housing type and limit rent increases when a new tenant moves in.**

PROS (+)

- **Prop. 33 would allow more units to be rent-controlled, which could have immediate benefits for those tenants whose rents are rising with the market every year.**
- **Costa-Hawkins set an arbitrary and static threshold date for exemption from rent control. Allowing cities to set rolling exemption dates could bring additional housing units under rent control after a carefully considered time past their construction.**
- **Allowing cities to apply rent control to single-family homes could protect a significant number of households in California because these homes make up 37% of the rental housing stock.**

CONS (-)

- **Allowing cities to apply rent control to newer buildings and to limit the rent landlords could charge new tenants would likely lead to a significant reduction in the construction of new homes.**
- **A recent study shows that allowing vacancy control, even with limitations, would probably increase the number of rental units that are converted to condos.**
- **If adopted by cities, rent control would make the potential cost of vacancy control to landlords arbitrary and uneven. A unit that a new tenant occupied in 2020, for example, would forever after be rented out at a vastly higher rent than an identical unit to which a tenant moved in 1980.**
- **Overly restrictive rent control measures could be intentionally weaponized to deter new housing development and to invite litigation by property owners.**

SPUR RECOMMENDS

NO

on Prop 33

Q&A

San Francisco Measures

San Francisco

San Francisco (SF)



Transportation and Infrastructure

Prop K, Prop B, Prop L

KK

**ESTABLISHES A NEW PUBLIC RECREATION
SPACE ON THE UPPER GREAT HIGHWAY**

About K:

Establishes a new public open recreation space on the Upper Great Highway (between Lincoln Way and Sloat Boulevard), and permanently closes the road to private vehicles.



NOTE ON SPUR'S INVOLVEMENT

- **SPUR is a proud co-sponsor of Prop K in partnership with two San Francisco community organizations**
- **SPUR has led research, education, and advocacy on reimagining the Great Highway since we completed an extensive interagency process from 2010-2012 with local, state, and federal agencies, as well as nonprofit and private sector partners.**
- **This work became known as the Ocean Beach Master Plan, which remains the guiding document and roadmap for protecting the city's critical water infrastructure, transportation arteries, and recreational spaces from coastal erosion and climate change.**

Remains open to keep the Richmond and Sunset connected

Green wave of new traffic lights will replace stop signs for an easier commute*

Oceanfront Park
Ballot measure turns the high-speed highway into a new, two-mile long park along the Pacific Ocean

New North/South traffic improvements for a smooth and reliable commute for drivers*

Already decided:
The road is permanently closing to protect the sewer system from climate change and coastal erosion.



PROS (+) 1/2

- **It's good for the environment. High-speed vehicle traffic on the Upper Great Highway pollutes the air and water, and that runoff pours into the delicate coastal ecosystem.**
- **Public agencies will be able to make the dunes more resilient against rising sea levels – something they cannot do if the road is maintained for high-speed vehicle traffic.**
- **Upper Great Highway attracted more than 10,000 people every weekend throughout the pilot. A permanent oceanfront park makes the coast safe and accessible to more people, including people on wheelchairs and kids learning to ride a bicycle.**

PROS (+) 2/2

- **The Upper Great Highway is unreliable and expensive for the city to manage as a high-speed road for private vehicles:**
 - The road is closed up to 65 days per year (18% of the time) due to sand accumulation. These closures are abrupt and unpredictable.
 - Maintaining private vehicle access on the Upper Great Highway costs between \$350,000 and \$700,000 per year for sand removal
 - Converting the Upper Great Highway to a park would save the city \$1.5 million in one-time capital project costs, as the city would no longer need to replace traffic signals.
- **The Great Highway south of Sloat will be closing soon, so the Upper Great Highway will soon become a road to nowhere.**

CONS (-)

- **The City's transportation studies have determined that rerouting traffic from the Upper Great Highway to an inland route, such as Sunset Boulevard, could increase commute times for those driving private vehicles by up to 3 minutes.**
- **Until signals are upgraded on Sunset and Lincoln, residents in the Outer Sunset may experience slightly more traffic congestion. These upgrades are planned, but not included in the ballot measure.**

SPUR RECOMMENDS

YES

on Prop K

B

**PUBLIC HEALTH, PUBLIC SPACE,
STREETS, & SHELTER BOND**

About B:

Authorizes the city to issue \$390 million in general obligation bonds to fund upgrades to community health facilities, family shelter, bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, and outdoor public spaces.

Public Health	Public Spaces	Street Safety	Family Shelter
\$205.1 million	\$71 million	\$63.9 million	\$50 million
<p>Renovating and expanding the Chinatown Public Health Center</p> <p>Relocating City Clinic (Soma)</p> <p>Making critical repairs to the City's two largest public health institutions: Zuckerberg General Hospital and Laguna Honda Hospital</p>	<p>Improving SF's outdoor civic spaces, including: Harvey Milk Plaza in the Castro, Powell Street, Jerry Garcia Amphitheater, and the cable car turnaround</p>	<p>Transforming high-traffic sidewalks, intersections, and streets to create a safe and enjoyable environment for bicyclists and pedestrians</p> <p>Supporting critical traffic safety and road design upgrades</p> <p>Improving Sloat Boulevard to enhance traffic flow and provide safer access to the SF Zoo</p>	<p>Constructing, renovating, or acquiring sites for family housing and shelter</p>

PROS (+)

- **Prioritizes many of the issues post-pandemic San Francisco faces today, which include family homelessness, street safety, public health, and economic revitalization.**
- **Allows SFMTA to build safer infrastructure to deliver on the city's commitment to zero traffic deaths (Vision Zero) , funding crosswalks, protected bicycle lanes, and other traffic calming measures.**
- **The availability of private funds and state funds to supplement public investment in outdoor civic spaces, such as Harvey Milk Plaza in the Castro, makes local taxpayer dollars go further.**

CONS (-)

- **San Francisco has many pressing capital needs that compete for relatively few spots in the capital planning cycle. This bond measure, like any general obligation bond, could impact the city's ability to fund other important priorities.**

SPUR RECOMMENDS

YES

on Prop B



**ADDITIONAL BUSINESS TAX ON AV AND
RIDE-HAIL COMPANIES TO FUND MUNI**

About L:

Adds a gross receipts tax on ride-hail platforms and autonomous vehicle companies that provide rides within San Francisco and uses tax revenue to fund SFMTA's public transportation services and programs.

PROS (+)

- **Funds SFMTA to preserve transit service and avoid layoffs and other cuts while the agency seeks out longer-term solutions.**
- **If the cost of the tax is transferred to riders, Prop. L could disincentivize car trips and thereby reduce congestion on city streets.**
- **The structure of the tax would not create an incentive for local ride-hail or self-driving car companies to relocate out of the city.**
- **This would be a progressive tax, with graduated rates ranging from 1% to 4.5% based on revenues, a more equitable distribution for smaller businesses and startups.**

CONS (-)

- **Prop. L conflicts with the objectives of creating a more predictable and transparent tax structure under Prop. M.**
- **This tax measure would not fully close SFMTA's operating deficit. Muni would still need to pursue additional funding strategies and might have to go back to voters in the future to close the gap.**

SPUR RECOMMENDS

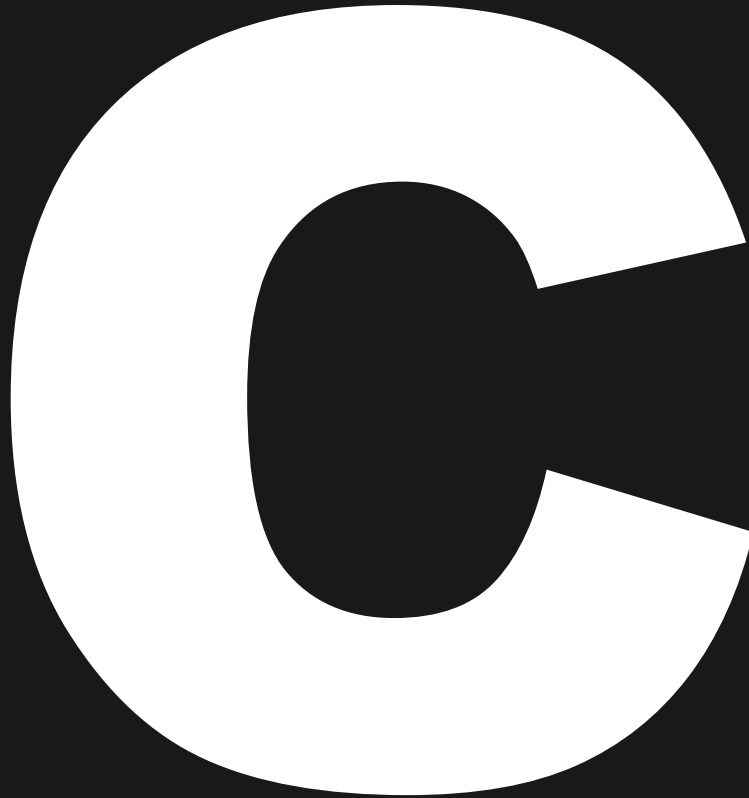
YES

on Prop L

Q&A

Good Government

Prop C, Prop D, Prop E



**ESTABLISHES THE POSITION OF
INSPECTOR GENERAL**

About C:

Creates the office of Inspector General (IG) under the Office of Controller to review complaints, lead investigations, conduct audits, with the purpose of preventing and detecting fraud, waste, and abuse.

PROS (+)

- **Adds capacity and authority in the controller's office, a trusted institution, to investigate and prevent corruption in city government.**
- **Centralizes work that is currently distributed by many divisions within the controller's office and in other city offices, including D.A., City Attorney, Ethics, etc and organizes under one individual, making it more efficient to administer audits and investigations.**
- **Preserves the authority of the controller to begin the hiring process and fire the IG, maintaining the objectivity of the role and minimizing the potential for politicization that could result from an elected position.**

CONS (-)

- **Unclear whether this measure will have a significant impact on corruption.**
- **There is the potential for duplicating work already being undertaken by the District Attorney, the City Attorney, and the Ethics Commission by adding a new position with some overlapping responsibilities.**
- **The majority of the changes in Prop C could have been made legislatively without a charter amendment.**



**NO
POSITION**

on Prop C

D

**REFORMS CITY COMMISSIONS AND
MAYORAL AUTHORITY**

E

**ESTABLISHES TASK FORCE ON
COMMISSIONS**

About D:

- **Limits the city to a total of 65 commissions**
- **Transfers decision-making authority from commissions to department heads**
- **Transfers authority to appoint and remove City department heads to the Mayor**
- **Allows the Mayor to appoint and remove two-thirds of members of all commissions**
- **Prohibits City from paying commissioners or providing them with benefits**
- **Eliminates the Police Commission's powers to create departmental policies**

About E:

- **Develops a task force to review all commissions**
- **Requires the Board's Budget and Legislative Analyst to prepare a report on how much it costs the City to support each current commission**
- **For non-charter commissions: Allows the taskforce to develop ordinances that go into effect 90 days post introduction unless the Board rejects them by a supermajority**
- **For charter commissions: Requires City Attorney to prepare a Charter amendment for Board consideration for a future ballot**

PROS (+)

Prop D	Prop E
<p>Quickly makes changes to San Francisco's governance structure to create clear lines of authority and accountability</p>	<p>Creates a process for conducting a comprehensive evidence-based review of San Francisco's commission structure before making reforms to protect against unintended consequences</p>

CONS (-)

Prop D

Dissolves or forces restructuring of voter approved decision-making bodies into advisory boards, without public research, dialogue or clear assessment of the impacts; could result in unintended consequences

Prop E

Even if this measure were to pass and be enacted, there is no guarantee that it will result in the desired streamlining of commissions

SPUR RECOMMENDS

NO

on Prop D

SPUR RECOMMENDS

NO

on Prop E

Q&A

Taxes and Budget

Prop A, Prop G, Prop M

A

SFUSD SCHOOL FACILITIES BOND

About A:

Authorizes SFUSD to issue and sell \$790 million in general obligation bonds to fund school facilities projects

- **\$410 million for Modernization projects**
- **\$95 million for Core Functionality projects**
- **\$225 million for Student Nutrition Services projects**
- **\$35 million for Technology Upgrades**
- **\$10 million for Schoolyard Outdoor Learning projects**
- **\$15 million for Security projects**

PROS (+)

- **Ensures that SFUSD can provide safe, modern facilities for students and faculty, improving their daily experience and educational outcomes.**
- **Funded projects are based on intensive capital facilities planning process involving families.**
- **Allows SFUSD to leverage funds to access a larger share of state funding for school facilities if Prop. 2 passes.**
- **Tax rates for San Francisco taxpayers will not increase.**

CONS (-)

- **This bond measure will not provide sufficient funding to address all of SFUSD's facility needs. The district estimates that repairing all school facilities would cost approximately \$6 billion and plans to propose another large bond measure in 2028.**

SPUR RECOMMENDS

YES

on Prop A



**AFFORDABLE HOUSING OPPORTUNITY
FUND**

About G:

Amends the city charter to establish a dedicated funding source for “extremely low-income” (ELI) housing for seniors, families, or people with disabilities.

PROS (+)

- **Expands access to affordable housing for ELI households that are underserved by existing funding sources**
- **Disproportionately benefits very low income people of color, seniors, people with disabilities, and people experiencing or at risk of homelessness.**

CONS (-)

- **This set-aside measure reduces the discretionary portion of the City's General Fund budget, limiting flexibility during the annual budget process, restricting options to resolve budget shortfalls, and possibly resulting in budget cuts to other programs and services without a set-aside.**

SPUR RECOMMENDS

YES

on Prop G

MM

REFORMS TO CITY BUSINESS TAX STRUCTURE

About M:

Reforms the business tax structure to increase the city's economic resilience by redistributing the tax burden to a larger number of companies, and reduces taxes and fees for small businesses.

PROS (+)

- **Provides some financial relief for small businesses that have struggled in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic.**
- **The progressive tax structure would shift the tax burden to medium, large, and wealthier businesses, injecting more fairness into the system.**
- **The majority of businesses would be unaffected or only slightly impacted by the policy change.**
- **The proposal was vetted with a diverse group of stakeholders over months of policy analysis and engagement and has wide-ranging support.**

CONS (-)

- **In the short term, this measure would have a slightly negative impact on city revenues.**

SPUR RECOMMENDS

YES

on Prop M

Q&A