

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Election Day Voter Registration.]

A proposal to amend the Charter of the City and County of San Francisco at an election to be held on November 2, 2010 by adding Section 13.112 and amending Article XVII to establish Election Day Voter Registration for exclusively municipal elections.

Existing Law

The Charter defines "voter" as "an elector who is registered in accordance with the provisions of state law." An elector is a person registered to vote in the City and County of San Francisco. State law establishes eligibility requirements and procedures for registering to vote. It also establishes a voter registration deadline of fifteen days before an election.

Under current law, voter registration in the City and County of San Francisco is conducted according to state law. There are no local registration procedures that differ from state law.

Amendments to Current Law

This proposal would amend the Charter to establish "Election Day Voter Registration" for exclusively municipal elections. These elections generally occur in odd-numbered years and do not include any statewide measures or candidates. An otherwise qualified voter could register to vote in an exclusively municipal election fewer than fifteen days before that election.

The proposal would also change the definition of voter to include persons registered to vote in accordance with municipal law. This would permit San Francisco to establish other local voter registration procedures for exclusively municipal elections. If San Francisco established local registration procedures, a person registered according to these local procedures would be a "voter" under the new Charter definition.

Background Information

The second draft of this proposed Charter amendment adds Section 13.112 to establish Election Day Voter Registration for exclusively municipal elections. The first draft would have permitted this change by changing the definition of voter, but further legislation would have been required to adopt Election Day Voter Registration.