



October 12, 2025

Subject: Advocacy for the preservation of the San Francisco Youth Commission as a Chartered Advisory Commission

Dear Members of the Commission Streamlining Task Force (CSTF),

On behalf of the Second District PTA of California, which represents our Parent Teacher Associations across San Francisco, we strongly urge the CSTF to maintain the San Francisco Youth Commission as a chartered advisory commission. Our mission is dedicated to the education, health, and well-being of children and families. We believe the Youth Commission is indispensable to the health of our local democracy and the development of our future leaders.

The Youth Commission serves as a vital training ground encouraging students to become advocates, community leaders, and responsible adults. By placing youth directly into the mechanism of local government, the Commission instills in them a sense of civic responsibility, citizenship, and leadership through active participation. We believe that promoting this real-world involvement in local government encourages long-term civic engagement among our young people.

Furthermore, we acknowledge the insights and unique perspectives that youth voices provide, especially on matters directly impacting them. For example, in 2024 the Commission provided the youth perspective on climate change and received almost 400 responses from youth across the City! We support youth having direct input on critical issues related to budgetary and policy proposals that affect them, including education, public safety, mental health services, and housing. Empowering students in this way contributes to building stronger, healthier communities across the city.

We strongly support keeping the Youth Commission in the City Charter as a chartered advisory commission to protect independent youth voices in City Hall.

The San Francisco Youth Commission is not a superfluous body to be streamlined; it is a critical investment in democracy and our city's future. We urge the CSTF to recognize its indispensable value and reject any considerations that would impose a sunset date, remove youth seats, or implement unnecessary term limits.

Sincerely,

Second District of the California PTA (San Francisco)
sfpta.org