

Ballot Simplification Committee

Local Elected Officials on Political Party Committees

FINAL Digest—by Packard, Fasick, Fraps, Jorgensen, Unruh, 12:00 p.m. July 30, 2010

Requests for Reconsideration were due by 12:00 p.m. on Monday, August 2, 2010

The Way It Is Now: San Francisco’s city and county government has 18 elective offices: Mayor, Assessor-Recorder, City Attorney, District Attorney, Public Defender, Sheriff, Treasurer, and 11 seats on the Board of Supervisors.

State political parties often have local chapters that are run by county central committees. These committees may engage in political activities such as registering voters or endorsing candidates and ballot measures. The California Elections Code currently recognizes the following state political parties: the Democratic Party of California, the California Republican Party, the American Independent Party of California, and the Peace and Freedom Party of California.

Currently, an elected City official may also serve on a political party county central committee. Different ethics and campaign finance laws apply to political party county central committee members and elected City officials.

The Proposal: Proposition H would amend the City’s Campaign and Governmental Conduct Code to prohibit elected City officials from serving on a political party county central committee. Proposition H defines this term to mean “any county central committee of a political party recognized by the California Elections Code that performs political activities for the benefit of the party and on behalf of the party’s candidates.”

Persons violating this provision would be subject to civil, criminal, and administrative penalties, including possible suspension and removal from elective office.

A “YES” Vote Means: If you vote "yes," you want to prohibit elected City officials from serving on San Francisco political party county central committees.

A “NO” Vote Means: If you vote “no,” you want to continue to permit elected City officials to serve on San Francisco political party county central committees.

word count: 254 [suggested word limit: 300]