



OFFICE OF THE CONTROLLER
CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

Greg Wagner
Controller
ChiaYu Ma
Deputy Controller

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

August 12, 2024

RE: Proposition E – Creating a Task Force to Recommend Changing, Eliminating, or Combining City Commissions

Dear Mr. Arntz,

Should the proposed Charter amendment be approved by the voters, in my opinion, it would have a minimal impact on the cost of government. To the extent the Task Force recommends changes to existing Commissions, the cost of government may be reduced, depending on future decisions made by the Board of Supervisors or voters.

The proposed Charter amendment would establish a five-member Commission Streamlining Task Force to make recommendations to the Mayor and Board of Supervisors on changing, eliminating, or consolidating the City's appointive boards and commissions.

Certain appointive boards and commissions pay stipends to the commissioners on a per meeting basis ranging from \$25 to \$500 per meeting, while some commissioners are paid between \$100 and \$500 per month. Not all commissioners receive stipends. For context, in FY 2022-23 the City paid approximately a total of \$350,000 for stipends and health benefits for 180 commissioners.

In addition to commissioner stipends and health insurance, commissions also require staff time from City employees who support commissions' operations and prepare briefing materials to present at hearings. The amount of staff time needed to support commissions would decrease if the City changed, eliminated, or combined commissions – freeing staff to work on other government functions, although at a level that cannot be determined at this time. Finally, to the extent the City hires additional staff to run the Commission Streamlining Task Force, the cost to government may increase.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg Wagner".

Greg Wagner
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.