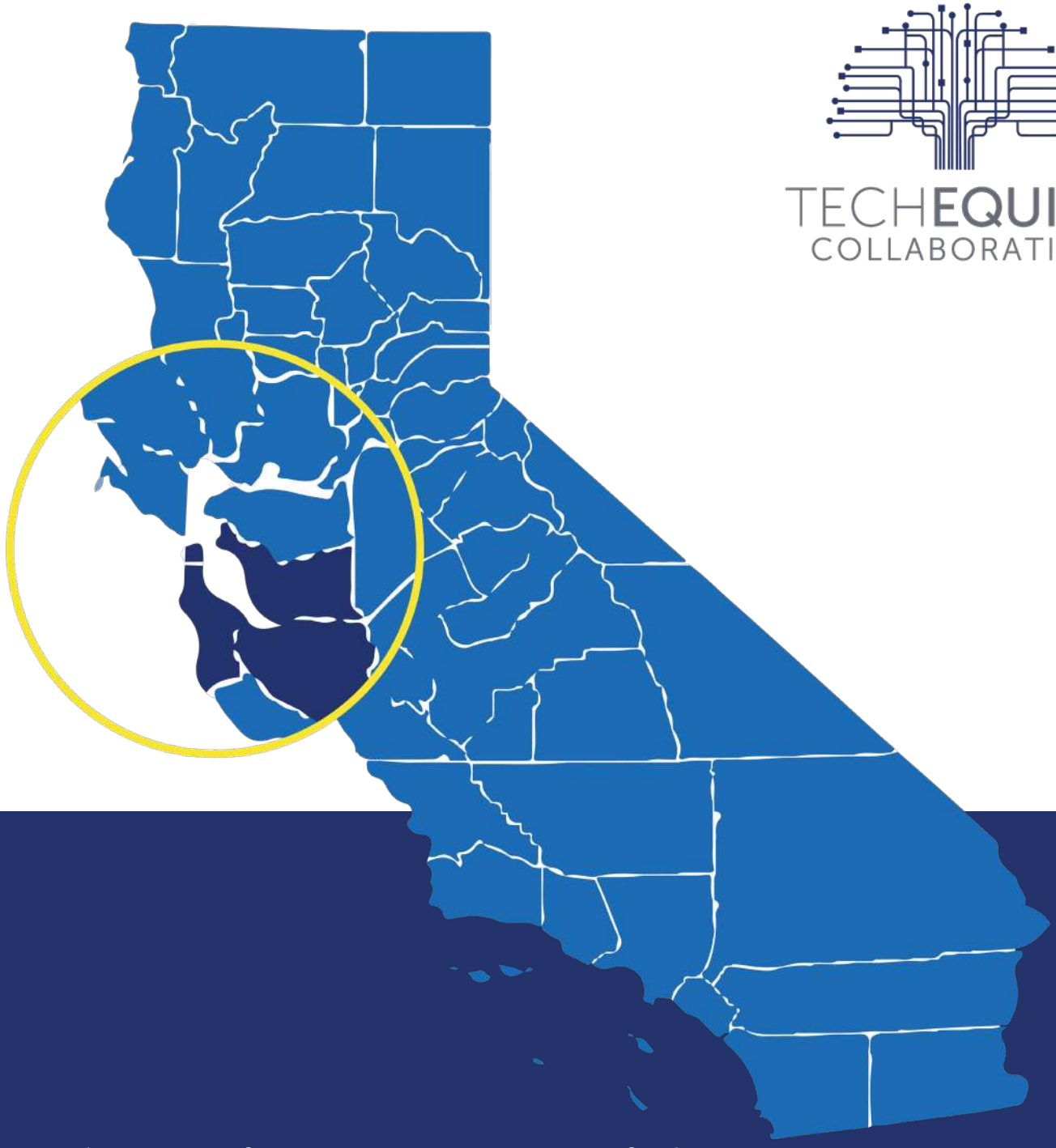


TECHEQUITY COLLABORATIVE

TechEquity Voter Guide November 2020

Statewide Measures
Alameda County Measures
San Francisco, Oakland, Berkeley, Alameda,
San Leandro, San Jose, and San Mateo City Measures

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At-a-Glance Guide to Voting

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Voter Guide Overview

TechEquity Collaborative is a non-profit organization that envisions a world where a growing tech-driven economy creates opportunity for everyone, and where tech-sector employees and companies are engaged and active participants in making our communities better places to live.

We activate tech workers on issue areas that will achieve more inclusive economic growth, specifically within the areas of housing and workforce & labor. In California, much of this policy change happens on the ballot, and many of the ballot initiatives—especially the local ones—can be hard to understand.

We cover all the state ballot measures as well as all the local ballot measures in San Francisco, Oakland and Berkeley. We also cover selected measures in other parts of the Bay Area if they intersect with our issue areas. We evaluate measures that intersect with our issue areas against TechEquity's advocacy platforms and make recommendations on how our community should vote.

We are not making candidate endorsements at this time. Measures that require a supermajority (two-thirds) to pass are denoted with an asterisk (*).

Statewide Measures

State Proposition 14: Stem Cell Research Funding

What it does in one sentence: *Prop 14 would authorize a $5.5 billion bond to replenish funding for the publicly run California Institute of Regenerative Medicine, which conducts stem cell research.*

Back in 2004, voters created the California Institute of Regenerative Medicine in response to federal restrictions on stem cell research. The Institute has nearly exhausted its initial funding, so Prop 14 would allow the Institute to refill its coffers. The state would sell $5.5 billion in bonds to investors and pay back the money with interest over 30 years. The Institute would use the funding to continue stem cell research and development of treatments for a number of diseases including Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease.

Position: No Position. This measure does not have a close nexus to our issue areas or mission.

Read more about Prop 14 here.

State Proposition 15: Schools and Communities First

What it does in one sentence: *Prop 15 would reclaim an estimated $11.5 billion annually for public schools and local community services by closing a tax loophole exploited by commercial property-owners.*

Prop 15, put forth by the Schools and Communities First coalition, would raise an estimated $11.5 billion per year by closing a commercial property tax loophole that mainly benefits large corporate property-owners. The revenue raised by the measure would increase funding for public schools and community services. The measure would tax commercial property at its current market value, moving California in line with most states. Residential properties, as well as agricultural properties and commercial properties worth less than $3 million, would not see any change to their property taxes.

Position: YES! TechEquity has been a longtime supporter and member of the Schools and Communities First coalition and we are proud to now endorse Prop 15. It's imperative that we reclaim the $11.5 billion we give away every year to commercial property owners. That money will help our cities and counties weather the economic downturn from the pandemic, boost school funding, build affordable housing, provide homes and services for our unhoused

neighbors, and improve a long list of other community services. Ending the commercial tax break will encourage housing production by removing incentives for property owners to sit on their land; it will also wean local governments off regressive taxes that unfairly burden lower-income residents.

Read more about Prop 15 here.

State Proposition 16: Repeals Affirmative Action Ban

What it does in one sentence: *Prop 16 repeals the state's ban on affirmative action and allows for consideration of race, ethnicity, gender, and other identities in college admissions, public contracting, and public employment.*

Prop 16 would once again allow equal opportunity programs like affirmative action in California by repealing the ban put in place by Proposition 209. That 1996 measure banned state and local governments from discriminating or giving preferential treatment on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, color, or sex. The prohibition on preferential treatment meant that public institutions could no longer use affirmative action, which is the practice of specifically considering those identities when making employment, college admission, and contracting decisions. Prop 16 would allow state and local governments along with the University of California and Cal State systems to take those factors into consideration, but it would not institute quotas on the basis of race, gender, or other identities.

Position: YES! We at TechEquity recognize that there is a several hundred year-long history of ongoing abuse and discrimination on the basis of race, ethnicity, nation of origin, color, and gender in our state and country. To overcome the present-day disparities caused by that history, California requires affirmative programs that take into consideration the effects of race, ethnicity, gender, and other identities. Prop 16 will improve the diversity of our college student bodies, bring fairness to state contracting, and allow for efforts to build a more inclusive public workforce. By expanding access to the UC system, more marginalized people will hold highly-valued degrees. We expect that will play a part in improving racial equity in tech—while recognizing that much more work is needed to broaden the image of the "ideal" job candidate.

Read more about Prop 16 here.

State Proposition 17: Restores Voting Rights for Parolees

What it does in one sentence: *Prop 17 allows people on parole to vote and run for public office.*

Currently, people on parole cannot register to vote in California. This means they cannot participate in elections either as voters or candidates. Prop 17, placed on the ballot by the legislature, would change that by making it legal for people on parole to register to vote. If it passes, Prop 17 would add California to a list of 16 other states plus Washington D.C. that allow people on parole to vote.

Position: YES! Although criminal justice is not directly one of our issue areas, it has deep intersections with both housing and workforce & labor. We did not want to remain silent on this issue, so we consulted with organizations who specialize in criminal justice policy to make an endorsement on this measure. We're happy for the opportunity to boost the voices of those dedicated advocates and urge a Yes vote on Prop 17!

State Proposition 18: Youth Voting Expansion

What it does in one sentence: *Prop 18 allows 17-year-olds to vote in state primary and special elections if they will be 18 by the general election.*

Currently, voters must be 18 years old at the time of the election to vote in local, state, and federal elections. Prop 18 will allow voters who will turn 18 by the time of the next general election to vote in the primary and special elections leading up to the general. The measure would also allow qualifying 17-year-olds to run for office because being registered to vote is required to stand as a candidate. The legislature placed Prop 18 on the ballot.

Position: No Position. This measure does not have a close nexus to our issue areas or mission.

Read more about Prop 18 here.

State Proposition 19: Changes Property Tax Break Transfers

What it does in one sentence: *Prop 19 allows seniors, people with disabilities, and victims of natural disasters to transfer their property tax break to a new home anywhere in the state and requires inherited property to be used as a primary residence to keep its property tax break.*

Proposition 19 is a complicated measure sponsored by the California Association of Realtors that makes two very unrelated changes to the way property taxes work for homes and local & state budgets. The first makes it easier for senior homeowners to move within California and keep their property tax breaks but would cost local governments over a billion dollars. The second would end a tax break for inherited property, which raises tax revenue for local governments. Analysts estimate that, overall, the measure will somewhat increase tax collection in the state, and that extra revenue will be used for fire protection. While the first two components largely offset each other's budget impacts, there isn't much additional policy rationale for combining them in one measure.

Position: No. There is no good reason to combine the two major provisions of the bill. The Realtors tried in 2018 to expand the portability of the residential property tax break and voters, correctly, rejected that proposal. Nothing has changed in the two years since to make it appropriate to revisit that proposal. We support the provision to limit tax breaks for inherited property. In a time when local governments are desperate to stabilize their tax revenues, it doesn't make sense to continue giving a tax break to rental properties and second homes. At the same time, it doesn't make sense to sacrifice those increased revenues in an effort to increase home sales and commissions for realtors.

Read more about Prop 19 here.

State Proposition 20: Repeals De-carceral Reforms

What it does in one sentence: *Prop 20 rolls back earlier reforms by expanding the list of offenses that can be charged as felonies and giving parole boards more freedom to deny early release.*

Over the past decade, California made a number of reforms that sought to reduce the number of incarcerated people in the state. The reforms converted some offenses previously charged as felonies to misdemeanors, made it easier for people incarcerated on non-serious, non-violent charges to be released on parole, and allowed for discretion when responding to probation and parole rule violations. Prop 20 would roll back a number of these reforms by again allowing some of the non-violent offenses to be charged as felonies, narrowing eligibility for early parole, and increasing penalties for those with multiple probation violations. Prop 20 was placed on the ballot by a group of police unions and conservative prosecutors.

Position: NO! Although criminal justice is not directly one of our issue areas, it has deep intersections with both housing and workforce & labor. We did not want to remain silent on this issue, so we consulted with organizations who specialize in criminal justice policy to make an

endorsement on this measure. We're happy for the opportunity to boost the voices of those dedicated advocates and urge a No vote on Prop 20!

State Proposition 21: Loosens Restrictions on Rent Control

What it does in one sentence: *Prop 21 allows cities to enact rent control policies with at least a 15-year exemption for new construction and vacancy control that allows rents to rise at least 15% between tenancies.*

Prop 21 would reform the Costa-Hawkins Act, a state law that limits the rent control laws that local governments can enact. The ballot measure would change the exemption for new apartment buildings to a rolling window of at least 15 years. Cities would not be allowed to impose rent control on a building for at least the first 15 years after its construction, but then would be free to set rent control rules on the building. Prop 21 would also allow cities to regulate the rent increases for new tenants, a policy known as vacancy control. Under the measure, cities must allow landlords to raise the rent for a new tenant to at least 15% more than what the previous tenant paid. The measure would remove Costa-Hawkins' exemption of single-family homes and condos if they are owned by a corporate entity or by a person who owns more than two properties.

Position: Yes. Prop 21 is tricky, but we believe that the positives of the measure outweigh the possible negative effects. Setting a minimum 15-year exemption for new construction helps mitigate some of the concerns about slowing housing production. Ensuring that vacancy control systems allow for some rent increases is also a good way to prevent cynical cities from using overly strict rent control laws to limit new housing production and encourage the elimination of rental housing in their cities. We also appreciate that individual single-family homeowners are exempted from rent control by this measure because very small landlords are particularly sensitive to taking their homes off the market with increased regulation, but larger landlords should not get to piggyback on this provision just because they're renting out a single-family home. We still have concerns that a maximally restrictive local rent control policy could have an overly negative effect on housing supply. When considering city rent control plans made possible by Prop 21, we'll be looking to make sure the policy balances the need to protect existing tenants against building enough new housing to create a long-term solution to the housing crisis.

Read more about Prop 21 here.

State Proposition 22: Special Carve-out for App-based Drivers

What it does in one sentence: *Prop 22 would grant app-based ride-hailing and delivery companies a special exemption from a state law requiring them to treat drivers as employees instead of independent contractors.*

Prop 22, written by Uber, Lyft, DoorDash, Postmates (a corporate partner of TechEquity), and Instacart, carves out an exemption from recently-passed state law AB 5 and allows them to legally classify drivers as independent contractors. This means drivers would not get many of the benefits and protections that employment status provides. Drivers would lose access to benefits like overtime pay, paid sick leave, personal protective equipment during the pandemic, and standard unemployment insurance that they would receive as employees. They would also not be allowed to form a union. Prop 22 does mandate certain pay, reimbursement, and benefit standards for drivers, but there are loopholes in these standards which erode their value, potentially to sub-minimum wage levels.

Position: No. We oppose Prop 22 because it would weaken driver pay, benefits, and protections compared to what they would receive under current law. AB 5, as courts have recently found, almost certainly makes drivers employees and eligible to receive minimum wage and a host of other employment benefits. While employee status alone is not enough to guarantee a good job, Prop 22 would hinder job quality for these workers. And when we consider the question of who should bear the risk of operating these companies, there is no question in our mind that it should be the large investor-backed corporations and not the drivers who are just trying to make ends meet.

Read more about Prop 22 here.

State Proposition 23: Increases Dialysis Regulations

What it does in one sentence: *Prop 23 would require dialysis clinics to have a doctor on-site, report infection data to the state, and ban discrimination based on insurance type.*

A prominent healthcare workers union placed Prop 23 on the ballot to increase regulations at kidney dialysis clinics in the state. The measure would require the clinics to have a doctor on-site, report infections to the state Department of Public Health, get approval from the state before closing a clinic, and ban clinics from refusing to provide care because of the type of insurance a patient has. Prop 23 follows an unsuccessful 2018 measure that would have limited dialysis clinics' profits.

Position: No Position. This measure does not have a close nexus to our issue areas or mission.

Read more about Prop 23 here.

State Proposition 24: Data Privacy Re-do

What it does in one sentence: *Prop 24 would replace the recently passed California Consumer Privacy Act with another data privacy law that has split privacy and consumer advocates.*

In 2018, the state legislature passed the California Consumer Privacy Act (CCPA), with the goal of overhauling protections for personal data privacy. One of the main advocates for the law, billionaire Alastair Mactaggart felt that the CCPA did not go far enough and placed Prop 24 on the ballot to replace the recently passed law. Prop 24 would allow people to require businesses to limit the use of personal data like location, race/ethnicity, religion, and health condition. It would also ban businesses from keeping personal data longer than is necessary for business purposes. The measure would create a new state agency to enforce the privacy protections and allow the state to issue fines of up to $7,500 for violations. Prop 24 would exempt smaller businesses from its requirements and only apply the regulations to businesses that buy or sell data for more than 100,000 people per year.

Position: No Position. This measure does not have a close nexus to our issue areas or mission.

Read more about Prop 24 here.

State Proposition 25: Ends Cash Bail

What it does in one sentence: *Prop 25 would confirm a plan passed by the legislature which ends cash bail for pre-trial incarceration decisions and instead uses judges' discretion.*

In 2018, the state legislature passed a plan to eliminate cash bail. The plan would instead require judges to use their discretion, assisted by an algorithmic risk assessment when determining if a person should be incarcerated prior to trial. Prop 25 was placed on the ballot by the bail bonds industry and requires voters to confirm the legislature's plan. Criminal justice advocates are split on Prop 25. While the advocates criticize the cash bail system as being biased against those with lower-incomes, some are concerned that the legislature's replacement could result in more people held before trial and introduce biases through the risk assessment tool and judges' discretion.

Position: No Position. Although criminal justice is not directly one of our issue areas, it has deep intersections with both housing and workforce & labor. We did not want to remain silent on this issue, so we consulted with organizations who specialize in criminal justice policy on this measure. We learned that the criminal justice advocacy community is split on this measure, so we are not taking a position on Prop 25.

San Francisco Measures

San Francisco Proposition A: Homelessness, Parks, & Streets Bond*

What it does in one sentence: *San Francisco would borrow $487.5 million to use for housing and services for unhoused San Franciscans, parks, and street and sidewalk maintenance and improvements.*

Prop A would allow San Francisco to borrow $487.5 million by issuing bonds and paying the money back with interest over 30 years. $207 million of the borrowed money would be used on supportive housing and shelters, as well as facilities and services for those with mental health and substance use issues. This money would help offset limited state and federal funding as well as the high cost of construction in the city. $239 million would be used for maintenance of parks, open spaces, and recreation facilities which currently have a $950 million deferred maintenance shortfall. The remaining $41.5 million would be used to repair roads and sidewalks, install curb ramps, and make seismic upgrades to public plazas and structures. Currently, there is $799 million in deferred maintenance for roads and public facilities.

Position: Yes. Housing and supportive services for unhoused San Franciscans continue to be extremely pressing needs. The homelessness crisis was already a top priority for the city and the pandemic has only worsened the crisis. The city is correct to seek additional funding, especially considering the limited support from the state and federal government. As always when evaluating bonds for important programs, we recognize that there is a serious need for sustainable funding sources to support these services. That's why we are longtime supporters of statewide Proposition 15, which would reclaim funding for these important community services. Even if Prop 15 passes, it will still be a few years until the new revenue reaches San Francisco, so we support using this bond to fill in the gap in the meantime.

San Francisco Proposition B: Public Works Restructuring

What it does in one sentence: *Street cleaning, sidewalk maintenance, and sanitation would be taken away from the Public Works department and a new department would be created for these responsibilities.*

Prop B would take street cleaning, sidewalk maintenance, and sanitation duties away from the Department of Public Works (DPW). The city would create a new department to perform these

tasks. It would also create an oversight commission for the new department and DPW. This measure follows a major fraud scandal involving the former head of DPW, Mohammed Nuru.

Position: No Position. This measure does not have a close nexus to our issue areas or mission.

San Francisco Proposition C: Advisory Board Participation

What it does in one sentence: *Non-citizens would be allowed to serve on city advisory boards.*

Prop C would remove the restriction that requires advisory board members to be U.S. citizens. This means non-citizens would be able to serve on boards who give advice to city and county government bodies. The measure would also make all references to committee members gender neutral.

Position: No Position. This measure does not have a close nexus to our issue areas or mission.

San Francisco Proposition D: Sheriff's Department Oversight

What it does in one sentence: *The San Francisco Sheriff's Department would be subject to greater oversight.*

Prop D would create an oversight board that can make policy recommendations to the sheriff's department and the Board of Supervisors. It would also create an Office of Inspector General within the department to investigate complaints and in-custody deaths. Neither the oversight board nor Office of Inspector General could discipline department employees, but they both would have subpoena powers to conduct investigations. The measure would also require any evidence of criminal misconduct by department employees to be sent to the San Francisco District Attorney's office.

Position: No Position. This measure does not have a close nexus to our issue areas or mission.

San Francisco Proposition E: Repeals Police Staffing Requirement

What it does in one sentence: *The City Charter requirement that the San Francisco Police Department has a minimum of 1,971 police officers would be eliminated.*

San Francisco's City Charter requires SFPD to have at least 1,971 full police officers on staff. Prop E would replace that minimum officer requirement with a mandate to issue a staffing report to

the Police Commission every two years. This would make it possible to reduce the number of officers in the department.

Position: No Position. This measure does not have a close nexus to our issue areas or mission.

San Francisco Proposition F: Business Tax Restructuring

What it does in one sentence: *An adjustment to the gross receipts tax that would cut taxes for small businesses but overall bring in more revenue than the current business tax.*

Prop F would overhaul the way San Francisco taxes businesses. The measure would lower taxes for small businesses while raising them for medium and large businesses. Overall, Prop F would bring in an additional $97 million annually, which would help fill the large budget deficit caused by the pandemic. The new tax rates would phase in from 2021 to 2024 and businesses who have been hurt by the pandemic will get more time before any higher taxes would kick in. The measure also provides guaranteed funding for the early childhood education program created in a 2018 ballot measure, which has had its original funding source challenged in lawsuits.

Position: Yes. San Francisco faces a serious budget deficit because of the recession caused by the pandemic. It also has a business tax that is in need of some tweaks to make it work better and fairer. Prop F helps with both of these problems. The changes it makes to the business tax will bring in an additional $97 million per year. This is not enough to close the budget gap, but every bit helps. The measure also makes the business tax fairer by shifting the tax burden towards larger businesses that can more easily handle the higher rates. Additionally, it finally gets rid of the city payroll tax, which, because it taxes worker salaries, has a negative effect on jobs in the city. Getting rid of that hindrance to hiring is another small but positive effect of Prop F on San Francisco's economic recovery. Prop F manages to raise money, make the business tax fairer, and remove an obstacle to adding jobs, and so we think it deserves a yes vote.

San Francisco Proposition G: Youth Voting

What it does in one sentence: *16 and 17 year-olds would be allowed to vote in San Francisco elections.*

Prop G would allow 16 and 17 year-olds to vote in local elections. They would still be ineligible to vote in state or federal elections.

Position: No Position. This measure does not have a close nexus to our issue areas or mission.

San Francisco Proposition H: Retail Permit Streamlining

What it does in one sentence: *Obtaining permits for a new retail store in certain areas of the city would be faster and easier.*

Getting the proper permits to open a new retail store is notoriously difficult in San Francisco and contributes to the high retail vacancy rate. Prop H would streamline the process by requiring city agencies to issue the permits within 30 days. The streamlining would only apply to new stores, cafes, and restaurants that comply with existing zoning requirements and are located in neighborhood commercial districts.

Position: No Position. This measure does not have a close nexus to our issue areas or mission.

San Francisco Proposition I: Real Estate Transfer Tax

What it does in one sentence: *An increase of the tax paid when real estate worth $10 million or more is sold, with the proceeds promised to fund pandemic eviction relief and affordable housing.*

San Francisco charges a tax when a commercial or residential property is sold. Prop I would increase the tax rate from 2.75% to 5.75% for properties worth $10-$25 million and from 3% to 6% for properties worth more than $25 million. The Board of Supervisors passed a non-binding resolution to use the revenue raised by the measure for rent assistance to reduce evictions caused by the pandemic and to fund a program that would create publicly owned affordable housing. From 2022 onward, all the extra tax revenue would go to the affordable housing fund.

Position: Yes. This one was a tough decision. We've been consistent supporters of transfer taxes as multiple cities around the Bay, including Oakland, Berkeley, and San Jose, have enacted them in recent years. We also support Prop I money going to eviction prevention and affordable housing. At the same time, Prop I uses a different approach to raising the transfer tax than those other cities, and unfortunately, it spares wealthy homeowners and puts more of a burden on apartment construction. The threshold for higher transfer taxes in those three cities is set around $1.5-$2 million and the increases in the tax rates were smaller than proposed in Prop I. This matters because a threshold around $2 million would capture a substantial amount of sales by wealthy homeowners; however, since the tax rate increase is relatively small, it would have less of an effect on apartment production. San Francisco largely exempts wealthy homeowners and puts more of a burden on commercial properties, including apartments. Overall, we feel that the need for funding to prevent pandemic-related evictions and build affordable housing outweighs the poor design of Prop I's transfer tax, so we recommend a yes vote.

San Francisco Proposition J: School Bond*

What it does in one sentence: *A $288 tax on each property in San Francisco to fund public school teachers' salaries.*

Prop J would ensure proper funding for San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) teachers by imposing a $288 parcel tax on each property in the city. A similar measure passed in 2018 with a majority vote, but that measure has been tied up in lawsuits over the proper majority threshold. Prop J uses a two-thirds majority which would guarantee the funding even if the old measure is struck down by the courts.

Position: No Position. This measure does not have a close nexus to our issue areas or mission.

San Francisco Proposition K: Affordable Housing Approval

What it does in one sentence: *Approves 10,000 new units of affordable housing in San Francisco, but doesn't fund the housing.*

Under Article 34 of the California Constitution, local voters must authorize new affordable housing. Prop K would grant permission for 10,000 new affordable units. The measure would not raise funding for those units or approve any specific projects to build the units, it would only satisfy the Article 34 requirement.

Position: Yes. We support building more affordable housing in San Francisco. It's frustrating that this has to go on the ballot because of the racist, exclusionary Article 34. We recommend a yes vote on Prop K and commend State Senator Scott Wiener for his efforts to repeal Article 34. We hope to never see this topic on a ballot again.

San Francisco Proposition L: CEO/Worker Pay Ratio Tax

What it does in one sentence: *An additional tax on companies whose top executive is paid at least 100 times as much as their typical San Francisco employee.*

Prop L would impose an additional gross receipts tax on companies whose top managerial employee (for example, the CEO) is paid at least 100 times more than the median salary of the company's San Francisco employees. The measure would count all forms of compensation as pay for the purposes of calculating the pay ratio, including stock options and other equity compensation. A company with a pay ratio of 100 to 1 (ie. the CEO makes 100 times more than

the median employee) would face an additional 0.1% gross receipts tax. The tax would get larger as the pay ratio grows with companies whose CEO earns 600 times the median San Francisco employee, paying an additional 0.6% gross receipts tax. The tax revenue would be highly volatile year to year, but is expected to bring in about $60-$140 million annually. The revenue from the tax would not be earmarked for a specific use.

Position: No. This is another tricky decision. Income inequality is one of the fundamental problems that we are trying to address with our work at TechEquity, so a tax on companies with high internal inequality is appealing to us. We are opposed to Prop L not because we disagree with the principle behind the tax, but because we take issue with some of the particulars of the measure. Calculating executive pay is difficult because it is heavily based on equity compensation, which is difficult to value. Prop L offloads calculating the pay ratio to the companies themselves and we have concerns that it will be accurately determined. We are also concerned that by only looking at the pay of San Francisco employees, the measure may give companies a reason to move low- and medium-pay jobs out of the city. This would be less of an issue if a larger jurisdiction, like the state, enacted this tax. The high volatility of the tax would make it hard for San Francisco to effectively plan how to spend the revenue. All of this adds up to the point where we think that however worthy the concept behind the measure, the flaws lead us to recommend a no vote on Prop L.

Oakland Measures

Oakland Proposition QQ: Youth Voting

What it does in one sentence: *The Oakland City Council would be authorized to pass a law allowing 16 and 17-year-olds to vote for the School Board Director.*

Prop QQ would open the door for 16 and 17-year-olds to vote for their School Board Director. The process is a little bit complicated, however. The measure would authorize the Oakland City Council to pass a law that allows the 16 and 17-year-olds to vote. Prop QQ itself wouldn't grant those voting rights, but because the City Council placed the measure on the ballot it's very likely they would follow through with approving the voting expansion.

Position: No Position. This measure does not have a close nexus to our issue areas or mission.

Oakland Proposition RR: Removing Cap on Fines

What it does in one sentence: *The City Charter cap on fines for ordinance violations of $1,000 would be eliminated and the City Council would determine a new limit.*

Oakland's City Charter limits fines for ordinance or code violations to $1,000. Prop RR would remove this cap and instead the City Council would hold a public hearing to determine a new cap. The current cap has been in place since 1968 and has not been adjusted for inflation.

Position: No Position. This measure does not have a close nexus to our issue areas or mission.

Oakland Proposition S1: Police Commission Reform

What it does in one sentence: *An independent Office of Inspector General to investigate police misconduct would be created, the Police Commission would gain additional powers, and the commission investigating complaints against police officers would gain greater independence.*

In 2016, Oakland voters created the Police Commission to provide oversight of the Oakland Police Department (OPD) and they also created the Community Police Review Agency to investigate police misconduct complaints. Prop S1 would give both bodies more independence from both OPD and city government. Both the Police Commission and Community Policy Review Agency would be able to hire outside lawyers to assist their work. Currently, the Oakland City

Attorney selects lawyers for both bodies. The measure would also require the Police Chief to respond to requests for information from the Police Commission and require the Community Policy Review Agency to complete its investigations within 250 days of the complaint. Prop S1 would create an Office of Inspector General outside of OPD to investigate the department and audit its compliance with court orders from the Riders case. The Police Commission would hire the Inspector General and have the right to fire the Inspector General if they have cause.

Position: No Position. This measure does not have a close nexus to our issue areas or mission.

Oakland Proposition Y: School Facilities Bond

What it does in one sentence: *Oakland Unified School District would borrow $735 million to fund maintenance, repair, and upgrades to school facilities.*

Prop Y would allow Oakland Unified School District (OUSD) to borrow $735 million and pay it back over 30 years with interest. The funds would go to maintenance, repair, and updates for school buildings. OUSD reports that it has a $3.4 billion need for work on its facilities. This bond would only cover a portion of that need, but, by law, is the most that OUSD can borrow through a bond measure. Some of the specific uses of the money include building new classrooms and kitchens, converting an unused school into an administrative building, and making very needed repairs to bathrooms. The bond payments will be paid for with an additional 0.05-0.06% property tax assessment.

Position: No Position. This measure does not have a close nexus to our issue areas or mission.

Berkeley Measures

Berkeley Proposition FF: Fire Protection Funding

What it does in one sentence: *A property tax increase to raise $8.5 million annually for firefighters, emergency services, and wildfire prevention.*

Prop FF would use a property tax increase to raise funds for fire and other emergency services. City staff report that costs for emergency services have risen in recent years, which necessitates the tax increase that should bring in $8.5 million annually. The additional funding would be used on firefighters, emergency medical services, the 911 system, and wildfire prevention. Property taxes would go up by 10 cents per square foot, so for example, taxes on a 1,900 square foot home would increase by $190 per year.

Position: No Position. This measure does not have a close nexus to our issue areas or mission.

Berkeley Proposition GG: Ride-Hailing Tax

What it does in one sentence: *A $0.50 tax on Uber and Lyft rides to fund general city services.*

Prop GG would impose a 50 cent tax on solo Uber and Lyft rides or a 25 cent tax on shared rides. The tax would bring in about $910,000 annually, which would go into Berkeley's general revenue fund. Only rides beginning in Berkeley would be taxed; rides in wheelchair accessible vehicles and rides paid for by public health insurance would be exempt. The tax would sunset in 20 years.

Position: Yes. Last year San Francisco passed a tax on Uber and Lyft rides which we supported and we support Berkeley's tax for the same reasons. While the services have proved more convenient and less expensive than taxis, they have also come with a number of costs for society as a whole. The ride hailing companies have been linked to a decline in public transit use, which is a problem when a significant portion of public transportation costs are paid for with fare revenue. These declines in ridership mean less revenue for the agencies and service cutbacks that hit low-income riders the hardest. Ride hailing has also caused a large increase in traffic and vehicle emissions which we all pay for in longer travel times and greater climate damage. We support Prop GG because it is a small step in making users of these services cover the public costs of their rides and should provide a small push toward other transportation options.

Berkeley Proposition HH: Utilities Tax Increase

What it does in one sentence: *A tax increase on electricity and gas to fund climate and environmental equity efforts.*

Prop HH would replace the current 7.5% utilities tax with a 10% tax that has exemptions for low-income households. The measure is expected to raise $2.4 million per year, which likely will be spent on programs to increase climate and environmental equity. Berkeley's city council, however, does have the right to use the tax revenue for other purposes.

Position: No Position. This measure does not have a close nexus to our issue areas or mission.

Berkeley Proposition II: Police Accountability Board

What it does in one sentence: *A new Police Accountability Board that has the ability to recommend discipline against officers and more investigative power than the current Police Review Commission.*

Prop II would replace Berkeley's Police Review Commission which investigates complaints against city police officers. In its place, the measure would create a new Police Accountability Board with greater powers than the commission it replaces. The new board would also investigate complaints against officers but it will also make recommendations about police department operations and budget, have subpoena power for its investigations, review agreements between Berkeley police and other police agencies, and play a role in hiring the police chief.

Position: No Position. This measure does not have a close nexus to our issue areas or mission.

Berkeley Proposition JJ: Mayor and Council Pay

What it does in one sentence: *The Mayor's salary would be increased to the area median income for a family of three and the City Council members' pay would also be increased proportionally.*

Currently, the Berkeley mayor makes $61,304 and city council members are paid $38,695, both of which are based on salaries set in 1998 and subsequently adjusted for inflation. Prop JJ would increase pay for the mayor and city council members, using area median income (AMI) as a benchmark. This means that under Prop JJ the mayor's salary would be $107,300 and city

council members would be paid $67,599. If city employees are forced to take a pay cut because of city budget issues, the mayor and city council members would also see their pay reduced.

Position: No Position. This measure does not have a close nexus to our issue areas or mission.

Berkeley Proposition KK: City Charter Updates

What it does in one sentence: *Four tweaks to the City Charter including removing citizenship requirements to serve on the redistricting commission and making the City Charter gender-neutral.*

Prop KK is a set of four changes to Berkeley's city charter. The redistricting commission would be renamed the Independent Redistricting Commission and non-U.S. citizens would be allowed to serve. All gender references in the City Charter would be made gender-neutral. The City Attorney would be appointed to an indefinite term and could only be fired with a vote of five City Council members. Berkeley firefighters would no longer have to live within 40 miles of the city.

Position: No Position. This measure does not have a close nexus to our issue areas or mission.

Berkeley Proposition LL: Budget Cap Increase

What it does in one sentence: *Berkeley would be allowed to spend already collected additional revenue from special taxes like the recent real estate transfer tax increase.*

Prop LL allows Berkeley to spend tax revenue it has already collected. California law caps the growth of city budgets. This policy, known as the Gann limit, requires voters to approve budgets that exceed the cap. In recent years, Berkeley voters enacted special taxes, including a real estate transfer tax, which push the city's revenue over the Gann limit. Voters must approve this measure to allow the city to spend that tax revenue.

Position: Yes. Berkeley voters have already approved these taxes so the city should be able to spend the money. We supporters of real estate transfer taxes, because they are a progressive way for a city to raise money and recapture some of the value from land appreciation. Berkeley should be able to spend that money.

Berkeley Proposition MM: Rent Control Updates

What it does in one sentence: *The pandemic eviction ban would become permanent, rent control exempt units would have to comply with the rental registry, and properties with multiple ADUs would be subject to rent control.*

Prop MM makes three changes to Berkeley's rent control law. First, it writes the city's pandemic eviction ban into the rent control law, ensuring that tenants can never be evicted for missing rent during the pandemic. It also requires buildings that are exempt from rent control to complete the city's rental registry and pay registration fees. Finally, the measure brings the rent control law's treatment of ADUs in line with recent changes in state law. Now that state law allows multiple ADUs on a property, Prop MM clarifies that ADUs are exempt from rent control only if there is one ADU on the property.

Position: Yes. We are strong supporters of protecting renters from losing their homes due to the economic slowdown from the pandemic. We also have, twice now, sponsored a statewide rental registry bill and are excited to see Berkeley expanding their registry to cover almost all rental units in the city. These two provisions make it easy for us to recommend voting yes on Prop MM.

Other Alameda County Measures

Alameda (city) Proposition Z: Apartment Ban Repeal

What it does in one sentence: *Repeals Alameda's ban on building apartments and also removes a restrictive housing density limit.*

In 1973, Alameda voters passed a measure that blocked the construction of multi-family housing in the city. Subsequent amendments have allowed for a very limited amount of new apartment construction. Prop Z would repeal that 1973 measure and open up Alameda for much more housing production. Prop Z would also get rid of a limit on housing density in the city that makes it a challenge to build multi-family housing in the few areas currently allowed in Alameda. This means that the new projects made possible by repealing the ban would be more viable and more likely to actually get built.

Position: YES. We are strong supporters of eliminating the racist, exclusionary barriers put up to prevent housing construction. These hurdles limit the supply of housing which makes homes more expensive. This combined with racial income and wealth gaps put homes in these communities out of the reach of many people of color, which is a major reason why residential segregation has remained pervasive. Prop Z is an important step in the larger fight to get rid of these insidious policies and should open Alameda up to a much wider and diverse group of families.

Alameda (county) Proposition W: Homelessness Services Funding

What it does in one sentence: *$150 million in additional funding to provide services for unhoused people in Alameda County.*

Prop W would raise $150 million annually to pay for housing assistance, mental health resources, and job training for unhoused people who live in Alameda County. The funding would come from a 0.5 cent sales tax increase for the next ten years. The number of people who are unhoused has increased during the pandemic while public budgets have gone deep into the red. This, according to the measure's sponsors, necessitates the additional infusion of funding. To put the $150 million in perspective, Alameda County's three-year action plan to address the homelessness crisis has a budget of $340 million.

Position: Yes. There's no doubt that the pandemic has worsened the homelessness crisis while simultaneously limiting local governments' ability to respond. This makes finding additional

sources of funding to support some of the most vulnerable members of our community a necessity. Sales taxes, of course, are not our preferred way to raise revenue because they put too much of the burden on people with low incomes who spend a larger share of their budget on taxable items. While we wish there was a better option than a sales tax, local governments have a limited set of fundraising tools. The need for this money is so great and the alternative sources of funds are so scarce that we recommend a yes vote even if we wish the more of the money came from those who can afford it.

San Leandro Proposition VV: Transfer Tax Increase

What it does in one sentence: *Raise $4 million annually by increasing the tax paid when real estate is sold.*

Prop VV would increase the real estate transfer tax in San Leandro from 0.6% to 1.1% for all properties. This increase is expected to raise $4 million annually for the city. The tax proceeds will be used to help fill a $9 million revenue shortfall caused by the pandemic. If passed, the new transfer tax would be similar to the rate in neighboring Oakland for properties worth $300,000 or less.

Position: Yes. We are generally strong supporters of transfer tax increases. They are a good way to reclaim some of the value from the record real estate appreciation in the Bay Area. While we generally prefer a progressive tax design where the tax rate increases with the property tax, the 0.5% increase from Prop VV is modest compared to the median home value of $700,000 in San Leandro. The budget woes caused by the pandemic have forced many cities to find new sources of revenue and we think this is a reasonable way for San Leandro to help fill its gap.

San Jose Measures

San Jose Proposition G: Investigating Police Shootings

What it does in one sentence: *The Independent Police Auditor would be granted additional powers when investigating shootings committed by police officers.*

The Independent Police Auditor (IPA) investigates complaints against San Jose police officers and makes recommendations to the department. Prop G would grant the IPA additional powers to review internal Police Department investigations and review unredacted police files in cases where officers shot a person or used enough force to kill or seriously injure someone. It would also expand the Planning Commission and adjust the redistricting timeline.

Position: No Position. This measure does not have a close nexus to our issue areas or mission.

San Jose Proposition H: Card Room Tax

What it does in one sentence: *San Jose would raise $15 million annually by raising taxes on card rooms and allowing them to expand.*

San Jose allows and taxes some limited forms of gambling in card rooms. Prop H would raise the taxes on card rooms and is expected to bring in an extra $15 million annually. The extra revenue would go to general city expenses. The measure would also allow the card rooms to expand their capacity.

Position: No Position. This measure does not have a close nexus to our issue areas or mission.

San Mateo Measures

San Mateo Proposition R: Allows Upzoning Near Caltrain

What it does in one sentence: *The San Mateo City Council could change local zoning rules to allow much more housing near the city's Caltrain station.*

Prop R is the first of two dueling measures that address zoning in San Mateo. This one would allow the City Council to change the zoning rules in San Mateo so more housing can be built near the city's Caltrain station. San Mateo would still be required to perform an environmental review and hold a public hearing before making the change. The measure would also allow the City Council to make recommendations for adding additional housing in other parts of the city, but voters would have to approve of those recommendations before they go into effect. Prop R would also allow developers to meet the city's inclusionary housing policy by paying a fee instead of setting aside a portion of the units for affordable housing. Developers could also meet the requirement in other ways like building affordable housing at a different site. If both measures pass, the one with more votes will win.

Position: YES. San Mateo is a classic example of a Peninsula city that hasn't built its fair share of housing. The exclusionary policies that lead to this underproduction have caused the massive housing shortage and affordability crisis we face today. Prop R would take a step towards undoing those policies and building enough homes for everyone. As an added bonus, the measure would concentrate those new homes near public transportation, which should help reduce vehicle emissions. We are strong supporters of Prop R.

San Mateo Proposition Y: Retaining Current Zoning

What it does in one sentence: *San Mateo's zoning would remain the same for ten more years.*

Prop R is the second of two dueling measures that address zoning in San Mateo. This one would extend the city's current zoning rules for another ten years. This means it would not be possible to build additional housing near Caltrain. The City Council could still make recommendations for zoning changes that would allow for more housing, but those would have to go before the voters. Under Prop Y, developers would not be able to pay fees to satisfy inclusionary housing requirements but could build affordable housing at a different location. If both measures pass, the one with more votes will win.

Position: No. As mentioned in our position on Prop R, San Mateo is typical of many suburban Bay Area cities in that it has chronically underproduced housing. We know that more of the same is not going to get us out of this crisis. Cities like San Mateo need to take action now to undo the damage done by their exclusionary housing policy. Prop Y just locks in, for another ten years, the same conditions that create housing scarcity and affordability problems. We strongly recommend voting no on Prop Y.

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