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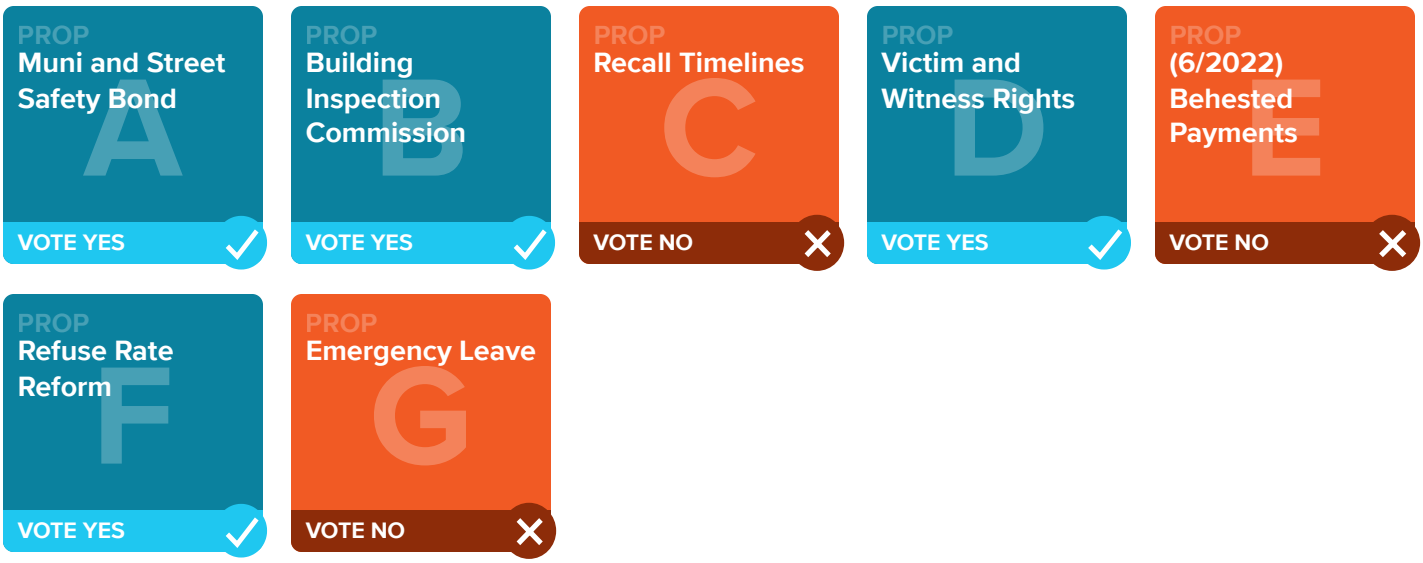
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June 2022 Voter Guide

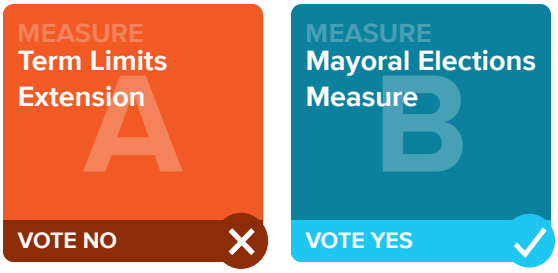
Ballot analysis and recommendations

SPUR analyzed all local and state measures on the San Francisco, San José and Oakland ballots for the June 2022 election. Our analysis includes the background behind the measures, pros and cons, and a recommendation on how to vote.

San Francisco (SF)



San José (SJ)



Oakland (OAK)



SF Prop A

Muni and Street Safety Bond

GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND

Muni Reliability and Street Safety Bond

Authorizes the City and County of San Francisco to issue $400 million in general obligation bonds for certain transportation, street safety and transit-related capital improvements.

Vote YES

SPUR's Recommendation

Muni is a critical part of San Francisco's transit infrastructure. Investing in public transportation provides benefits to everyone in San Francisco, not just transit riders, by reducing traffic congestion, greenhouse gas emissions and injuries and deaths from crashes.

Many San Francisco transit facilities and much of the city's infrastructure have been allowed to deteriorate over time, with inadequate funding for routine maintenance, repair, replacement and improvements.

Investments from the Prop. A bond would improve Muni reliability and efficiency, creating a better transit experience that would increase ridership and help San Francisco reach its climate and equity goals.

The dollars generated from the bond measure would also fund improvements to streets to make them safer for pedestrians and people on bikes, especially in San Francisco's equity priority communities — neighborhoods with a higher share of low-income residents and people of color.

Read our complete analysis at spurvoterguide.org

SF Prop B

Building Inspection Commission

CHARTER AMENDMENT

Building Inspection Commission

Reforms the Building Inspection Commission by changing the composition of the commission and requiring appointments to be confirmed by the Board of Supervisors.

Vote YES

SPUR's Recommendation

Prop. B aims to reduce conflicts of interests and bring some additional transparency to a commission that has had substantial problems with corruption. It would make the director of the Department of Building Inspection more accountable to the mayor and thus to voters, even though it could make it harder for the mayor's appointments to be confirmed because the Board of Supervisors would have the final say. While this measure might not do as much as is truly needed to address the challenges that this commission and department face, it's a modest step in the right direction.

Read our complete analysis at spurvoterguide.org

SF Prop C

Recall Timelines

CHARTER AMENDMENT

Recall Timelines and Vacancy Process

Limits the period of time when voters can recall an elected official and prohibits anyone appointed to a seat left vacant by a recall from running for that position in the following election.

Vote NO

SPUR's Recommendation

San Francisco voters have seen more recall elections in the last two years than in decades past, raising the question of whether this political lever is being overused. But voter-initiated recalls of elected officials have an important place in the democratic process: Voters need a way to remove corrupt or incompetent leaders from office. This measure would result in an unreasonably short window — just eight and a half months within a four-year term — in which elected officials could be recalled, making it more difficult to initiate a recall for legitimate reasons. Additionally, Prop. C would bar those appointed to a vacant role from running in the subsequent election, which would limit them to a partial term and make it difficult for them to complete the duties of the role.

Read our complete analysis at spurvoterguide.org

SF Prop D

Victim and Witness Rights

INITIATIVE ORDINANCE

Victim and Witness Rights

Establishes an Office of Victim and Witness Rights in San Francisco and plans for the establishment of a right to counsel to provide legal services for victims of domestic violence in civil cases.

Vote YES

SPUR's Recommendation

Even though Prop. D does not dedicate funding to start a new city office or to operate it, the concept of creating a new Office of Victim and Witness Rights in order to connect people with resources and to consolidate a fragmented network of services is sound. Furthermore, starting this new office would enable plans to establish a right to counsel for victims of domestic violence in civil cases, potentially supporting some of the most vulnerable members of the community.

Read our complete analysis at spurvoterguide.org

SF Prop E

(6/2022) Behested Payments

ORDINANCE

Behested Payments

Expands current behested payments law to prohibit the Board of Supervisors from soliciting donations to third parties from city contractors who require the Board of Supervisors to approve their contracts. Makes it more difficult to pass future amendments to this law.

Vote NO

SPUR's Recommendation

Recent corruption in San Francisco government lays out a case for much-needed internal reform. Election officials, department heads and commissioners should not be raising money from contractors seeking to gain favor. SPUR applauds the Board of Supervisors for its efforts to prevent further abuse of the behested payment system.

However, SPUR recommends a "No" vote on Prop. E because the measure would make changing the law in the future unreasonably difficult. SPUR encourages the Board of Supervisors to expand behested payments law through the regular legislative process rather than through a ballot measure.

Read our complete analysis at spurvoterguide.org

SF Prop F

Refuse Rate Reform

ORDINANCE

Refuse Collection and Disposal

Establishes the city controller as the administrator and monitor of rates, expenses and revenues for waste collection services in San Francisco and establishes a ratepayer advocate to serve as a resource to residents throughout the rate-setting process.

Vote YES

SPUR's Recommendation

This amendment gives the responsibility of rate setting for refuse collection and disposal to the Office of the Controller, which is well positioned to ensure objective and transparent rate setting. This change is much needed in the wake of a federal investigation that found ratepayers were overcharged by more than $100 million in 2017. Establishing ongoing oversight of the rate-setting process and adding a ratepayer advocate will better serve the needs of the city and of ratepayers.

Read our complete analysis at spurvoterguide.org

SF Prop G

Emergency Leave

ORDINANCE

Public Health Emergency Leave

Requires employers with more than 100 employees worldwide to provide two weeks of public health emergency leave to employees who work in San Francisco during a public health emergency and to vulnerable employees who primarily work outside during a Spare the Air alert.

Vote NO

SPUR's Recommendation

Emergency paid sick leave saves lives. It ensures that families are able to care for their children, allows people with chronic conditions to isolate and represents a vital component of any strategy to slow the spread of an illness. Additionally, as climate change threatens the region with worsening air quality, having further protections for vulnerable workers is sound policy. However, this measure could place a significant financial burden on small businesses with a large employee base, such as restaurants. In the event of a future public health emergency, the Board of Supervisors can pass emergency leave legislation specific to the situation at hand.

Read our complete analysis at spurvoterguide.org

SJ Measure A

Term Limits Extension

ORDINANCE

Santa Clara Valley Water District Board Term Limits

Extends term limits for the Santa Clara Valley Water District Board of Directors to four successive four-year terms, from three successive four-year terms.

Vote NO

SPUR's Recommendation

Elected officials and boards have difficult issues to address, but extending the number of terms officials are allowed to serve does not necessarily provide a solution, particularly for challenges such as climate change, which will not be solved in one generation.

Shorter term limits can help ensure a seamless transition, in which one generation of elected officials learns the ropes from the existing generation and then passes on their knowledge to the next generation. Given the large pool of innovative and talented thinkers in Santa Clara County, expanding the number of terms that directors can serve could limit access to new ideas in addressing old and continuing issues.

The current term limit of 12 consecutive years in office already strikes a good balance between allowing voters to reelect experienced directors and encouraging new political representation to address difficult issues.

Read our complete analysis at spurvoterguide.org

SJ Measure B
Mayoral Elections Measure

CHARTER AMENDMENT

City of San José Mayoral Election Measure

Moves San José mayoral elections from gubernatorial to presidential election years beginning in 2024 and limits the mayor elected in 2022 to a two-year term, with the option to run for and serve as mayor for two additional, successive four-year terms.

Vote YES

SPUR's Recommendation

Shifting the mayoral election cycle to presidential years has the potential to serve broader goals of expanding equity and representation in the city for years to come. This change could encourage greater voter turnout and a more representative electorate, thereby involving more San José voters in electing this important local office.

A larger, more representative electorate would help more voters feel that their vote for citywide leadership is important and ensure that their issues are more accurately represented and addressed.

Read our complete analysis at spurvoterguide.org

OAK Measure C
Library Parcel Tax

ORDINANCE

Library Services Retention and Enhancement Act Extension

Extends a 1994 parcel tax to fund the Oakland Public Library for the next 30 years.

Vote YES

SPUR's Recommendation

The Oakland Public Library provides critical services to area residents, particularly those who are historically and currently underserved, and these services require long-term funding. Ideally, this funding would come through the General Fund, since the need for these services is ongoing. However, the 30-year parcel tax provides stable funding when this is not possible.

The parcel tax is also well designed, acknowledging that different types of parcels should be taxed differently and providing equity-driven exemptions. This structure helps reduce the regressive nature of parcel taxes.

Read our complete analysis at spurvoterguide.org

Purpose and Process

The goal of the SPUR Voter Guide is to offer objective analysis and advise voters on which measures will deliver real solutions.

SPUR analyzes all city measures in San Francisco, San José and Oakland, as well as regional and California state measures. The June 2022 ballot does not include any regional or state ballot measures.

For each city, a subcommittee of the SPUR board (Ballot Analysis Committee or Policy Advisory Board) serves to hear arguments on both sides of the relevant measures, debate the merits of each and provide recommendations to the relevant SPUR city board of directors. Each board must then reach a 60 percent vote to determine the final SPUR recommendation on a given ballot measure. The boards voted on the relevant measures on the following dates:

San Francisco Board of Directors: May 4, 2022

San José Board of Directors: May 7, 2022

Oakland Board of Directors: May 6, 2022

Acknowledgments

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