



October 9th, 2025

1111 Broadway, Suite 1360
Oakland, CA 94607

heart.org

Dear Commission Streamlining Task Force Members,

The American Heart Association **strongly urges you to keep the Sugary Drinks Distributor Tax Advisory Committee (SDDTAC) in its existing form, fully separate from the Food Security Task Force Committee so each may perform their designated functions.**

The SDDTAC was created by the will of the voters as a requirement of Proposition V in November 2016, which established a one-cent-per-ounce tax on sugary drinks distributed in San Francisco. The American Heart Association supported the campaign to pass Proposition V and has continued to support the implementation of the tax. The Committee's role is to ensure that these revenues are used transparently, equitably, and in ways that advance community health and wellbeing. Each year the American Heart Association works in coalition to ask the City to adhere to the recommendations of the SDDTAC in the allocation of the Sugary Drink Distributor Tax funds. These funds were never meant to backfill the City budget and the SDDTAC serves a key role in upholding the original intent of the tax to fund public health prevention efforts related to reducing diet-related chronic disease.

The recommendation to eliminate the SDDTAC would require going back on the ballot for voter approval and it will undermine public trust and voter confidence in the intent of the legislation approved by San Franciscans. The SDDTAC plays a separate and vital role from the Food Security Task force by ensuring accountability and elevating the voices of communities most impacted by health inequities. The Food Security Task Force itself is slated to expire in 2026 and is equally vulnerable to being eliminated prior to that date. Including the duties of the SDDTAC in the Food Security Task Force does nothing to preserve the functions of the SDDTAC but does appear to be a strategic move to quietly eliminate the SDDTAC. Eliminating the committee will only illuminate the City's use of the tax funds to backfill deficits.

I urge the Task Force to honor the will of the voters and keep the SDDTAC as an advisory body to uphold the requirements specified in Prop V and advance the City's public health efforts. To do anything less, including rolling the SDDTAC duties into the Food Security Task Force that is set to expire next year, falls woefully short of the intended implementation of this voter-approved tax.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dr. Nicole Rosendale".

Dr. Nicole Rosendale, MD
Board President, American Heart Association – Bay Area