

Know Your ABC's

November is here, and we all know what that means. Prepare for turkey and pumpkin pie on the 28th, but on November 5th, it'll be time to vote, as San Franciscans once again head to the polls. In the words of JFK, "The ignorance of one voter in a democracy impairs the security of all." So here's a short preview of the four ballot measures (A, B, C, and D)—as well as the candidates—for which you'll have the opportunity to vote.

Measure A seeks to change the way San Francisco's Retiree Health Care Trust Fund is administered. In an effort to prevent the fund's depletion, Measure A, backed by Supervisor **Mark Farrell** and others, would place new restrictions on when money can be paid for retired public employees' health care costs. Payments would only be allowed when the trust fund is fully funded or under other specified circumstances.

Measures B and C offer competing visions of 8 Washington Street's future. Measure B creates a special use district and requires two high-rise luxury housing buildings to be developed on the property, along with retail, recreational facilities, and open space.

Measure C seeks to overturn the Board of Supervisors' approval of increased height limits (from 84 feet high to 136 feet high) for the 8 Washington Street building project along Drumm Street, and to limit the planned development. Because Measure C is a referendum rather than an initiative, a Yes vote means you want the legal building height limits increased, and a No vote means you do not want the increase.

Measure D, put forth by the AIDS Healthcare Foundation, seeks to establish a policy that San Francisco will use all available opportunities to reduce the cost of prescription drugs dispensed in city hospitals, clinics, and jails. Measure D also establishes a policy requiring San Francisco to negotiate directly with prescription drug manufacturers, instead of utilizing outside companies, to reduce prescription drug costs. The measure also directs the city to ask the state and federal governments to reduce drug prices paid by all levels of government.

With only one contested candidate race, the November election is

not likely to lead to any **Bush** versus **Gore** drama. In the 4th Supervisorial District, Supervisor **Katy Tang** is being challenged by **Ivan Seredni** and write-in candidate **Michael Murphy**, while Assessor-Recorder **Carmen Chu**, City Attorney **Dennis Herrera**, and Treasurer **Jose Cisneros** are running unopposed.



Without a president, governor, or mayor on the ballot, voter turnout is expected to be low, but these four ballot measures provide the opportunity for voters to exercise their right to vote and make their voices heard on issues of healthcare and development. Therefore, know your A, B, C's—and D's—and, on November 5th, be sure to do what San Franciscans do best—express yourselves! ■

Brad Hertz is an attorney and partner at The Sutton Law Firm, which specializes in political and election law in the Bay Area and throughout the state.

