



SAN FRANCISCO REPUBLICAN PARTY

ESTABLISHED 1856

Resolution Opposing Green Benefit Districts

Adopted Unanimously on May 1, 2019

WHEREAS, Green Benefit Districts (GBDs) offer property owners *the same* services currently offered by San Francisco 311, the Department of Public Works (DPW), the Recreation and Parks Department, and the San Francisco Police Department, but charge GBD property owners *extra* fees for these services, and GBDs offer property owners services such as tree plantings at higher rates than those currently offered to property owners by Friends of the Urban Forest;

WHEREAS, Green Benefit Districts only need the approval of property owners representing 30% of the proposed GBD budget to initiate a formal ballot – even if the other 70% vote “no”, and during the formal ballot process, GBD formation only needs the approval of property owners representing 50% of the property assessments of the *returned* formal ballots – to allow for the formation of a GBD; yet GBDs need far more votes to dissolve;

WHEREAS, Green Benefit Districts assess property owners an average fee of \$250 a year, and said fee becomes a property tax lien if unpaid, yet these fees cannot be passed on to residential tenants;

WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco employs a full-time staff member at DPW with a salary of \$150,000 per year, to help create future GBDs, and the City and County will temporarily loan a prospective GBD up to \$500,000 to start up a GBD, planning to add such costs to the future assessments of that GBD if it is approved;

WHEREAS, The administrative fees of the only working GBD in San Francisco are 35% of the GBD’s revenue brought in from property assessments;

BE IT RESOLVED, The San Francisco Republican Party opposes the use of taxpayer dollars to fund the formation of future Green Benefit Districts in the City and County of San Francisco and requests that the DPW, Recreation and Parks Department, and the San Francisco Police Department, and the Department of Homeless and Supportive Housing submit a baseline of services currently offered through the City and County of San Francisco before any new GBDs are proposed.

