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## Catholic Charities Endorses Proposition A

**San Francisco, CA** – The Board of Directors of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of San Francisco voted unanimously today to endorse the San Francisco Affordable Housing Bonds, Proposition A, on the November 2015 ballot.

“Catholic Charities rarely takes public positions on ballot measures, however, the housing crisis in San Francisco and throughout the entire Bay Area directly impacts the very people Catholic Charities seeks to serve as well as the staff it relies on to provide these services,” said Jeff Bialik, Executive Director of Catholic Charities. “We believe that every person has a fundamental right to life and a right to those things required for human decency, such as food and shelter. The Catholic Church has traditionally played a lead role in addressing issues of poverty, human dignity and social justice, and it is fitting that Catholic Charities should play a role in partnership with other Catholic, interfaith, and social services organizations in addressing the housing crisis in San Francisco.”

Proposition A on the November 2015 ballot for the City and County of San Francisco would authorize the city to issue up to \$310 million in bonds to:

- finance the construction, development, acquisition, and preservation of housing affordable rental housing near established transit corridors or within priority development areas
- acquire, rehabilitate, and preserve existing rental housing to prevent the loss of rental housing and the displacement of long-time City residents, with priority for vulnerable populations such as San Francisco working families, veterans, seniors, disabled persons
- repair and reconstruct dilapidated public housing or provide infrastructure improvements that allow for the repair or improvement of public housing sites
- fund middle-income rental housing units
- assist middle-income City residents, including teachers, in purchasing their first homes in the City
- acquire, rehabilitate, preserve, construct, and/or develop affordable housing in the Mission Area Plan

Prior to the vote to endorse Proposition A, Catholic Charities Board of Directors reflected on Pope Francis’ recent visit to the U.S. and specifically his comments during a tour of Catholic Charities Archdiocese of Washington, D.C. Before sharing lunch with a number of homeless people, Pope Francis said, “There is no social or moral justification, no justification whatsoever, for the lack of housing.”

Catholic Charities provided homelessness and housing services to 3,789 people last year by providing housing, emergency shelter, homelessness prevention, rental subsidies, and residential care for the chronically ill.

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**Catholic Charities is the social services expression of the Catholic Church in the Archdiocese of San Francisco. Founded in 1907 to care for the orphans of the San Francisco earthquake, Catholic Charities is an independent non-profit organization dedicated to strengthening families and reducing poverty in Marin, San Francisco and San Mateo counties. All financial contributions directly support client services.**

**Catholic Charities serves and advocates for the poor, the sick, the distressed, children, youth, families, immigrants and seniors, regardless of race, religion, color, sex, age, physical or mental disability, national origin, sexual orientation, or any other basis covered by local law. To learn more about the work Catholic Charities does and how the people we serve are impacted, follow us on Twitter @CatholicCSF and Facebook at [facebook.com/CatholicCharitiesSF](https://facebook.com/CatholicCharitiesSF).**