





# San Francisco Voter Information Pamphlet, November 5, 2002 Election

Prop H increased Public Safety Officer's maximum retirement benefit from 75% of final salary at retirement to 90% of final salary at retirement.

## Police & Firefighter Retirement Benefits

**PROPOSITION H**

Shall the City increase retirement benefits for police and firefighters?

YES    
NO  

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**Digest**  
by Ballot Simplification Committee

**THE WAY IT IS NOW:** City police and firefighters are members of the City's retirement system. Generally, police and firefighters can retire at age 50. Police and firefighters who retire at age 50 receive, for each year of service, 2 percent of the salary they earned at the time of retirement. Police and firefighters who retire at age 55 receive, for each year of service, 2.7 percent of the salary they earned at the time of retirement. **The maximum retirement benefit police and firefighters may receive is 75 percent of their salary at the time of retirement.**

**THE PROPOSAL:** Proposition H is a Charter amendment that would change the formula for police and firefighter retirement benefits. Police and firefighters who retire at age 50 would receive, for each year of service, 2.4 percent of the salary earned at the time

of retirement. Police and firefighters who retire at age 55 would receive, for each year of service, 3 percent of the salary earned at the time of retirement. **The maximum retirement benefit police and firefighters could receive would be 90 percent of the salary at the time of retirement.** Police and firefighters who retire before January 1, 2003 would not be eligible for this increase.

**A "YES" VOTE MEANS:** If you vote "Yes," you want to make these changes to police and firefighter retirement benefits.

**A "NO" VOTE MEANS:** If you vote "No," you do not want to make these changes to police and firefighter retirement benefits.

## Police & Firefighter Retirement Benefits

### PAID ARGUMENTS IN FAVOR OF PROPOSITION H

We are members of the Retirement Board.  
However, we are signing this ballot argument in our individual capacities.

Members of the Retirement Board Urge YES on Proposition H. As guardians of San Francisco's retirement system, we know Proposition H is both fair and fiscally sound.

The current surplus in the retirement fund is more than enough to pay for this vitally needed upgrade of pensions for police officers, firefighters, and paramedics. As an added protection, Proposition H requires that public safety employees enter into negotiations to pay for pension upgrades in the unlikely event that the surplus is no longer sufficient. This is an important new precedent in fiscal responsibility and we urge the entire city to support it.

Please join us in voting YES on Proposition H.

*William S. Breall*, San Francisco Employees Retirement Board Commissioner

*Herb Meiburger*, San Francisco Employees Retirement Board Commissioner

*E. David Ellington*, San Francisco Employees Retirement Board Commissioner

*Jake McGoldrick*, San Francisco Employees Retirement Board Commissioner

*Brenda Wright*, San Francisco Employees Retirement Board Commissioner

The true source of funds used for the printing fee of this argument is Yes on H, Public Safety Officers for a Better Retirement.

The two largest contributors to the true source recipient committee are: 1. San Francisco Police Officers Association 2. San Francisco Firefighters.

### Paid Argument by SFES Board Members as Individuals

Five of the seven-member San Francisco Employees' Retirement System's Board of Directors signed on to a paid ad supporting the retirement improvement for public safety officers in 2002, including *Commissioner Herb Meiburger*.

**Noticeably absent from the co-signers were then-SFERS Board Commissioners Al Casciato (SFPD) and Joe Driscoll (SFFD).**

### Notes on the 2002 Voter Guide

San Francisco's Voter Guide listed as the Official Proponents of Prop H, U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein, Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi, and 10 of the 11 then members of the Board of Supervisors. There was no Official Opponent opposing Prop H.

There were a total of 20 paid arguments in favor of Prop H in the voter guide. Of those, 14 listed as the true source of funds for the paid ads a group called the "Public Safety Officers for a Better Retirement," with the two largest contributors to the group as having been the San Francisco Police Officers Association and the San Francisco Firefighters [union].

There were no paid arguments against Prop H.

**Prop H Required 50%+1 Affirmative Votes to Pass; It Received 64.25% of the Votes (132,440 Voted "Yes.")!**