HOTEL TAX

PROPOSITION O
ORDINANCE: Shall the Hotel Occupancy Tax be amended by imposing an additional tax of 1.75% on the occupancy of guest rooms in hotels in the City and County of San Francisco after July 1, 1980?

Analysis
By Ballot Simplification Committee

THE WAY IT IS NOW: People who occupy guest rooms in San Francisco hotels pay a room tax of 8%. The money from this tax does not go into the city’s general fund but is used to fund specific projects.

THE PROPOSAL: Proposition O would change the municipal code and allow the city to add a 1.75% surcharge to the existing 8% hotel room tax. The money from this surcharge would be put into the general fund to be used for general city purposes.

A YES VOTE MEANS: If you vote Yes, you want the tax on hotel rooms to be raised from 8% to 9.75% and you want the money from the surcharge to be put into the city’s general fund.

A NO VOTE MEANS: If you vote No, you want the hotel room tax to stay at 8%.

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 ordinance be adopted, in my opinion, in and of itself, it would neither increase nor decrease the cost of government. However, this proposed ordinance will provide additional revenues of approximately $5,000,000 to the General Fund.”

TEXT OF PROPOSED ORDINANCE
PROPOSITION O

HOTEL OCCUPANCY TAX SURCHARGE

AMENDING PART III, ARTICLE 7, OF THE SAN FRANCISCO MUNICIPAL CODE BY ADDING SECTION 502.5 THERETO, PROVIDING FOR A ONE AND THREE-FOURTHS PERCENTUM (1.75%) SURCHARGE ON THE RATE OF THE HOTEL ROOM OCCUPANCY TAX, SUBJECT TO THE POWERS OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, AND PROVIDING FOR DEPOSIT OF SURCHARGE INTO GENERAL FUND.

Be it ordained by the People of the City and County of San Francisco:

Section 1. Part III, Article 7 of the San Francisco Municipal Code is hereby amended by adding Section 502.5 thereto reading as follows:

Section 502.5 Imposition of a one and three-fourths percentum (1.75%) surcharge. There shall be an additional tax of one and three-fourths percentum (1.75%) on the rent for every occupancy of the guest rooms in a hotel in the City and County of San Francisco on and after July 1, 1980.

When rent is paid, charged, billed or falls due on either a weekly, monthly or other term basis, the rent so paid, charged, billed or falling due shall be subject to the tax of eight percentum (8%) herein imposed to the extent that it covers any portion of the period prior to July 1, 1980, and to the tax of eight percentum (8%) herein plus the amount of surcharge imposed to the extent that it covers any portion of the period on and after July 1, 1980, and such payment, charge, bill or rent due shall be apportioned on the basis of the ratio of the number of days falling within said periods to the total number of days covered thereby. Where any tax has been paid hereunder upon any rent without any right of occupancy thereon, the Tax Collector may by regulation provide for credit or refund of the amount of such tax upon application therefor as provided in Section 514(1) of this Article.

The surcharge tax so collected shall be deposited in the general fund subject to appropriation pursuant to the budget and fiscal provisions of the Charter.

By adopting this ordinance the People of the City and County of San Francisco do not intend to limit or in any way curtail any powers the Board of Supervisors may exercise as to the subject matter of this ordinance, including, but not limited to, raising the rate of taxation or surcharge, lowering the rate of taxation or surcharge, eliminating the tax or surcharge, or creating or defining new categories of taxpayers under this ordinance.