

November 2013 Elections Endorsement Update:

What is Proposition B ?

“Shall the City allow a development project at the 8 Washington Street Site that would include new housing, retail and recreational facilities, and open space, and would increase the legal building height limits on a portion of the Site?”

This initiative requires amending the General Plan to change the height and bulk district classification of two areas of the 8 Washington site, and amending the Zoning Map to be consistent with the General Plan amendment. It also requires creating “8 Washington Parks, Public Access and Housing Special Use District”. The initiative will change the maximum height limit from 84’ to 92’ and 136’ on the west corner of the site.

What is Proposition C?

“Shall the City ordinance increasing legal building height limits on an approximately half-acre portion of the 8 Washington Street Site along Drumm Street take effect?”

This referendum opposes the Ordinance passed by the Board of Supervisors and signed by the Mayor to amend the General Plan and the Zoning Map to increase the height limits of the aforementioned 8 Washington Project. No Wall on the Waterfront petitioned the Board to reconsider and repeal said ordinance, or if not entirely repealed, then to submit the ordinance to a vote of the electors.

SFB's Endorsement Process: On 25th September, San Francisco Beautiful's Policy Committee met with campaign representatives to hear pros and cons. The Committee then discussed and recommended to vote 'NO' on Proposition B and C. On 9th October the Policy Committee met with community members to review the recommendations, discuss and vote. A majority voted "NO" on Proposition B and C. The board reviewed both recommendations.

Arguments: San Francisco Beautiful has supported protecting views lines to landmarks and restricting height limits to protect the urban setting of San Francisco and keeping it beautiful. As the population of San Francisco is growing the housing demands especially near the Financial District has been increasing exponentially. While this project will bring the much needed housing in the area, it would set precedents for future projects for height limit increases on the waterfront. San Francisco Beautiful argues that developments that require exceptions from the typical defined government processes should be balanced by a much greater public good. The General Plan amendments required by this initiative do not reasonably balance the overall public benefits of the project.

SFB's Position: After intense discussions at the Policy Committee and the Endorsement Meeting with our membership, San Francisco Beautiful says “NO” on Proposition B and C.

More information about the elections can be found at <http://sfgov2.org/index.aspx?page=3837> .

Don't forget to vote!!!