



Proponent's Argument in Favor of Proposition B

The case for Proposition B, the Privacy First Policy, is simple: all San Francisco residents and visitors have a fundamental right to privacy.

The Privacy First Policy would set a new precedent for cities across the country seeking to protect the privacy rights of their citizens. Whether regulating artificial intelligence or overseeing rapid developments in surveillance technology, local democracies have a vital role to play in the evolving field of data privacy regulation.

As a hub of tech innovation, San Francisco should be at the forefront of data privacy protections. This means:

- Ensuring that your personal information, including your sexual orientation, race, national origin, or religious affiliation, is protected from unwarranted collection and disclosure.
- Regulating how information that is collected about you is being shared with law enforcement, third party advertisers, or other private special interests.
- Giving you an opportunity to deny consent to the collection and use of your personal information.

- Allowing you to move around the city, meet with friends, and organize groups without being tracked in real time.
- Securing your personal information from unauthorized access or accidental destruction.

The Privacy First Policy was submitted to the ballot by a unanimous vote of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors and is specifically endorsed by:

- Supervisor Malia Cohen, President
- Supervisor Sandra Lee Fewer
- Supervisor Jane Kim
- Supervisor Rafael Mandelman
- Supervisor Aaron Peskin
- Supervisor Hillary Ronen
- Supervisor Norman Yee

Vote YES on Proposition B - it's time to put your Privacy First!

Supervisors Malia Cohen, Sandra Lee Fewer, Jane Kim, Rafael Mandelman, Aaron Peskin, Hillary Ronen, Norman Yee

Rebuttal to Proponent's Argument in Favor of Proposition B

The case for Proposition B is not as simple as the proponents say. Prop. B is a hollow effort to protect privacy. It would, however, hand our elected officials the power to tamper with San Francisco's voter-enacted Sunshine Ordinance.

We agree that privacy should be protected. But far from being a catch-all privacy shield, Prop. B wouldn't give our elected officials the authority to do much, if anything, to protect privacy that they can't do already. Instead, it would set a vague privacy agenda for our elected officials to implement in the future, without any direct input from you, the voter. There is no telling what the result would be.

We oppose authorizing our elected officials to unilaterally tamper with the Sunshine Ordinance, San Francisco's voter-enacted open government law. As James Madison, one of the founding fathers of our nation, once said: "Knowledge will forever govern ignorance; and a people who mean to be their own governors must arm themselves with the power which knowledge gives." We need a strong Sunshine Ordinance to ensure that we, not our elected officials, have the final say over how San Francisco is run.

Prop. B threatens San Francisco's Sunshine Ordinance — the very policy that ensures the public can hold elected officials and civil servants accountable. We urge you to vote NO.

Society of Professional Journalists, Northern California Chapter



Opponent's Argument Against Proposition B

Proposition B threatens San Francisco's landmark Sunshine Ordinance by giving elected officials unilateral authority to gut it. We urge you to vote no.

Maintaining public access to government information keeps public officials and civil servants accountable for their actions. In addition to providing citizens access to government records and open meetings, the voter-approved Sunshine Ordinance created an independent body, the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force, to ensure that city officials actually follow transparency laws.

Prop. B would empower city officials to amend the Sunshine Ordinance, so long as the change is "not inconsistent" with the "purpose or intent" of the law. This wording is vague, and could enable officials to limit access to government records or change the composition of the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force to be more friendly to politicians or the very business interests they say they are trying to rein in.

Although it's aimed to address a real problem, Prop. B is largely a statement of abstract guidelines that could have harmful unintended consequences. Officials say

they would not use the amendment to impede access, and that we should trust them to use their newfound powers judiciously. But that contradicts the basis of our transparency laws, which ensure the public's ability to hold government officials accountable.

Politicians shouldn't be handed the ability to block the public's right to know what happens at City Hall — our right to know how the city runs and how it spends our tax dollars. We urge you to vote NO on Prop. B.

Society of Professional Journalists, Northern California Chapter

Rebuttal to Opponent's Argument Against Proposition B

Any notion that public records laws may be weakened is not only legally impossible, it is a distraction from the important privacy rights that Proposition B would advance.

We agree that public access to government information helps keep public officials accountable for their actions. That is why Proposition B explicitly states that it may not be implemented to undermine the Sunshine Ordinance or any other public records law.

Public records advocates also agree that the Sunshine Ordinance, passed by the voters in 1999, is out of date. From defunct appointing authorities that may only be fixed by going back to the voters, to issues accessing digital records as technology continues to evolve, the Sunshine Ordinance must be fixed to increase transparency and access to public records.

This is why Proposition B actually *restricts* the Board of Supervisors to amending public records laws in order to strengthen them and to hold public officials - including the Board of Supervisors - accountable.

In spite of this peculiar opposition, we look forward to advancing your privacy rights - *and* your access to public records.

Vote **Yes on Prop B**, and put your Privacy First.

Aaron Peskin, Supervisor, District 3