

ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

The Way It Is Now

The San Francisco Board of Supervisors is the elected legislative body of the City's municipal government. The Board of Supervisors consists of 11 Supervisors. The City is geographically divided into 11 separate Supervisorial districts. The voters who reside in each district elect one Supervisor to represent the district. A voter may only vote in the election for Supervisor for the district in which the voter resides. A Supervisor must reside in the district the Supervisor represents.

The City holds elections for Supervisor and for all other City elected offices in November of even-numbered years. The City does not hold general municipal elections in odd-numbered years. Supervisorial elections are staggered with elections for six Supervisors in one year and elections for the other Supervisors two years later. For example, the City held elections for six Supervisors in 2022 and will hold elections for the other five Supervisors in 2024.

The Proposal

The proposed measure would amend the Charter to expand who is eligible to vote in elections for Supervisor. Under the proposed measure, all voters in the City would be eligible to vote in the elections for all 11 members of the Board of Supervisors. A voter would be allowed to vote in the elections for Supervisor for districts in which the voter does not reside. The measure would not change the requirement that Supervisors reside in the district they represent.

The proposed measure would require the City to hold elections for all 11 members of the Board of Supervisors in November 2025. The City would then hold elections for Supervisor in odd-numbered years, with elections for six Supervisors one year and elections for the remaining five Supervisors two years later.

In addition to holding elections in November of odd-numbered years, the City would continue to hold elections for other elected offices in November of even-numbered years.

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AT-LARGE ELECTIONS FROM DISTRICTS

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Words in underscored type are additions. Words in ~~strikethrough~~ type are deletions.

SEC. 13.110. ELECTION OF SUPERVISORS

It is the purpose and intent of the people of San Francisco in enacting this Charter amendment, to let all voters participate in electing all 11 members of the Board of Supervisors, while assuring every neighborhood has representation on the board, by providing for election of supervisors at-large from districts.

Notwithstanding any provision of the Charter to the contrary, all members of the Board of Supervisors shall be elected at-large from districts as set forth in this section, as follows:

(a) An election for members of the Board of Supervisors shall be held on the Tuesday immediately following the first Monday in November in every odd-numbered year commencing on November 4, 2025, and the same shall be known as a general municipal election. Commencing with the general municipal election in 2025, the members of the Board of Supervisors shall be elected at-large from districts. The term "at-large from districts" shall mean election of members of the Board of Supervisors who are respectively each a resident of a supervisorial district, existing or hereafter created pursuant to this section, from which they are elected by the voters of the entire City and County. ~~The members of the board of supervisors shall be elected by district as set forth in this section.~~

(b) The City and County shall be divided into 11 supervisorial districts as set forth in this section. Beginning with the general municipal election in 2000, and until new districts are established pursuant to this section, these districts shall be used for the election ~~or recall~~ of the members of the board of supervisors at-large from districts, or for filling any vacancy in the office of member of the board of supervisors by appointment. Once new districts are established, those districts shall be used for the same purposes. No change in the boundary or location of any district shall operate to abolish or terminate the term of office of any member of the board of supervisors prior to the expiration of the term of office for which such member was elected or appointed. The recall of the members of the board of supervisors shall be governed by division 11 of the California Elections Code, commencing with section 11000 et seq.

(c) [See editor's note following the concluding paragraph (g) (f) of this section.]

(d) Within 60 days following publication of the decennial federal census in the year 2000 and every decennial federal census after that, the Director of Elections shall report

to the Board of Supervisors on whether the existing districts continue to meet the requirements of federal and state law and the criteria for drawing districts lines set in the Charter.

The criteria for drawing districts lines are:

Districts must conform to all legal requirements, including the requirement that they be equal in population. Population variations between districts should be limited to 1 percent from the statistical mean unless additional variations, limited to 5 percent of the statistical mean, are necessary to prevent dividing or diluting the voting power of minorities and/or to keep recognized neighborhoods intact; provided, however, that the redistricting provided for herein shall conform to the rule of one person, one vote, and shall reflect communities of interest within the City and County. Census data, at the census block level, as released by the United States Census Bureau, statistically adjusted by the Bureau to correct the unadjusted census counts for any measured undercount or overcount of any subset of the population according to the bureau's Accuracy and Coverage Evaluation or other sampling method, shall be used in any analysis of population requirements and application of the rule of one person one vote. In the event such adjusted census data, at the census block level, are not released by the Bureau, population data, at the census block level, adjusted by the California Department of Finance for any measured undercount or overcount maybe used.

If it is determined that the districts are in compliance with all legal requirements, including the requirement that they be equal in population, the current districts as drawn will be valid for the next decade. If it is determined that any of the districts are not in compliance, the Board of Supervisors by ordinance shall convene and fund a nine-member elections task force. Three members shall be appointed by the Board of Supervisors, three members shall be appointed by the Mayor, and three members shall be appointed by the Director of Elections unless an Elections Commission is created in which case the appointments designated to the Director of Elections shall be made by the Elections Commission. Task Force shall be appointed by January 8, 2002 and following the publication of each decennial federal census thereafter, shall be appointed within sixty days after issuance of a report by the Director of Elections to the Board of Supervisors that the districts are not in compliance, pursuant to this subsection.

Members of the Task Force previously appointed by the Director of Elections shall serve on the Task Force until the Elections Commission, if established, appoints three members to the Task Force, whereupon the terms of the members appointed by the Director of Elections shall expire.

The Director of Elections shall serve ex officio as a non-voting member. The task force shall be responsible for redrawing the district lines in accordance with the law and the criteria established in this Section, and shall make such adjustments as appropriate based on public input at public hearings.

The Task Force shall complete redrawing district lines before the fifteenth day of April of the year in which the first election using the redrawn lines will be conducted. The Board of Supervisors may not revise the district boundaries established by the Task Force.

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If the Task Force determines that the adjusted population data to which this subsection refers are not available a sufficient period of time before the fifteenth day of April in order to use the adjusted population data in redrawing the district lines for the following supervisorial election, and the adjusted population data demonstrate more than a five percent variance from the figures used in redrawing the district lines for the [sic] that supervisorial election, the Task Force shall by the fifteenth day of April immediately preceding the next supervisorial election redraw the district lines for that supervisorial election in accordance with the provisions of this section. The procedures for redrawing supervisorial lines following the publication of every subsequent decennial federal census shall follow the procedures established by this Section.

The City Attorney shall remove the description of district lines found in this subsection from the Charter after the Elections Task Force has completed redrawing the district lines as set forth above. Following each redrawing of the district lines thereafter, the City Attorney shall cause the redrawn district lines to be published in an appendix to this Charter.

(e) No person shall be eligible to be elected, to be appointed or to serve on the board of supervisors unless that person has resided within his or her respective supervisorial district for a period of not less than 30 days immediately preceding the date he or she files a declaration of candidacy for the office of supervisor or was appointed to the board. A person elected or appointed must continue to reside within his or her district during his or her incumbency and, upon ceasing to be a resident of said district, shall be removed from office.

~~Each member of the board of supervisors, commencing with the general municipal election in November, 2000, shall be elected by the electors within a supervisorial district, and must have resided in the district in which he or she is elected for a period of not less than 30 days immediately preceding the date he or she files a declaration of candidacy for the office of supervisor, and must continue to reside therein during his or her incumbency, and upon ceasing to be such resident shall be removed from office.~~

(f) Notwithstanding any provisions of this section or any other section of the charter to the contrary, the respective terms of office of the members of the board of supervisors who shall hold office on the eighth day of January, 2026 ~~2001~~, shall expire at 12 o'clock noon on said date and the 11 persons elected as members of the board of supervisors at the general municipal election in 2025 ~~2000~~ shall succeed to said offices on said eighth day of January, 2026 ~~2001~~. At that time, the clerk of the board of supervisors shall determine by lot whether the supervisors elected from the even- or odd-numbered supervisorial districts at the general municipal election in 2025 ~~2000~~ shall have terms of office expiring at noon on the eighth day of January, 2028 ~~2003~~, and which shall have terms of office expiring at noon on the eighth day of January, 2030 ~~2005~~; commencing, however, with the general municipal election in November, 2027 ~~2002~~, the terms of office of the supervisors elected from the even- or odd-numbered supervisorial districts, as the case may be, shall be for a term of four years and shall continue as such thereafter.

Those members of the board of supervisors elected at the general election in ~~2024~~ 1998, and those elected at the general municipal election in ~~2025~~ 2000 who only serve an initial two-year term or less, shall not be deemed to have served a full term for purposes of the term limit established in Section 2.101.

(g) Any provision of this section held invalid is severable.

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