



Guide to Local Ballot Initiatives San Francisco & Alameda Counties June 2018 Election

The [TechEquity Collaborative](#) is a non-profit organization that believes the tech-driven economy can and should work for everyone in the Bay Area. We activate tech workers on policy issues that will achieve more inclusive economic growth. In California, much of this policy change happens on the ballot, and many of the ballot initiatives -- especially the local ones -- can be hard to understand. Our team has evaluated each of the county and regional measures in San Francisco and Alameda Counties to provide clarity on what the measures do and, where they intersect with TechEquity's priorities, make recommendations on how our community should vote.

Want info on some of the candidates running for office? [Check out this great guide](#) from our friends at *By the Bay*.

Regional

Regional Measure 3 - Bay Area Traffic Relief Plan

- *Increases the toll on all Bay Area bridges, except the Golden Gate Bridge, by an additional \$1 in 2019, \$1 in 2022, and \$1 in 2025. To raise \$4.45B over 25 years for transit investments.*
 - Regional Measure 3 aims to alleviate congestion on freeways, crowding on BART, and improve bus, ferry, and railway service by raising funds for significant capital investments in our transit infrastructure.
 - These funds would help expand BART's railcar fleet allowing more cars on BART lines during peak service times. They would also fund a planned expansion of BART to Silicon Valley, reducing traffic congestion along the East Bay 880 S corridor. The funds will also support rail service into San Francisco at the Transbay Transit Center and support the center's operation.
- **Position: YES**
 - **Why TechEquity Members Should Vote for It:** With Bay Area housing prices skyrocketing, and a lack of transit-dense affordable housing, more residents are being pushed to the outer fringes of our region, lengthening commutes. Robust public

transit infrastructure will reduce commute times and improve quality of life for residents of our region.

San Francisco

Measure A - Public Utilities Revenue Bonds

- *Allows the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission to issue revenue bonds to pay for power and electrical facilities without needing to obtain voter approval.*
 - Under the current City Charter (like a city's version of a constitution) the SFPUC needs to seek voter approval for certain types of revenue bonds - specifically power facilities.
 - Measure A would amend the City Charter to allow the SFPUC to issue revenue bonds for infrastructure improvements like water, wastewater, and power systems without voter approval. Lengthy and burdensome campaigns must be conducted to educate voters and approve bonds. This slows the SFPUC's ability to issue bonds and raise necessary funds to improve power infrastructure.
- **Position: No Position**
 - This measure does not have a close nexus to our issue areas or mission

Measure B - Prohibiting Appointed Commissioners from Running for Office

- *Requires appointed members of city boards and commissions to resign their positions if they run for state or local elected office.*
 - Another amendment to San Francisco's City Charter, this measure would codify what is traditionally done - resignation upon announcing a run for office.
 - Appointed commission and board positions include BART Board of Directors, Mayor, Sheriff, District Attorney, City Attorney, Treasurer, Board of Education, Board of Community College District, Board of Supervisors, among others.
- **Position: No Position**
 - This measure does not have a close nexus to our issue areas or mission

Measure C - Tax On Commercial Rents To Fund Child Care And Education

- *Imposes a tax to be paid by commercial landlords on commercial rents received to fund early childhood education and care*
 - This measure imposes a tax on income received through commercial rents. It exempts industrial, arts, and some retail,

specifically retail that is not a chain store. Rents collected from government and nonprofit entities would also be exempt from the tax.

- 85% of the revenue from Measure C would go into a dedicated fund to support eligible programs providing early childhood education and care. The funds would also raise compensation and access to training for care professionals and staff, who are often very low wage workers. The remaining 15% of funds would go to administrative costs and the general fund.
- **Consider your choice between Measures C and D carefully. Both tax commercial rents and if both pass, the measure with the most votes will be the winner, canceling the other out.**
- **Position: No Position**
 - This measure does not have a close nexus to our issue areas or mission

Measure D - Additional Tax on Commercial Rents Mostly to Fund Housing and Homelessness Services

- *Imposes a tax to be paid by commercial landlords on commercial rents received to fund housing and homelessness services*
 - Like Measure C, Measure D will raise new funds for city services through a tax on income received through commercial rents. Measure D, however, imposes this tax at a slightly lower rate.
 - Revenue raised from Measure D would go into a dedicated fund with 45% to the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing (DHS) for uses that would help homeless adults, families or youth. 10% would go to the Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development (MOHCD) for development and maintenance of single-room occupancy (SRO) buildings, which primarily serve very low income residents. 35% would go to MOHCD specific uses - to acquire and rehab existing rent-controlled housing stock to serve low income residents, and to build housing for middle-income households. The remaining funds go into the general fund, 1.5 million in 2018-2019 and 3 million each year thereafter, adjusted for inflation.
- **Position: YES**
 - **Why TechEquity Members Should Vote for It:** With two measures on the ballot, Measure C and Measure D, competing for the same funds, voters have a difficult decision before them. We felt the close link between booming business, the rise of homelessness, and our organization's mission validated a yes position on this measure. With Measure D, there's strong link between this tax on downtown growth and the housing shortages that more jobs creates. We think it's fair that corporate landlords who benefit from the rising office space market offset some of the issues that boom creates.

Measure E - Prohibiting Tobacco Retailers from Selling Flavored Tobacco Products

- *Upholds a recent city ordinance to ban the sale of flavored tobacco products*
 - The San Francisco Board of Supervisors unanimously passed a city ordinance to ban the sale of flavored tobacco products last year. The Board of Supervisors agree that the negative health impacts of flavored tobacco products disproportionately affect children and communities of color, and the city has a responsibility to mitigate those harms. Local merchants and big tobacco companies joined forces to try to repeal the ordinance. Tobacco company R.J. Reynolds contributed \$700,000 toward the repeal, arguing that the ban would hurt small businesses. As a result this issue has come before the voters to affirm or reject the Board of Supervisors position.
- **Position: No position**
 - This measure does not have a close nexus to our issue areas or mission

Measure F - City-Funded Legal Representation for Residential Tenants in Eviction Lawsuits

- *Provides legal representation to all tenants facing an eviction, regardless of income*
 - The City issued a report in 2014 that shows over 80% of San Francisco renters enter into eviction proceedings without legal representation, while landlords come with expert legal teams over 90% of the time. A two year pilot program to secure legal counsel for tenants facing eviction in Washington D.C found that participants were more than six times as likely to secure an outcome in their favor, avoiding eviction, than those who had no representation.
 - With growing displacement, we need to give tenants a fighting chance in keeping their home when faced with a daunting eviction proceeding.
- **Position: YES**
 - **Why TechEquity Members Should Vote for It:** We are all well aware that we are in the middle of a displacement epidemic. Landlords are highly incentivized to move out lower-income tenants so they can raise rents. Oftentimes, these evictions are unfair. With a mountain of evidence extolling the virtues of representation, legal counsel could be the only thing standing between San Francisco families and homelessness.

Measure G - Parcel Tax for San Francisco Unified School District

- *Applies a annual tax of \$298 per parcel to fund teacher salaries, school staffing, and support for educators*
 - Under Measure G, each plot of land in the city would be assessed with a parcel tax of \$298 each year over the next 20 years. Raising an estimated \$50 million a year. Senior citizens' primary residence is exempted.
 - San Francisco educators make far less than many surrounding cities, making it difficult for the district to retain teachers and making it more difficult for SFUSD educators to afford the regions high cost of living.
- **Position: YES**
 - **Why TechEquity Members Should Vote for It:** Because of the passage of Proposition 13 in 1978, which pegs property tax rates to the assessed value of the property at the time of purchase, our state and cities are limited in the revenue they can raise to fund schools and local services. Without a reform to Prop 13, parcel taxes are one of few funding mechanisms we can utilize.

Measure H - Policy for the Use of Tasers by San Francisco Police Officers

- *Arms all SFPD officers with electronic stun guns by December 2018, requires training and supervision, reporting and accountability requirements*
 - Under this measure SFPD officers who complete de-escalation training will be authorized to carry a Conductive Energy Device (CED) like Tasers. The measure would allow the deployment of CEDs beginning in August of 2018.
 - The efficacy of CEDs as a de-escalation tool is mixed. Proponents of the use of CEDs say that they can be a less lethal alternative to firearms, reducing harm to officers and the public. Opponents are concerned that CEDs are used disproportionately with people of color and the use of CEDs does not reduce the use of firearms by police forces.
- **Position: No Position**
 - This measure does not have a close nexus to our issue areas or mission.

Measure I - Relocation of Professional Sports Teams

- *Declares that the City should not encourage or court the relocation of sports teams to San Francisco nor condone sports team owners avoiding payment of public debt*
 - This measure does not change any laws or policies but acts as an opportunity for voters to declare their opinion on the issue of sports team relocation.

- **Position: No Position**
 - This measure does not have a close nexus to our issue areas or mission, and it's not clear to us why it's even on the ballot.

Alameda County

Measure A - Childcare Expansion

- *Expands access to childcare for low- and middle income families*
 - Imposes a sales tax increase of 0.5% which would raise \$140m per year to expand childcare for lower-income families, fund services for at-risk and homeless youth, and increase pay for childcare workers.
- **Position: No Position**
 - This measure does not have a close nexus to our issue areas or mission.

For the purposes of this ballot guide, we are only evaluating the county-wide measures, of which there is only one in Alameda County this June. However, there are other city-wide measures on the ballot across Alameda County, including [Measure D](#) in Oakland (to provide funding for expanded library services) and [Measure C](#) in Emeryville (to provide funding for homeless services and affordable housing) that are relevant to TechEquity's work and which we support.