San Francisco Young Democrats | Ballot Measure Questionnaire - November 2024

[San Francisco & California measures]

Please answer the following in 300 words or less:

1. Please provide us with all of your contact information for your ballot measure position.
   Campaign Manager: Lucas Lux, lucas@greathighwaypark.com
   Website: www.oceanbeachpark.org

2. Can you tell us who created this ballot measure and how it was placed on the ballot?
   Westside supervisors Joel Engardio and Myrna Melgar are the primary sponsors, who placed it on the ballot along with sponsorship by Supervisors Dean Preston, Matt Dorsey, and Rafael Mandelman and support from Supervisors Safaí and Ronen alongside Mayor London Breed

3. Briefly explain your position on this ballot initiative and why it should pass or fail this election cycle?
   We have a once-in-a-lifetime chance to convert the Great Highway into an oceanfront park. Over the past four years, the City has experimented with using the Great Highway from Lincoln to Sloat as a coastal park promenade. San Franciscans have voted with their feet that they love it; the pilot park is the City's third most visited park space, with nearly 10,000 visits each weekend. That pilot is expiring next year. At the same time, the southern portion of the Great Highway is permanently closing due to coastal erosion, significantly decreasing the usefulness of the Great Highway as a roadway. Drivers will need to divert inland the same distance regardless of whether our measure succeeds. By diverting inland one street earlier - at Lincoln Way - we can open up the coast for people to enjoy in ways that are not possible on the beach itself, and take the first step towards creating San Francisco's next iconic open space.

4. What are your anticipated main sources of funding for your campaign?
   Private fundraising from individuals.

5. Who are some of the individuals and organizations that support your position on the ballot measure?
   In addition to the initial sponsors, we are pleased to be endorsed at this time by:
   a. Individuals: Mayor London Breed, Senator Scott Wiener, Supervisor Ahsha Safai, Supervisor Hillary Ronen, and BART Director Janice Li.
   b. Organizations: SPUR, the Golden Gate Bird Alliance, the SF League of Conservation Voters, the SF Bicycle Coalition, Walk SF, 350 SF, Climate Reality

Bay Area, Richmond Family SF, Outer Sunset Neighbors. The Youth Commission also publicly endorsed the measure's placement on the ballot.

6. Why do you believe that the San Francisco Young Democrats should endorse your campaign's position on this measure?
   Creating a new oceanfront park is a gift to the next generation of San Franciscans. This is our generation's Embarcadero or Crissy Field project; our City's incredible oceanfront will become an iconic space that defines San Francisco in the coming generations.

   The measure is also good governance. A topic as important as the use of our city's coastline for the next generation deserves direct input from the voters, and this election is the only opportunity for voters to weigh in before the pilot expires and the southern section of the roadway closes - both happening next year. By acting now, voters can plan for a new inland commute in conjunction with the creation of a new oceanfront park space. In the process:
   a. The City Controller estimates that taxpayers will save $4-5M due to the high costs of maintaining a coastal roadway relative to a park promenade;
   b. Converting the roadway into a coastal park will allow the city to prioritize coastal dune rehabilitation, which is necessary to protect the Outer Sunset from rising sea and storm levels; and
   c. The SFMTA has studied the traffic impacts and determined that the only impacted trips will be from the Outer Richmond to Daly City, which will take 3 minutes longer during rush hour. Supervisors Engardio and Melgar are working with the SFMTA to implement traffic infrastructure improvements to reduce that 3 minutes while also improving pedestrian safety on Lincoln Way, e.g. replacing stop signs with traffic signals on Lincoln Way.

7. Please feel free to add any additional comments.
   Now is the time to make this decision. After 5 reports and 11 public hearings, this issue has received exhaustive public process, and the voters should be able to have their say. With the Board of Supervisors' already legislated closure of the Great Highway south of Sloat next year for sewer system work, the city needs to plan ahead and implement traffic plans that get everyone where they need to go. Deciding this issue now is smart planning; it gives city agencies the opportunity to plan for smooth commute routes alongside an iconic new oceanfront park.

   We have additional FAQs on our website at https://www.oceanbeachpark.org/faq addressing many other common questions.