

A photograph of the San Francisco City Hall dome, a large, ornate, light-colored stone structure with a prominent central dome and a spire. The building is set against a clear blue sky. A dark green rectangular box is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing white text.

Deferred Decisions & Consistency Checks

Part 4

Commission Streamlining Task Force

Chelsea Hall

December 18, 2025

Today's Discussion

- Over the past few months of public meetings, **the Task Force has deferred certain decisions to a later meeting**
- We have held three such meetings on 11/19, 12/3, and 12/12
- Today, we will be covering 5 additional discussion items



Overview of the Task Force's Decisions

152 total bodies
(116 active, 36 inactive)

152 decisions made

- Keep: 81
- Eliminate: 67¹
- No recommendation: 2²
- Deferred: 2³

“Decision-Making Bodies”

Body Category	Keep				Eliminate ¹	No Rec. ²	TBD ³	Total
	In Charter	Move to Code	In Code	TBD Est. Auth.				
Governance	16	9	3		3			31
Appeals & Regulatory	3	5	4				1	13
Other	3		3	1	1		1	9
Advisory		5	18		53	1		77
Staff Working Group		3	8		10	1		22
Current Total	22	22	36	1	67	2	2	152

Notes:

1. 36 were inactive bodies no longer meeting; 31 were active
2. No recommendations for Joint Zoo Committee (only exists in an MOU between RPD and the Zoo) and the Sentencing Commission (sunsetting in mid-2026)
3. Commission Streamlining Task Force (for 12/18 meeting); Ethics Commission (for 1/14 meeting)

Agenda

5

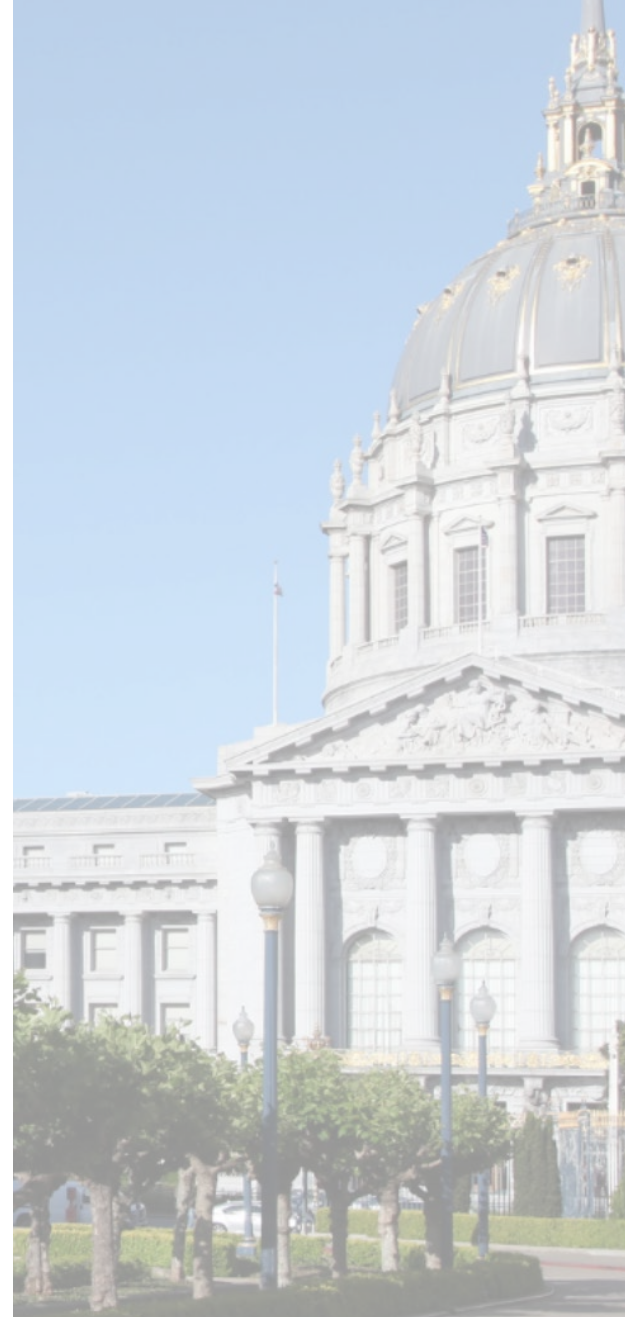
Deferred Decisions and Cleanup

1. Arts Commission Term Limit
2. Cleanup: Applying New Term Lengths
3. Staggering Terms Within Decision-Making Bodies
4. Commission Streamlining Task Force
5. Periodic Evaluation of Decision-Making Bodies



1. Arts Commission Term Limit

- **Action Item:** Specify a term limit for Arts Commissioners.
- On 12/3, the Task Force kept the Arts Commission as a governance body and moved certain functions from the Charter to Administrative Code. It also retained the existing structure and size, appointing authority, and removal authority, and made seat qualifications desirable at the body level.
- However, the Task Force did not specify whether to apply a term limit. The body already has 4-year terms.
- **Staff Recommendation:** Keep 4-year terms and apply a 3-term limit to Arts Commissioners, per the governance commission template.
 - **Alternative Option:** Keep 4-year terms with no term limits.



2. Cleanup: Applying New Term Lengths

- **Action Item:** Decide how to apply new term lengths for members of bodies that do not currently have terms.
- On 11/19, the Task Force decided to implement new term lengths on a rolling basis: Once appointees reach the end of their *current terms*, their text term will adhere to the new rules.
- However, 6 bodies do not already have terms and would be missed in implementation:

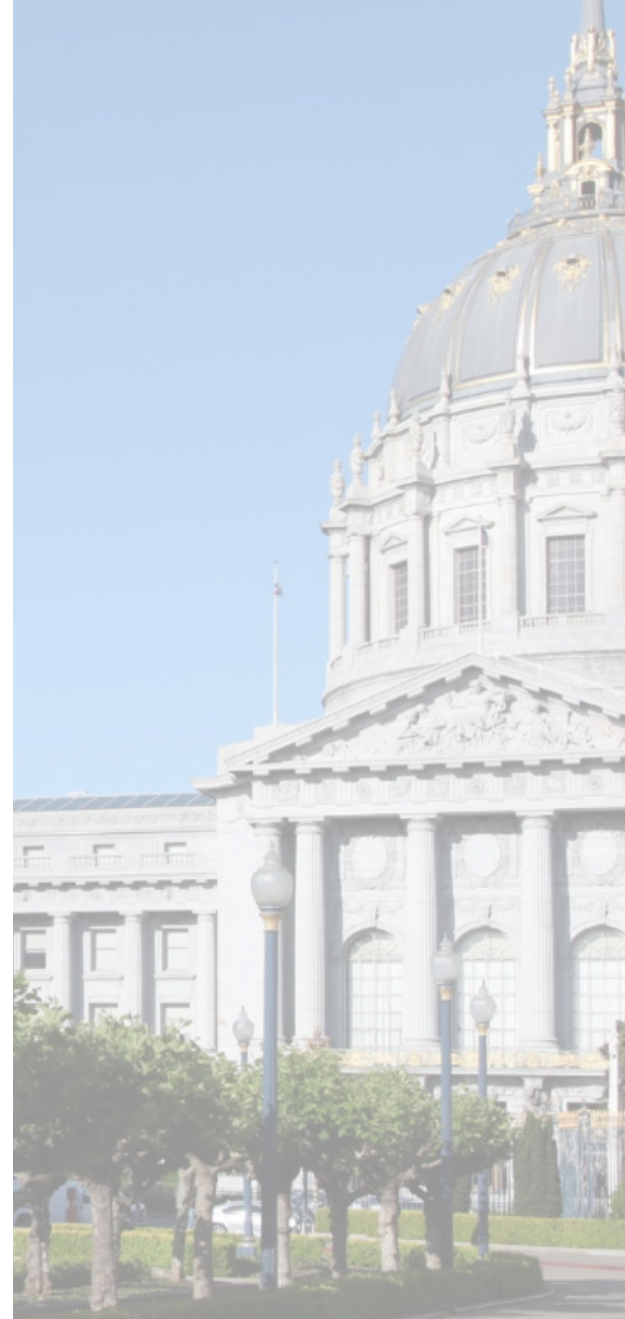
Body	Type	Task Force Decision
Free City College Oversight Committee	Advisory	Add 3-year terms, 4-term limits (public members only)
LGBTQI+ Advisory Committee	Advisory	Add 3-year terms, 4-term limits (all members)
Refuse Rate Board	Regulatory	Add 4-year terms, 3-term limits (public member only)
Community Corrections Partnership	Staff Working Group	Add 3-year terms, 4-term limits (public members only)
Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council	Staff Working Group	Add 4-year terms, 3-term limits (public members only)
Public Utilities Rate Fairness Board	Staff Working Group	Add 3-year terms, 4-term limits (public members only)

- **Staff Recommendation:** Have the clerk of each body draw lots in Jan. 2027, with 1/3 of the members' current terms expiring in one year, 1/3 in two years, and 1/3 in three years.



3. Staggering Terms Within Decision-Making Bodies

- **Action Item:** Decide how to stagger member terms to avoid quorum issues for certain bodies.
- On 11/19, the Task Force considered whether to stagger terms *within* bodies, particularly governance bodies that have several seats expiring at once.
- The Task Force directed staff to 1) identify the specific bodies that may have this issue, and 2) develop a proposal for staggering member terms.



3. Staggering Terms Within Decision-Making Bodies

**All retained bodies with 3+ seats
expiring on the same date:**

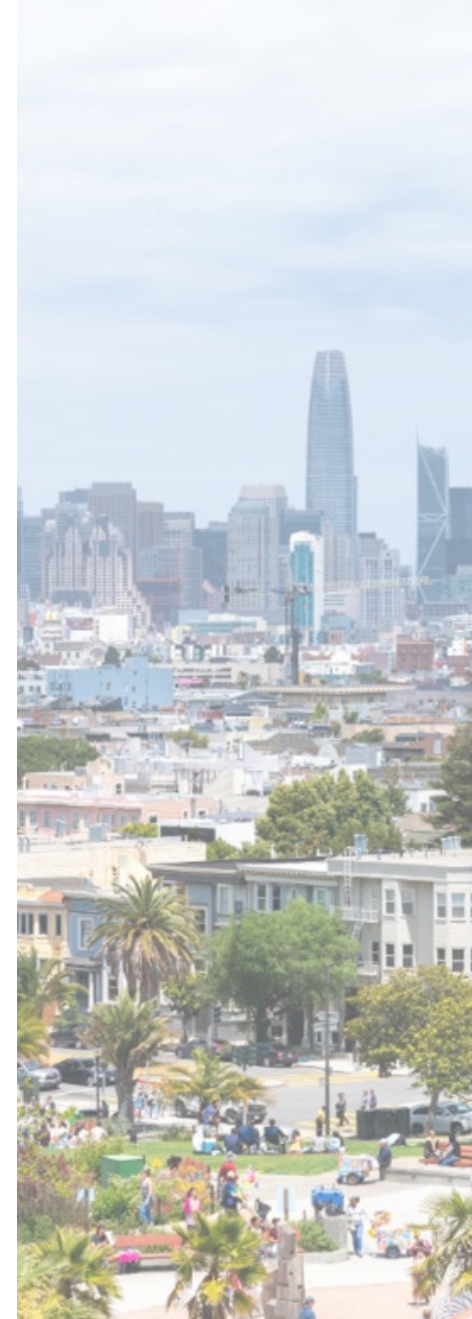
1. **Arts Commission**
2. **Asian Art Commission**
3. **Children, Youth and Their Families Oversight and Advisory Committee**
4. **Civil Service Commission**
5. **Disability & Aging Services Commission**
6. Film Commission
7. **Fire Commission**
8. Free City College Oversight Committee
9. **Historic Preservation Commission**
10. Human Rights Commission
11. Immigrant Rights Commission
12. **Juvenile Probation Commission**
13. **Library Commission**
14. **Port Commission**
15. **Public Utilities Commission**
16. Public Utilities Citizens' Advisory Committee
17. **Recreation and Park Commission**
18. **Rent Board**
19. Southeast Community Facility Commission
20. **War Memorial Board of Trustees**
21. Workforce Investment Board
22. Youth Commission

Governance bodies with 8+ members:

1. Arts Commission (15 seats)
2. Asian Art Commission (27 seats)
3. Children, Youth, and Their Families Oversight and Advisory Committee (11 seats)
4. War Memorial Board of Trustees (11 seats)

Governance bodies with 5-7 members:

1. **Civil Service Commission**
2. **Disability and Aging Services Commission**
3. **Fire Commission**
4. **Historic Preservation Commission**
5. **Juvenile Probation Commission**
6. **Library Commission**
7. **Port Commission**
8. **Public Utilities Commission**
9. **Recreation and Park Commission**
10. **Rent Board**



3. Staggering Terms Within Decision-Making Bodies

- **Staff Recommendation:** Stagger member terms for decision-making bodies with 5-7 seats per the following plan. To implement, each body draws lots in January 2027. Identify a City department that would be required to publish a list of all existing terms of office annually.

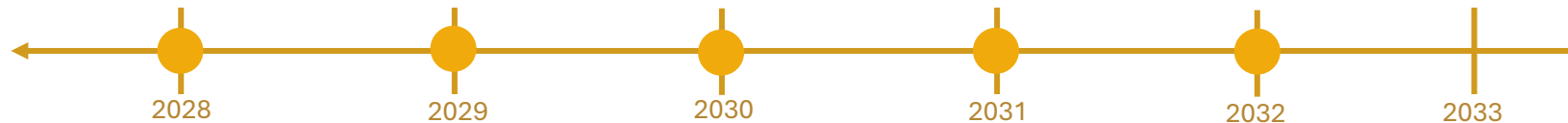
- Bodies with 5 members and 4-year terms:

- Port Commission; Public Utilities Commission; Rent Board (*no term limits*)
- 1 seat expires each year, with 2 seats expiring in the fourth year.



- Civil Service Commission – 5 members and 6-year terms:

- 1 seat expires each year.



- Bodies with 7 members and 4-year terms:

- Disability and Aging Services Commission; Fire Commission; Historic Preservation Commission; Juvenile Probation Commission; Library Commission; Recreation and Park Commission
- 2 seats expire each year, with 1 seat expiring in the fourth year.

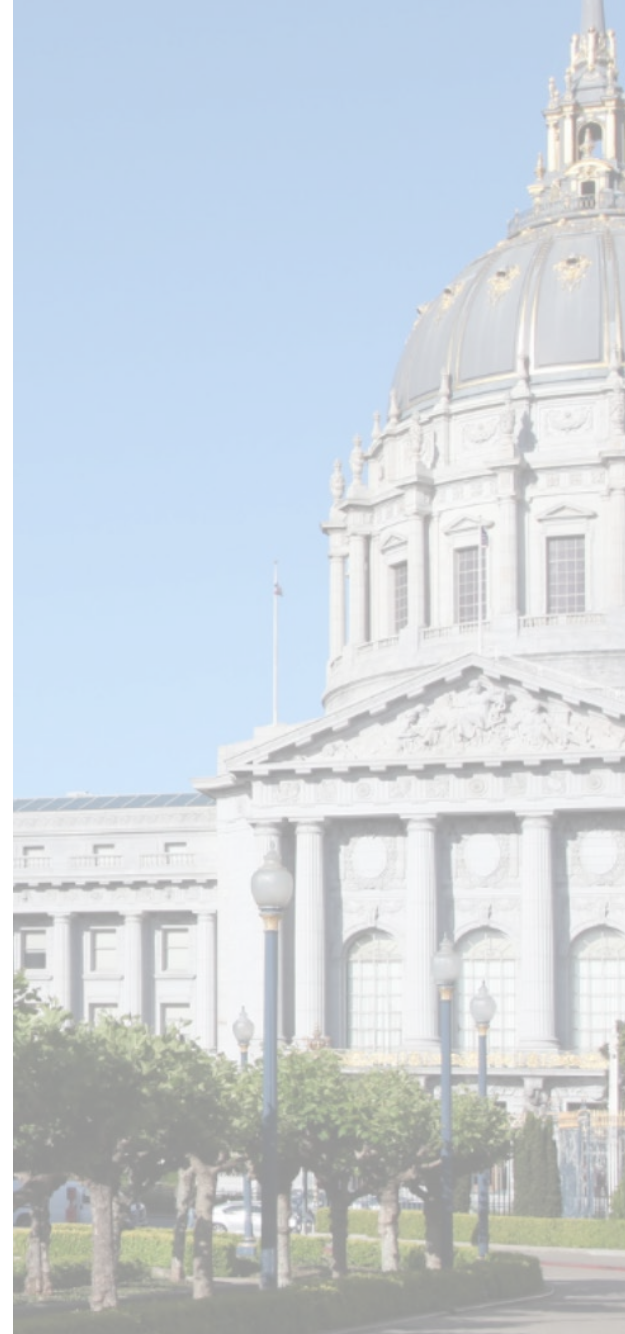


Other options to consider:

Require term staggering for more bodies with 3+ seats expiring simultaneously, **or** all governance bodies with defined terms.

4. Commission Streamlining Task Force

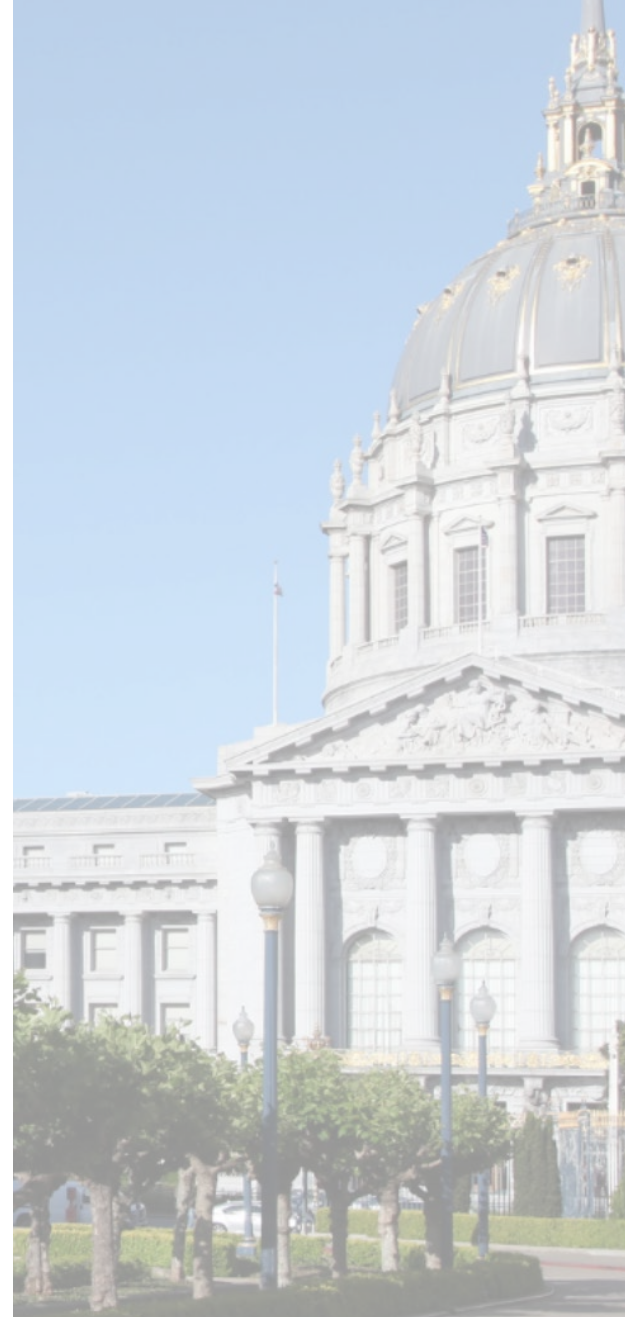
- **Action Item:** Decide if the City should convene this or a similar body in the future and whether the establishing language should exist in the Charter or Administrative Code.
 - At the November 5th meeting, the Task Force deferred their decisions on the Commission Streamlining Task Force (CSTF) requesting staff to...
 1. Investigate other jurisdictions' practices,
 2. Report on options for the City to periodically convene the CSTF, and
 3. Consider moving CSTF from the Charter into the Administrative Code, if kept beyond the 2027 sunset date.
 - At the November 19th meeting, the Task Force decided against creating a new public body to oversee and evaluate other public bodies.



4. Commission Streamlining Task Force

Prior Related Decisions re: Periodic Evaluation of Bodies

- Template Decisions
 - The appeals board template requires an “evaluation of the body’s workload and purpose every 5 years”
 - Most advisory bodies have three-year sunset dates, which will trigger a periodic reappraisal of efficacy
 - The governance commission template doesn’t include any reevaluation clause
- At the November 19th meeting, the Task Force decided against requiring new bodies created in the future to adhere to templates. No template elements are to be memorialized in the charter.
 - Without additional action by the Task Force to mandate evaluations, this element of the appeals board template has no teeth



4. Commission Streamlining Task Force

Benchmarking

San Jose

- Established a [Future Charter Review Commission](#) (Oct 2021), like a recent [SPUR recommendation](#).
- Will appoint a Charter Review Commission every ten years to review and recommend amendments to their Charter.
- In first round, established two new commissions in Charter and code and amended existing bodies.¹ Reforms to allow for more trainings, democratic election of chairs and vice-chairs, equity analyses for decision-making, and removing citizenship requirements.²

County of Los Angeles

- Voters passed [Measure G](#) (2024) enabling a Charter Review Commission to review governance and the County Charter every ten years, like a recent [SPUR recommendation](#).
- Exploring creating an [independent Ethics Commission](#) and an Office of Ethics Compliance to support the Commission.
- Modifying the [Board of Supervisors' powers and expands membership](#).

City of Los Angeles

- Performing [Charter reform](#) as directed by an [ordinance](#). The Commission will select staff-drafted, subcommittee vetted proposals to send to the City Council in February and March 2026.
- [Select bodies](#) have been identified for modification, such as the Independent Redistricting Commission.³
- [Considering](#) expanded eligibility and appointment authorities for some commissions, like changing how commissioners are appointed and providing appointment authority power to additional government bodies.⁴

New York City

- In 2023, City Council enacted [legislation to repeal 17](#) defunct or inactive advisory boards, task forces, or commissions in Charter and Administrative Code.
- Charter revision commissions are temporary bodies established through the authority of State law which may make broad overhauls or specific edits to their Charter.⁵ Since 1998, there have been 10 Charter Review Commissions.⁶
- Charter Revision Commission most recently proposed [five ballot](#) measures (July 2025) on affordable housing, digitizing city maps, and moving local elections to coincide with presidential election years.

¹ Alter appointment structures to two bodies to strengthen community input.

² As permitted by Senate Bill 225.

³ Establishes a protected budget and expands independent counsel authority.

⁴ “[Revised Government Structure Staff Report](#)” p.41-43, Los Angeles Charter Reform Commission, Nov. 17, 2025.

⁵ “[About Charter Revision Commissions](#),” New York City Charter

Revision Commission, [Link](#). Accessed Dec. 8, 2025.

⁶ Mena, Kelly, “[A Look at the History of Charter Review Commissions](#),” NY 1 News, Jul. 24, 2024

4. Commission Streamlining Task Force

- **Action Item:** Decide if the City should convene this or a similar body in the future and whether the establishing language should exist in the Charter or Administrative Code.

Options include:

1

Keep the Commission Streamlining Task Force to re-assess public meeting bodies at a regular cadence (e.g., every 10 years)

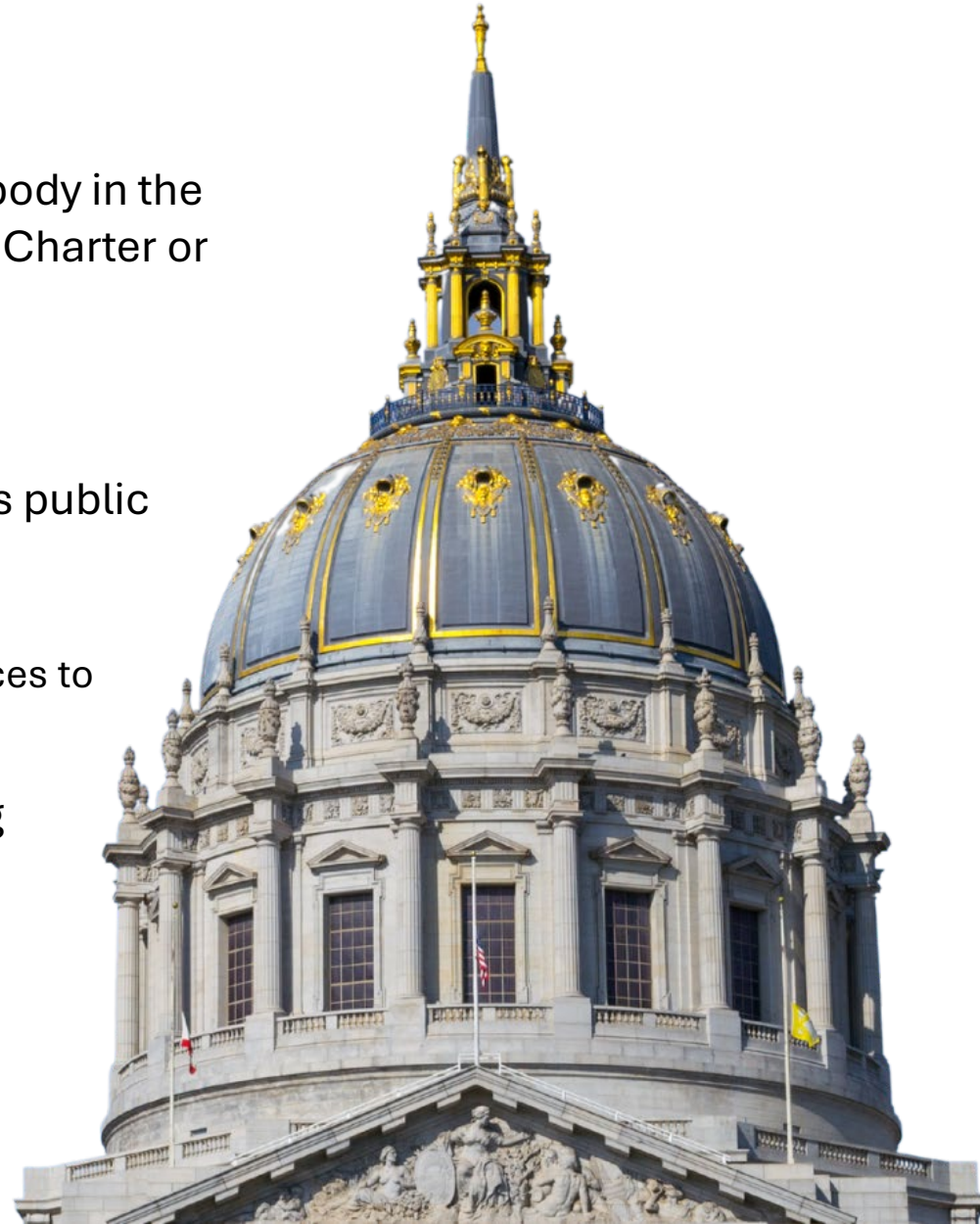
- **Keep in Charter:** modify sunset date; requires voter approval
- **Move to Administrative Code:** lose ability to introduce ordinances to the Board of Supervisors; does not require voter approval

2

Recommend incorporating an evaluation of public meeting bodies into a more comprehensive regular “charter check”

3

Recommend a different process and/or entity to conduct periodic, informal status checks on Charter-based governance bodies⁷



⁷ Board of Supervisors should consider active status of advisory bodies when reauthorizing them.

5. Periodic Evaluation of Decision-Making Bodies

- **Action Item:** Depending on the Task Force's decisions on the CSTF, it may want to clean up prior decisions about reevaluating appeals boards' workload and purpose.

Options include:

1

Keep the 5-year reevaluation clause from the appeals board template in the final report

2

Remove the 5-year reevaluation clause from the appeals board template in the final report, acknowledging it has no teeth

3

Keep the 5-year reevaluation clause from the appeals board template in the final report and incorporate language into the draft legislation to operationalize a review of appeals bodies every five years.

