

Opposing Bilingual Ballots

O

PROPOSITION O.

Shall the Board of Supervisors adopt and the mayor sign a resolution urging the Congress and President of the United States to amend federal law so that henceforth the City and County of San Francisco need print ballots, voters handbooks and other official voting materials only in English?

YES	152	▶
NO	153	▶

Analysis

By Ballot Simplification Committee

THE WAY IT IS NOW: Federal law establishes certain conditions under which cities are required to print ballots, voters handbooks and other official voting materials in languages other than English. Under federal law, San Francisco must print voter materials in Spanish and Chinese.

THE PROPOSAL: Proposition O is a declaration of policy which would require the Board of Supervisors to adopt and the Mayor to sign a resolution urging the Congress and the President of the United States to change federal law so that in the future the City and County of San Francisco would print ballots, voter handbooks and other official voting materials

in English only.

A YES VOTE MEANS: If you vote yes, you want the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor to urge Congress and the President to change federal law so that San Francisco would print ballots, voter handbooks and other official voting materials in English only.

A NO VOTE MEANS: If you vote no, you do not want the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor to urge Congress and the President to change federal law that now requires San Francisco to print ballots, voter handbooks and other official voting materials in English, Spanish and Chinese.

Controller's Statement on "O"

City Controller John C. Farrell has issued the following statement on the fiscal impact of Proposition O:

"Should the proposed declaration of policy be adopted and federal law amended accordingly, in my opinion, there would be a reduction in the cost of conducting elections, the amount of which cannot be estimated but should not be substantial."

How "O" Got on Ballot

On August 18, Registrar of Voters Jay Patterson certified that the initiative petition relating to bilingual ballots had a sufficient number of signatures to be placed on the ballot.

Quentin Kopp, the proponent of the petition, had gathered 14,440 signatures which he turned in to the Registrar on August 10.

A random check of the signatures showed that 12,400 of the signatures were valid. This is more than the 9,679 signatures needed to qualify an initiative declaration of policy for the ballot.