

1 [Municipal Elections Code - Requiring Authors of Ballot Arguments to Be San Francisco
Residents]

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3 **Ordinance amending the Municipal Elections Code to require that all individuals listed**
4 **as authors of a ballot argument be San Francisco residents and that the full text of a**
5 **ballot argument appear in the Voter Information Pamphlet before the names of the**
6 **ballot argument's authors.**

7 NOTE: **Unchanged Code text and uncodified text** are in plain Arial font.
8 **Additions to Codes** are in *single-underline italics Times New Roman font*.
9 **Deletions to Codes** are in ~~*strikethrough italics Times New Roman font*~~.
10 **Board amendment additions** are in double-underlined Arial font.
11 **Board amendment deletions** are in ~~strikethrough Arial font~~.
12 **Asterisks (* * * *)** indicate the omission of unchanged Code
13 subsections or parts of tables.

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12 Be it ordained by the People of the City and County of San Francisco:

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14 Section 1. The Municipal Elections Code is hereby amended by revising Section 530,
15 to read as follows:

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SEC. 530. BALLOT ARGUMENTS; PROCEDURES.

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(a) ~~*Rules for Submission.*~~ *This section contains the rules and procedures for* the submission
18 and publication of ballot arguments for or against any measure submitted to the voters.

19

(b) ~~*Authorship-Definitions.*~~ *For purposes of this Section, the following definitions shall apply:*
20 *“Author” shall mean the person, persons, entity, or entities whose names appear after*
21 *the text of a ballot argument in the voter information pamphlet.*

22

“Entity” shall mean any group of people, and includes but is not limited to
23 *corporations, associations, partnerships, and organizations.*

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(c) Publication.

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1 (1) The Director of Elections shall publish in the voter information pamphlet ballot
2 arguments for or against any measure, so long as those ballot arguments satisfy the requirements set
3 forth in this Section and the ballot arguments are submitted to the Department of Elections by or on
4 behalf of ~~by~~ The the Board of Supervisors, or any member or members of the Board of
5 Supervisors authorized by that body; the Mayor; any proponent of ~~an initiative a~~ measure ~~or a~~
6 referendum; any individual voter, or group of such voters; ~~or association, any entity, or~~
7 organization; or any combination thereof. ~~may submit a written argument for or against any~~
8 measure for publication in the voter information pamphlet.

9 (2) When the Board of Supervisors authorizes a member or members of that
10 body to ~~submit and sign~~ be the author or authors of a written proponent or opponent argument
11 for or against any measure for publication in the voter information pamphlet, or assigns that
12 right to another person pursuant to Section 550 of this Code, the Board of Supervisors shall
13 provide such authorization by motion and need not take any further action, including voting on
14 or otherwise approving the actual text of the argument before it is submitted for publication.

15 (3) The text of a ballot argument shall appear in the voter information pamphlet before
16 the names of all authors of that ballot argument. No portion of a ballot argument may appear in the
17 voter information pamphlet after the listed authors.

18 (d) **Requirements.** The Director of Elections shall not publish a ballot argument in the voter
19 information pamphlet unless it satisfies the following requirements:

20 (1) The ballot argument must be submitted on a form and in a format specified by the
21 Director of Elections.

22 (2) At the time of submission, the ballot argument must be accompanied by the
23 signature of each author of that ballot argument. For ballot arguments submitted on behalf of entities,
24 the ballot argument must be accompanied by the signature of at least one person who is authorized by
25 the entity to submit the argument on behalf of the entity. The entity on whose behalf the ballot

1 argument is submitted must clearly indicate whether it wishes the name of any individual to be listed as
2 an author.

3 (3) All ballot arguments must list at least one author. An individual may not be listed as
4 an author unless that individual is a San Francisco resident.

5 (4) A ballot argument which indicates in its text that an individual or entity, other than
6 an author of the argument, supports a measure, or supports or endorses the views expressed in the
7 argument, must be accompanied by a statement of consent signed by such individual or entity. The
8 consent of an entity shall be signed by a principal officer of that entity.

9 (e) Form. To ensure that all ballot arguments are filed in a uniform format, the arguments shall
10 be submitted in a manner specified by the Director of Elections.

11 (d) Authorization Signatures Required. A ballot argument shall not be accepted unless
12 accompanied by the signature or signatures of the person or persons submitting it, or, if submitted on
13 behalf of an association or organization, the name of the association or organization, and the signature
14 of at least one of its principal officers who is a registered San Francisco voter. The association or
15 organization submitting the argument must clearly indicate whether it wishes the name of the officer
16 submitting the argument to be printed as part of the argument. The names of additional associations,
17 organizations, or individuals who are registered San Francisco voters may be submitted as co-authors
18 of the argument. The names and titles of all co-authors, and the name and title of any other person to
19 be included in the text of the argument as printed in the voter information pamphlet, shall be counted
20 against the 300-word limit specified in Section 575 of this Article. Such names and titles shall be
21 subject to the per word fee specified in Section 830 of this Code.

22 (e) Consent Required. A ballot argument which includes in its text the name of an individual or
23 entity, other than a co-author of the argument, which is represented as being for a measure, or which is
24 represented as supporting or endorsing the views expressed in the argument, shall not be accepted
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1 ~~unless the argument is accompanied by a statement of consent signed by such individual or entity. The~~
2 ~~consent of an entity shall be signed by an officer or other duly authorized representative.~~

3 (e) Word count. The names and titles of all authors shall be counted against the 300-word limit
4 specified in Section 575 of this Article. Such names and titles shall be subject to the per-word fee
5 specified in Section 830 of this Code.

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7 Section 2. Effective Date. This ordinance shall become effective 30 days after
8 enactment. Enactment occurs when the Mayor signs the ordinance, the Mayor returns the
9 ordinance unsigned or does not sign the ordinance within ten days of receiving it, or the Board
10 of Supervisors overrides the Mayor's veto of the ordinance.

11
12 Section 3. Scope of Ordinance. In enacting this ordinance, the Board of Supervisors
13 intends to amend only those words, phrases, paragraphs, subsections, sections, articles,
14 numbers, punctuation marks, charts, diagrams, or any other constituent parts of the Municipal
15 Code that are explicitly shown in this ordinance as additions, deletions, Board amendment
16 additions, and Board amendment deletions in accordance with the "Note" that appears under
17 the official title of the ordinance.

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19 APPROVED AS TO FORM:
20 DENNIS J. HERRERA, City Attorney

21 By: _____
22 JOSHUA S. WHITE
23 Deputy City Attorney

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