

Prop C: San Francisco Gross Receipts Tax for Homelessness Services Initiative

Informational Resources

A yes vote is a vote in favor of authorizing the city and county of San Francisco to tax businesses with over \$50 million in gross annual receipts at a rate of 0.175 percent to 0.69 percent to fund homelessness services.

A no vote is a vote against authorizing the city and county of San Francisco to tax businesses with over \$50 million in gross annual receipts at a rate of 0.175 percent to 0.69 percent to fund homelessness services.

- Ballotpedia

“Should the proposed ordinance be approved by the voters, in my opinion, it would generate new tax revenue of approximately \$250 million to \$300 million annually beginning in 2019. The proposed tax is dedicated for defined homeless services, including housing, shelter, prevention, and mental service services. The City currently assesses a business tax on approximately 13,000 companies in the city, the majority of which is based upon a given company's gross receipts. This current tax is expected to generate approximately \$880 million in fiscal year (FY) 2018-19 for the City's General Fund. The proposed ordinance would establish an additional dedicated tax on gross receipts for approximately 300 to 400 of these businesses, at a rate between 0.175 percent and 0.69 percent of gross receipts above \$50 million, depending on business type. Businesses subject to the proposed tax currently comprise approximately 15 to 20 percent of the city's job base and pay approximately 40 percent of the city's business taxes.”

- San Francisco Controller

“Proposition C is the key to solving homelessness in San Francisco now... It starts by asking the City's very largest corporations — not regular San Franciscans — to pay additional revenue to fund these services. These top 1% companies, paying on income above \$50 million per year, many of whom just received a huge tax break from Donald Trump, can afford to do more... Proposition C would:

- Protect 7,000 San Franciscans from losing their homes
- Move more than 4,000 households off the streets and into affordable homes
- Provide intensive mental health care and substance use street-based for over 4,000 severely impaired individuals
- Fund bathrooms and sanitation centers across the city
- Give the 1,000 people on our wait list for shelter each night a place to sleep off the street”
- Official Support Argument, California Voter Guide

“San Francisco Mayor London Breed, Assemblyman David Chiu and Sen. Scott Wiener released statements Friday opposing Proposition C, a local ballot measure that would raise taxes on the city's largest businesses to fund an array of homelessness services...

‘I agree that businesses should contribute more to the solution, but it needs to happen through a collaborative process that increases our business tax to pay for homeless services with real accountability,’ Chiu said. ‘Until then, I believe that Prop. C is not the right answer for the crisis that all of us see every day.’

Wiener criticized the measure's backers for ‘basically telling the public, ‘this is going to solve

homelessness.' We know that money alone is not going to solve homelessness. I support more money, but money itself is not going to do the job.'

'We all recognize the crisis on our streets; we see it every day. So I understand why Proposition C sounds appealing, and I know those who support it are well-intentioned,' Breed said in her statement. 'But as mayor, I must weigh more than popularity and good intentions. I must consider the long-term impacts on our city, and thus, upon lengthy analysis and consideration, I cannot support Proposition C.'"

- Dominic Francassa, SF Chronicle

Jewish Resources

"Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters, and he who has no money; come, buy, and eat; come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend money for that which is not bread? And your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen diligently to me, and eat that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness. Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, even the sure loving promises of David."

- Isaiah 55:1-3, translation by Hazon

"And when you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not wholly reap the corner of your field, neither shall you gather the gleanings of your harvest. And you shall not glean your vineyard, neither shall you gather the fallen fruit of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and for the stranger: I am the Lord your God."

- Leviticus 19:9-10

"Be careful about the authorities, as they approach a person only when for their own needs. They seem like dear friends in good times, but they don't stand up for that person in when they're in trouble."

- Pirkei Avot 2:3

Conclusion

Our group was overwhelmingly in support of this proposition. They were not swayed by Mayor Breed, Sen. Weiner, and Assembly Member Chiu's lack of support. Our group argued that if those in power want more accountability from our homelessness aid programs, they should create more accountability, rather than just preventing homelessness aid programs from receiving more funding. Our group cited Isaiah 55:1-3 and Leviticus 19:9-10 to argue that providing resources to those in need was a Jewish value. Their overall conclusion was that a progressive Jewish vote was yes on Prop C.

Our Ninth Grade Havurah reviewed this proposition as well. Almost all of our teens gave little credence to the opinions of Mayor Breed and Sen. Weiner, stating that their parents dislike these two politicians and they typically agree with their parents (at least politically). The Havurah agreed with our Voter Education Night group that providing resources to those in need is a Jewish value, and concluded that their progressive Jewish values were aligned with a yes vote on Prop C.