

Michael Lai

Meet the Candidates, Week 9: How did you vote on proposition E? What are the best and worst elements of this proposition?

I voted **yes on Proposition E** to increase police effectiveness, and gave speeches to support it in democratic clubs around the city.

Public safety is the #1 priority for D11 residents. At a time when SFPD is short ~486 officers (23% of sworn officers) and enforcement is down, officers need to do more with less while staying accountable. I heard from police officers that some beat cops spend 40% of their time on administrative paperwork, instead of doing their job, and they are unable to use technology that other Bay Area police departments allow to fight crime. This lowers officer effectiveness and morale.

Proposition E does 6 things to improve police department effectiveness. The best part is section 961.2(a) limiting administrative paperwork to 20% of officer time, which will help officers do more to fight crime. Proposition E is not a silver bullet, and is not perfect — for example section 961.2(d) vehicle pursuit policy could lead to more dangerous chases.

However, overall I believe Proposition E moves us in the right direction to increase public safety as we solve our police staffing crisis.