

November 8, 2016 Consolidated General Election

San Francisco ballot measures related to St. Anthony's advocacy issue areas:
Housing/Homelessness, Health, Hunger, and Work/Income

Housing-related measures

Proposition C: Loans to Finance Acquisition and Rehabilitation of Affordable Housing

Description: Proposition C would allow \$261 million in unused bond funds from a 1992 ordinance to be used for loans to acquire, improve, and rehabilitate at-risk, multi-unit residential buildings, and to convert those buildings to permanent affordable housing.

St. Anthony's Advocacy Analysis: Proposition C would free up unused bond money, allowing it to be used for affordable housing. San Francisco should maximize its affordable housing funding whenever possible.

Proposition P: Competitive Bidding for Affordable Housing Projects on City-Owned Property

Description: Proposition P would prohibit the City from proceeding with an affordable housing project on City-owned property, unless the Housing Office receives at least three development proposals.

St. Anthony's Advocacy Analysis: Although the City usually gets three or more bids for affordable housing developments, "special needs" housing (i.e., supportive housing for formerly homeless residents) often gets two or fewer bids. This measure could indefinitely stall development of new supportive housing specifically for homeless people.

Proposition U: Affordable Housing Requirements for Market-Rate Development Projects

Description: Proposition U would increase the gross income for a household to be eligible for affordable housing from 55% to 110% of Area Median Income. This proposal applies retroactively to rental units built under the current affordable housing program.

St. Anthony's Advocacy Analysis: By increasing the minimum annual income requirement to \$82,950, this proposition would ensure that "affordable units" would no longer be affordable to lower-income San Franciscans.

Homelessness-related measures

Proposition J: Funding for Homelessness and Transportation

Proposition K: General Sales Tax

Description: Proposition J and Proposition K are companion measures. Prop J increases the San Francisco sales tax, and Prop K creates a fund for the sales tax revenue that will be used for homeless services (and for transportation). If Prop K passes, the San Francisco sales tax will increase from the current 8.75% to 9.25%.

St. Anthony's Advocacy Analysis: San Francisco's 1,300-bed single adult shelter system is full, and more than 800 homeless people are currently on the waiting list for a shelter bed. At the same time, 3,500 homeless people sleep unsheltered on the City streets. Without a dedicated revenue source to increase San Francisco's ability to provide both shelter and housing, the status quo will continue.

Proposition Q: Prohibiting Tents on Public Sidewalks

Description: Proposition Q amends the police code to prohibit the placement of tent encampments on public sidewalks and requires 24 hour notice before encampment removal. An offer of shelter (including one-night beds), "homeless services" (specifically defined as a bus ticket through the "Homeward Bound" program), or housing (specifically defined as placement in a "navigation center") must be made before removal of encampment.

St. Anthony's Advocacy Analysis: Tent encampments are currently illegal under a number of local and state laws. This proposition creates no new shelter beds or housing units. San Francisco's shelters are full and homeless people are lingering for years on affordable housing wait lists. Providing shelter for only one night for encampment residents will not end homelessness.

Proposition R: Neighborhood Crime Unit

Description: Proposition R creates a Neighborhood Crime Unit consisting of 60 SFPD officers. The neighborhood crime unit will investigate crimes including robbery, auto burglary, residential burglary, theft of property, vandalism, and "quality of life crimes" related to homelessness (obstructing the sidewalk, panhandling, and sit/lie).

St. Anthony's Advocacy Analysis: SFPD already has a special unit of dedicated officers who handle quality of life crimes and impacts of homelessness at the neighborhood level. It is unfortunate that this measure conflates property crimes like theft and burglary with "crimes" like sitting or lying on the sidewalk, behaviors that homeless people can't help but engage in on our city streets.

Proposition S: San Francisco Arts and Families Funding Ordinance

Description: Proposition S creates the "Hotel Room Tax Fund" for existing hotel tax revenues and allocates money from this fund to a newly-created "Ending Family Homelessness Fund" and funding for arts. "Ending Family Homelessness Fund" money can be used for rapid rehousing, homelessness prevention and diversion, and capital and operating costs for development of new housing for homeless families.

St. Anthony's Advocacy Analysis: In order to adequately address family homelessness in San Francisco, a stable dedicated funding source for housing and homelessness prevention is needed. This measure allocates money from an already-existing tax to a much-needed purpose: addressing family homelessness in San Francisco.

Health- and hunger-related measure

Proposition I: The Dignity Fund

Description: Proposition I ensures City budget funding for programs for low-income seniors and people living with disabilities, including home and community-based long term care, food and nutrition programs, senior centers, benefits advocacy and legal support, and health and wellness programs.

St. Anthony's Advocacy Analysis: The proportion of Dining Room guests who are aged 50 and over has increased by 85% since 1995. As we see throughout St. Anthony's programs, low-income San Francisco seniors and people living with disabilities face challenges including social isolation, the need for home-based health services, and difficulty affording food or preparing food at home. As state-funded programs that support seniors and people living with disabilities have been cut, local nonprofits and the City have had to respond to both an increased need for services and a growing population of seniors overall. With the proportion of seniors in San Francisco projected to rise from 20% in 2016 to 25% by 2030, San Francisco needs a stable funding source to address this large increase.