



OFFICE OF THE CONTROLLER
CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

Ben Rosenfield
Controller
Todd Rydstrom
Deputy Controller

Mr. John Arntz
Department of Elections
City Hall 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place Room 48
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

December 11, 2023

RE: Proposition D – Changes to Local Ethics Laws

Dear Mr. Arntz,

Should the proposed initiative ordinance be approved by the voters, in my opinion, it would have a minimal impact on the cost of government. The proposed initiative ordinance would cost \$43,000 in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-2024 and approximately \$25,000 annually.

The proposed ordinance expands rules and prohibitions on gift-giving, bribery, behested payments, and conflicts of interest for City staff, elected officials, departments, and lobbyists. The proposed ordinance also requires annual ethics trainings for City employees with decision making authority. If passed, the proposed ordinance would also require a supermajority approval from both the Board of Supervisors and the Ethics Commission to amend most City ethics laws.

The proposed ordinance would appropriate \$43,000 from the General Reserve in FY23-24 consisting of \$18,000 for software system changes for ethics training certification and an annual cost of \$25,000 for software to develop annual training and online forms for department gift disclosures. The annual appropriation would be adjusted annually to reflect changes in the Consumer Price Index.

For context, the Ethics Commission has four training and outreach staff with a budget of \$788,488 in FY 23-24. Current staff would develop and administer the new training requirements.

The cost of the proposed ordinance, should it be approved by the voters, is dependent on decisions that the Mayor and Board of Supervisors make through the budget process, as an ordinance cannot bind future Mayors and Boards of Supervisors to provide funding for this or any other purpose.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "BJR", written over a white background.

Ben Rosenfield
Controller

Note: This analysis reflects our understanding of the proposal as of the date shown. At times further information is provided to us which may result in revisions being made to this analysis before the final Controller's statement appears in the Voter Information Pamphlet.