

Prop N 2018 Community Perspective One Pager

OVERVIEW:

Proposition N was a ballot measure passed by popular vote in San Francisco's 2016 elections that would enable non-citizen parents, guardians, and caretakers of children and youth (ages 0-19) eligible to enroll in San Francisco United School District to vote in the District elections, starting in 2018. The San Francisco Board of Supervisors is tasked with introducing an ordinance to provide the Department of Elections guidance for implementation for non-citizens to exercise their right to vote as currently mandated by San Francisco charter.

1. Prop N is a community-driven civil rights victory and implementation is already underway

Prop N has already garnered attention and visibility since November 2016. Community groups have been convening membership and leaders to provide updates with the implementation process. While safety is a concern, community expects the Department of Elections to serve their needs by paying close attention to voter outreach, engagement, and turnout with linguistic and cultural competency.

2. We must harness community power in response to threats of Trump Administration

Community members are powerful not panicked. While we are concerned about the safety and protection of their information, it is necessary for Prop N to be implemented to combat the continued marginalization of immigrant communities through a rollback of rights, including their right to vote. Community members are informed through community-based organizations and Prop N is an opportunity to democratize San Francisco rather than a reactionary limitation that is collateral to Trump's attacks.

Current deportation defense protections through the SF Rapid Response Network and the Public Defender's office were fought for by community and we continue to remain dedicated to expanding these protections.

3. A fair and transparent implementation process ensures the vitality of our democracy

Prop N is a civil right for non-citizens in San Francisco guaranteed by popular ballot vote and we hope to be accountable to voters who supported the initiative. Prop N is a dynamic initiative that will lift the silence and ensure that we are honoring the political voice of San Francisco residents.



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4. Non-citizen suffrage is key to preserving fair representation in the upcoming school board elections

Non-citizens are taxpayers who contribute to the economic vitality of SFUSD and San Francisco and should have the power to decide the future of their children. More than one-third of current SFUSD enrollees are children of immigrant parents. Delaying implementation would be a form of disenfranchisement and significantly stall civic awareness and participation at the school board where working class parents can unique exercise their democratic voice.

5. Department of Elections should be tasked with implementing a fair and equitable election through a stand-alone ballot for non-citizen vote

With the signing of AB 918 (Bonta) on the state-level, the San Francisco Department of Elections must provide linguistically and culturally responsive voter outreach and engagement, which should include Prop N and related risk assessment.

SFUSD has been tasked with distributing absentee ballots by City Controller with the following:

City Controller Ben Rosenfield has issued the following statement on the fiscal impact of Proposition N:

Should the proposed Charter amendment be approved by the voters, in my opinion, there would be an additional cost, as estimated by the Department of Elections, of a minimum of \$160,000 per election to print and distribute voting materials, train poll workers and separately register people who would become eligible to vote in School Board elections. Should the election take place by absentee ballot only, which would require a subsequent ordinance by the Board, costs may be reduced to approximately \$110,000, in addition to any costs associated with registration processes.

The amendment would permit non-citizens 18 years of age or older who have children residing in the San Francisco Unified School District to vote in the elections for the School Board. The amendment would sunset on December 31, 2022, but could be extended by ordinance.^[2]