



Our Ballot Explainer

WHAT'S ON THE BALLOT

There's a lot of decisions to make! The federal and state items on the ballot are:

- 9 statewide non-judicial offices, including the governor
- 4 state justices
- 1 US senator (which you have to vote on twice, weirdly)
- 1 US representative
- 1 state assembly
- 7 statewide propositions

With just one exception, ***none of the federal and state offices on the ballot are competitive.***

The one exception is if you live in the southwest or central part of San Francisco, you may be in District 14, where [Representative Jackie Spier](#) is retiring. Your choice to replace her is between [Kevin Mullin](#) and [David Canepa](#).

The seven statewide propositions on the ballot are:

- Proposition 1: Constitutional right to reproductive freedom
- Proposition 26: Legalizes certain types of in-person gambling
- Proposition 27: Legalizes certain types of online gambling
- Proposition 28: Additional funding for arts and music in public schools
- Proposition 29: Changes the regulation of kidney dialysis clinics
- Proposition 30: Tax increase in income over \$2 million
- Proposition 31: Upholds ban on certain flavored tobacco products

And that's just the federal and state items. Phew! Now let's review the San Francisco offices and initiatives. San Francisco offices up for election are:

- 3 seats up for election on the Board of Education

- 4 seats up for election on the City College Board
- 9 local justices to be affirmed (no one is running against them)
- Supervisors in Districts 2, 4, 6, 8 and 10 are up for election
- BART Director in District 8 (roughly half the city) is up for election
- Assessor-Recorder is up for election
- District Attorney is up for election
- Public Defender is up for election

Of all the above offices, the races that are competitive are the following:

- Board of Education
- Community College
- Supervisor Districts 4 and 6
- District Attorney
- Public Defender

Finally, there are 14 (yes, fourteen!) local ballot measures. They are:

- Proposition A: Retiree cost of living adjustment
- Proposition B: Change to street sanitation oversight
- Proposition C: Establish a homeless oversight commission
- Propositions D and E: Dueling affordable housing measures
- Proposition F: Renewal of the Library Preservation Fund
- Proposition G: Establish a new fund for San Francisco public schools
- Proposition H: Consolidate citywide elections into presidential years
- Propositions I and J: Dueling JFK Promenade (GG Park) measures
- Proposition L: Reauthorize sales tax for city transit infrastructure
- Proposition M: Establish a tax on certain vacant residential units
- Proposition N: Change oversight of GG Park underground garage
- Proposition O: Establish a new parcel tax to fund City College

With so many decisions, you may want to consult a voter guide that will give you recommendations for each choice, plus a detailed explanation and plenty of food for thought. We highly recommend the [TogetherSF Action](#) and the [GrowSF](#) voter guides.

Each one does an excellent job of explaining the issues, the context, and the arguments in favor of their positions. We often agree with their views, and even when we disagree we respect their research and their reasoning. Read the [TogetherSF Action](#) and [GrowSF](#) voter guides to help you decide how to vote!

OUR ENDORSEMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This election cycle, Families for San Francisco is only making one endorsement:

We endorse the election of [Ann Hsu](#), [Lainie Motamedi](#), and [Lisa Weissman-Ward](#) for Board of Education.

Although none of the following is an official endorsement, we have some recommendations for you to consider.

Supervisor District 4: We know Joel Engardio, and we believe he would do a better job as Supervisor than the current incumbent, Gordon Mar.

Proposition D: This **actually** reforms San Francisco's home building approvals process. By contrast, Proposition E cynically **appears** to reform home building, while actually doing nothing to improve things. (One of the co-sponsors of Proposition E was Gordon Mar.) San Francisco is at risk of losing hundreds of millions of dollars of state funding if we fail to build more housing.

Proposition G: Families for San Francisco Executive Director Patrick Wolff wrote a [Perspective in the San Francisco Standard](#) in favor of Proposition G.

Proposition L: It is absolutely vital to continue this funding. Vote yes.

And to conclude, an observation on **Proposition H:** Consolidating citywide elections in presidential election years will increase turnout, which is good. But it will also make the ballot even more complex, which is bad. We yearn for a ballot simplification reform