

From: [Laura Stein](#)
To: [commissionstreamlining](#)
Subject: Public Correspondence for Commission Streamlining Task Force Upcoming Meeting
Date: Monday, December 8, 2025 2:28:01 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

To the Commission Streamlining Task Force,

We write to you as three members of the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force (SOTF), which oversees compliance with rules regarding public access to government meetings and information in San Francisco. Cumulatively, we have served a total of over 12 years on the SOTF.

While we agree with the Commission Streamlining Task Force's (CSTF) decisions regarding the maintenance of the SOTF as a regulatory body, as well as term limits and sunset dates, we ask you to reconsider proposed revisions to the current member qualifications. The CSTF voted in November to replace current seat-specific qualifications with more general desired qualifications at the body level and to eliminate the requirement that the League of Women Voters and the Society of Professional Journalists nominate select seats.

In our time on the Task Force, we have observed that seat-specific requirements and organizational nominations ensure that SOTF members possess a diverse range of experiences, perspectives and expertise necessary to analyze policies and practices related to the Sunshine Ordinance. We have reviewed many difficult cases in which this diversity was essential to understanding whether the law was effectively serving constituencies that rely on access to public information and meetings to pursue their personal or professional interests. Members with journalism backgrounds, including work focused on racial and ethnic communities, and at least one member with experience around disability advocacy have been especially important. Making these qualifications desirable, but not mandatory, runs the risk that viewpoints essential to deciding cases may be unrepresented or underrepresented in the future. In addition, the ability of nonpartisan organizations with longstanding interests in access to public information to nominate members has been a boon to the Task Force. These organizations are a consistent source of vetted members with a demonstrated interest in advocating for information access.

Finally, the SOTF has had little difficulty in filling seats, and the current system has provided the SOTF with members from diverse backgrounds in disability needs, community advocacy, journalism, and law, who are uniquely and jointly qualified to scrutinize the operations of San Francisco's Sunshine Ordinance.

For these reasons, we recommend against both removing seat-specific qualifications and the elimination of nomination requirements for some seats.

Sincerely,

Laura Stein, Vice-Chair, SOTF

Dean Schmidt, Member, SOTF

Maxine Anderson, Member, SOTF