

Oppose the two harmful Baby Prop C Proposals!

Choose Your Own Talking Points

(Note: You only have 1 minute to speak!)

Reminder: Please be respectful when speaking to the Board of Supervisors. We want to maintain positive relationships.

Short script (10 seconds)

My name is [], and I [live/work] in San Francisco in [neighborhood]. I am urging you to **vote no and not consider either proposal** put forward to make changes to the voter-passed Prop C behind closed doors via the budget process.

Long script (1 minute)

My name is [], and I [live/work] in San Francisco in [neighborhood]. I am urging you to **vote no and not consider either proposal** put forward to make changes to the voter-passed Prop C behind closed doors via the budget process.

Any changes to a voter-passed initiative should and must have a thorough community input session.

In 2018, the voters of San Francisco made their voices heard, passing Baby Prop C and giving hope to families and child care providers across the city.

Now, eyes have turned to Baby Prop C, a fund for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers as an option to close City budget issues, an attempt to balance the budget on the backs of babies.

[Choose Option 1, overview of all the issues, or Option 2, delving into 1-2 issues below in depth]

Option 1: Overview of all the issues (choose two bullet points)

The City has introduced two proposals that would decimate the already fragile child care ecosystem:

- **If you implement either proposal you will be making changes to a voter initiative without a democratic process. This is a violation of democracy and the initiative process in San Francisco. This sets a dangerous precedent for government and transparency within city government.**
- Changing tax rules of Baby Prop C by exempting big businesses making over \$1M in commercial rent from contributing to our child care community. This will decrease child care revenue by \$17 million annually during an economic recession and
- Reducing the amount of money the City is legally obligated to invest in child care annually, will mean a \$30 million cut to child care funding over the next two years.
- These proposals represent \$150 million in lost funding for child care, devastating the child care sector, harming San Francisco's economic recovery efforts, and beginning a slippery slope to usurping the voice given to the electorate via direct ballot initiative.

On behalf of parents, providers, families and the infants and toddlers who cannot speak for themselves across San Francisco, I ask that you stand up to protect Baby Prop C this budget season and say NO TO BOTH PROPOSALS. Thank you.

END OPTION 1

Option 2: Choose one issue below and pick one or two bullets (or more if you have time).

The proposals to raid Baby Prop C funding would decimate the child care ecosystem in San Francisco and harm San Francisco families

- Nearly 60% of San Francisco children live in families that struggle to afford child care.
- Expanding capacity is already an issue, currently there are only enough licensed child care slots to accommodate 15% of infants in San Francisco.
- The city finally has the funds needed to open enrollment to new early care and education programs long waiting to receive city funds, as well as provide program improvement services to programs not yet enrolled—**don't close this door!** City funds allow sites to offer services to families at accessible rates while still paying educators living wages.
- The most recent school readiness report (2021) reveals that only 57% of San Francisco children overall are deemed “ready” for kindergarten. Baby Prop C funding is essential to enrolling more infants and toddlers in child care to prepare them for kindergarten
- Many families are facing economic uncertainty, struggling to balance the cost of early childhood education with the cost of necessities such as rent, food, and utilities. Providing affordable child care is a solution.

The proposals to take funding away from Baby Prop C will harm San Francisco's economic recovery efforts

- According to the Federal Reserve Bank of SF, research suggests returns of 18-20% on investment in early childhood education, through reduced social costs, higher tax revenue, and a more productive workforce.
- Over half (51%) of people who identified themselves as homemakers would look for a job if affordable and reliable child care options were available.
- More than 50% of mothers have scaled back their hours to save on child care, and 25% of mothers left the workforce altogether.

The proposals to take funding away from Baby Prop C will harm San Francisco's already vulnerable communities

- Investing in the early care and education sector is crucial to ensure equitable opportunities for young children and their families, especially black and brown children.
- Baby Prop C funding is critical to raising provider wages from poverty-level and to the recruitment and retaining of providers.
- We need to expand our workforce to meet the needs of our infants and toddlers, children with special needs, and to improve overall workforce conditions at our early care and education sites. Increased wages is the first step in doing this.

- We need more early care and education sites to be included in the city program. Keep funds flowing to allow increased enrollment of sites in Early Learning SF (ELS) to help our children and families most in need.
- Only early care and education sites enrolled in the city system receive the funds to boost wages and work conditions. Keep the doors open so all teachers can have their wages raised and stabilize the system for all children and teachers.
- Investing in this sector can help close the opportunity gap for black and brown children, disproportionately affected by poverty and lack of access to high-quality early childhood services, and provide families with the support they need to succeed.
- Black early educators experience poverty at as much as double the rates of their White peers. We will not be able to close this parity gap if you take funds away.
- Children with special needs are not getting sufficient services. New and expanded essential services to meet the needs of these children are at risk if these proposals go into effect.

Family Resource Centers (FRCs) oppose these changes as well

- The FRC Alliance supports the request to deny both proposals to make changes to the voter-passed Baby Prop C.
- By balancing the budget through changes to Baby Prop C funding for child care, the City is demonstrating that young children and their families are not a priority.
- **The City should show a commitment to children and families, our City's future and long-term stability, by utilizing other sources of funding for families, children, and food security;** sources like the General Fund, the Department of Children Youth and their Families (DCYF) Children's Fund, Human Services Agency (HSA) funding for prevention, and Department of Public Health (DPH) funding for children and families.
- It's time the City flips the script so that we can keep diverse families in the City. It's time to fully invest in our future.

Education is the key to public safety

- Research shows that investments in education lead to better paying jobs, stronger community ties and a decreased risk for crime. Cities with higher levels of educational attainment also have crime rates lower than the national average.
- Enacting policies and programs and allocating resources to further increase the number of 3- and 4-year-olds enrolled in early education can increase overall levels of educational attainment, community investment and reduce justice system involvement.
- A survey conducted by George Mason University found that, out of various options, police chiefs gave "high quality early learning and care" the highest effectiveness rating as a crime prevention tool. Nearly 90% of police chiefs said that "America could greatly reduce crime by expanding quality child care programs."
- A study by Vanderbilt University estimates that investing in a young person at higher risk of being involved in the criminal justice system produces societal benefits between \$1 and \$1.3 million, by improving public safety as well as increasing employment and income.

Closing:

On behalf of parents, providers, families, and the infants and toddlers who cannot speak for themselves across San Francisco, I ask that you stand up to protect Baby Prop C this budget season and say NO TO BOTH PROPOSALS. Thank you.

END OPTION 2