

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

Final Report: First Draft Presentation

Commission Streamlining Task Force

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December 18, 2025



Purpose & Overview

Today's Goals:

- Provide an overview of the report structure
- Discuss content and framing, with a focus on recommendations
- Gather input on:
 - Approach to discussing high level process and goals
 - Framing of recommendations
 - Report structure and high-level components



Discussion Questions

- Is there anything missing that you want to include?
- Does the framing make sense to you? Are there any edits you would make?



First draft available
online for review
(see sf.gov/commission-streamlining-task-force)

Report Outline: What is Included in the Report?

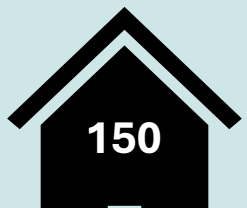
Summary Table	Overview of proposed outcome for each public body	9 pages
Background and Introduction	Background History of San Francisco's commission system, Proposition E overview	2 pages
	Overview of the Current State of the City's Commission System Includes summary of key components including number of bodies and members, establishing authorities, appointments, standard powers and duties, term lengths/limits, qualifications, sunset dates, and costs.	7 pages
	Task Force Approach Includes overview of gathering data, creating decision-making tools, policy area discussion, integrating stakeholder input, etc.	5 pages
Recommended Changes to Public Bodies	Summary of Recommendations Includes total number kept/eliminated, changes to appointing authority, standardizing structure and membership, etc.	9 pages
	Recommended Changes to Each Public Body Includes a short summary of changes and discussion.	52 pages
Recommendations for Managing and Improving Public Bodies	<i>In development</i>	<i>TBD</i>
Appendices	<i>In development</i>	<i>TBD</i>

Background and Introduction: History and Overview of Proposition E and the Commission System

Section purpose: orient reader to why the Task Force is doing this work; provide overview of system to set foundation for understanding the Task Force’s proposed changes.

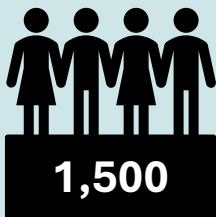
- Describes Proposition E and the Task Force’s mandate. Explains that this work is happening now due to increased recent conversation and interest in amending San Francisco’s commission system.
- Illustrates how the current system is large, difficult to understand, and complex and expensive to administer.

Overview:



150

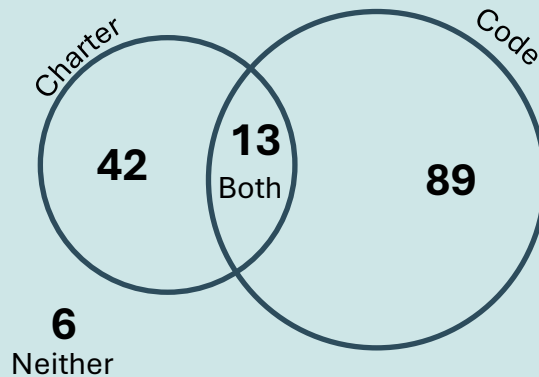
In-scope
public bodies



1,500

Approx.
members

Establishing Authority:



Appointments:

78	Bodies w/ Mayoral Appointments		
	26 Sole	52 Split	
63	Bodies w/ Board of Supervisor Appointments		
	8 Sole	55 Split	
59	Bodies w/ Other Appointing Authorities		

Structures & Costs:

13	Bodies with term limits
21	Bodies with sunset dates
\$33.9m	FY24 total cost
\$305k	FY24 average cost per body

Task Force Approach

Section purpose: frame the reasoning behind key components of the Task Force's approach.



Steps:

- Defining scope and data gathering.
- Discussing background and history, purposes, and types of bodies.
Developing common nomenclature.
- Developing decision-making tools.
- Evaluating and discussing each body by policy area.
- Operational improvements and consistency checks.



Stakeholder engagement:

- Engaged departments through meetings and surveys.
- Significant public engagement through written and verbal public comments, ad-hoc meetings.
- Workshop with commission secretaries.

Key Principles:

- Effectively elevate and coordinate public input
- Create clear lines of accountability
- Responsible and efficient use of city resources
- Make government easy to understand

Task Force Recommendations

1

Strengthen Meaningful Public Engagement by Consolidating Boards and Commissions

2

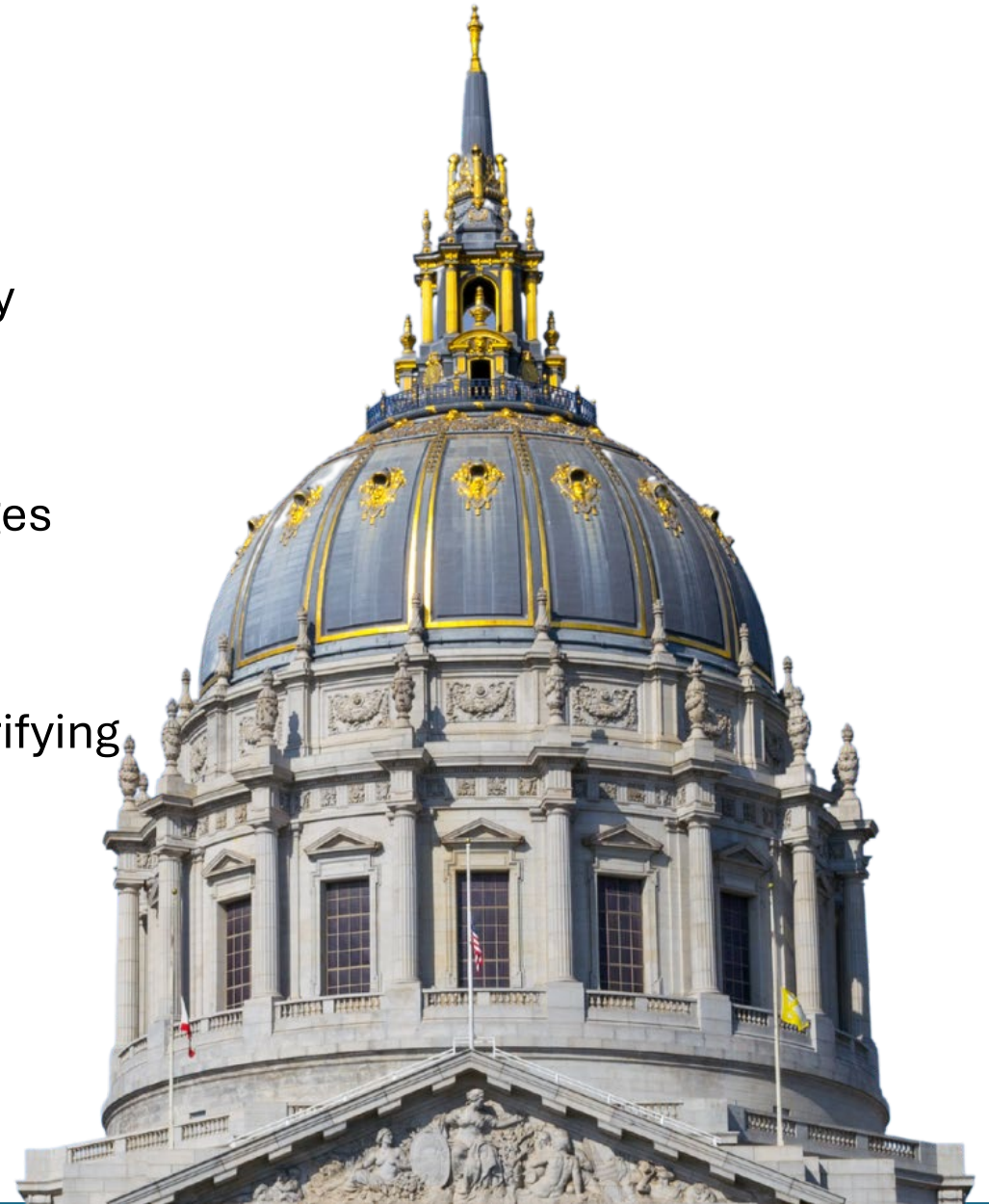
Increase Flexibility to Adapt to New Challenges by Moving Bodies to the Administrative Code

3

Improve Accountability by Updating and Clarifying Commission Responsibilities

4

Make Government More Understandable by Standardizing Structure and Membership



Strengthen Meaningful Public Engagement by Consolidating Boards and Commissions

Guiding Principles

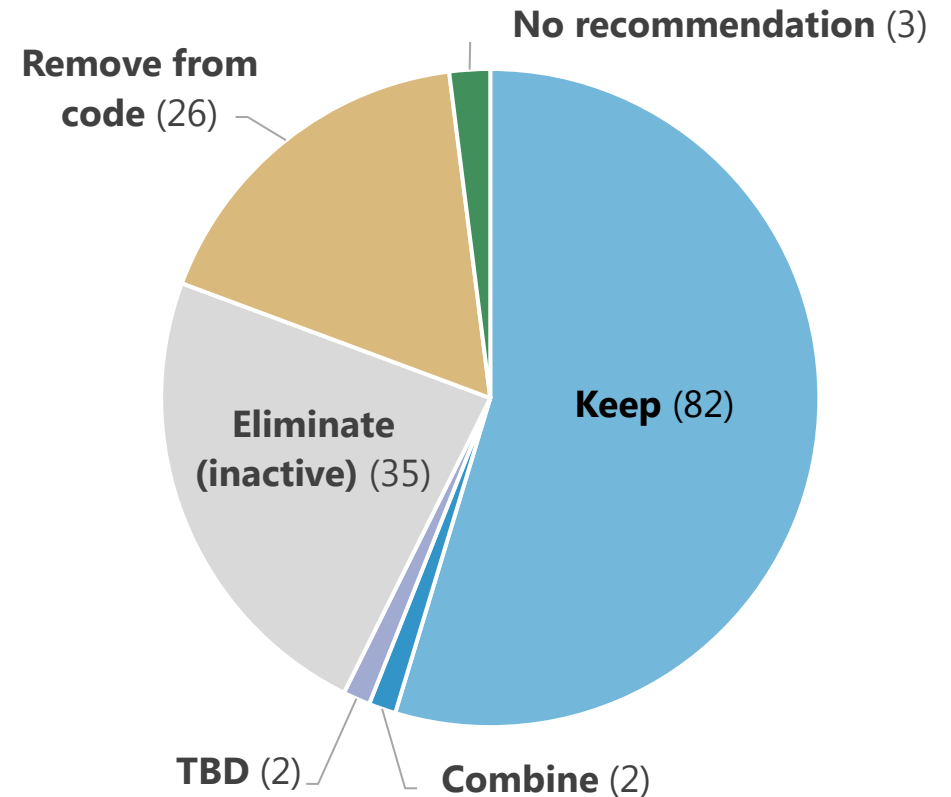
- ✓ Elevate and coordinate public input
- ✓ Use public resources efficiently and responsibly
- ✓ Make government easy to understand

Recommendations

- ✓ **Keep 83 active and effective bodies**
- ✗ **Eliminate 35 inactive bodies**
- ✗ **Remove 26 additional bodies from code**

Why These Changes?

- Fragmented and duplicative bodies dilute each other's impact
- Some bodies have achieved their stated purpose and are no longer needed
- Some bodies can meet informally and don't need to be codified in law



Increase Flexibility to Adapt to New Challenges by Moving Bodies to the Administrative Code

Guiding Principles

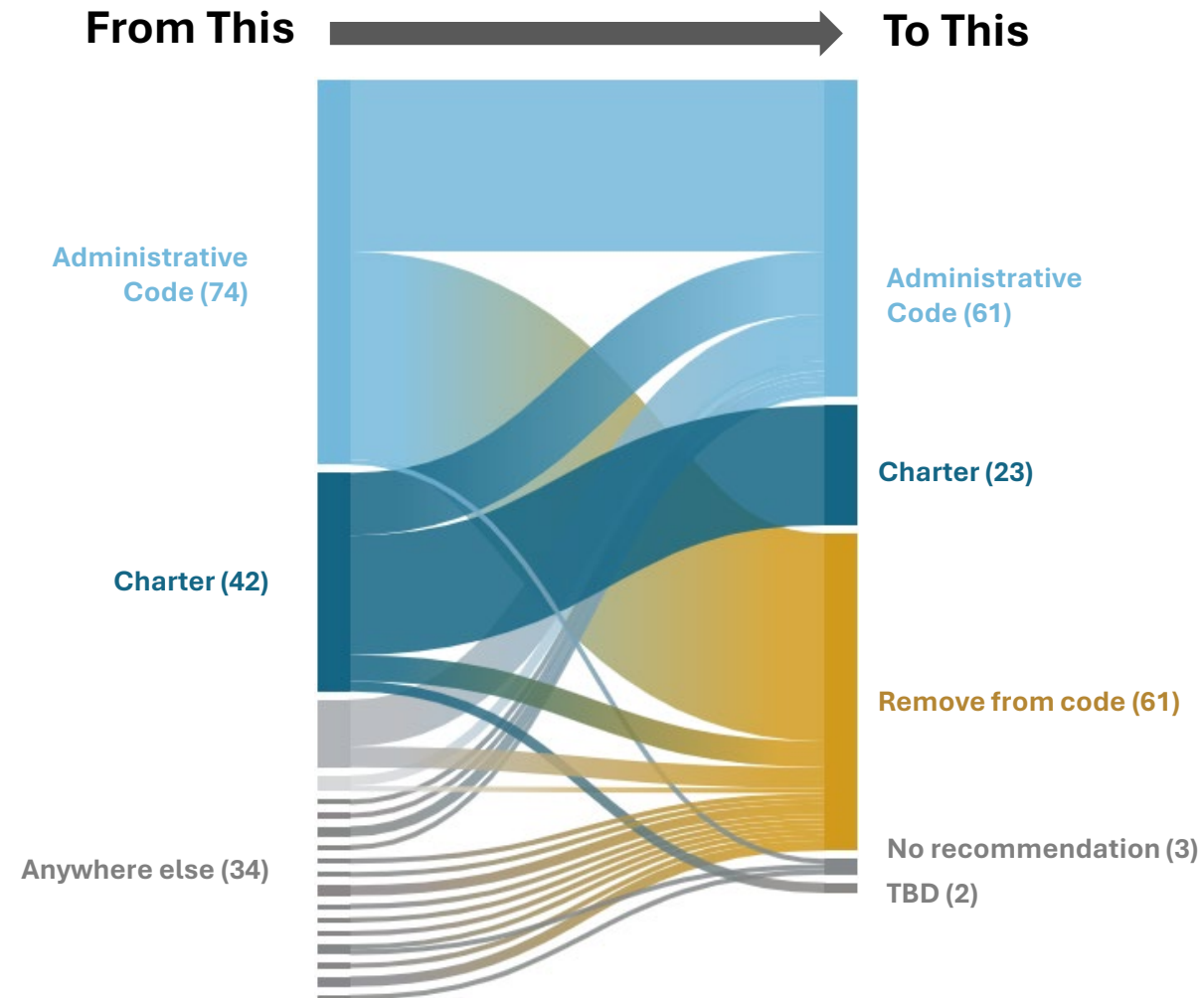
- ✓ Use public resources efficiently and responsibly
- ✓ Make government easy to understand

Recommendations

- Move most bodies to **Chapter 5 of the Administrative Code (“Committees”)**
- Retain 21 decision-making bodies in the Charter

Why These Changes?

- Allows for routine clean-up and amendments by the Board of Supervisors, without requiring ballot measures and expensive political campaigns
- Centralizes tracking in one place



Improve Accountability by Updating and Clarifying Commission Responsibilities

Guiding Principles

- ✓ Use public resources efficiently and responsibly
- ✓ Create clear lines of accountability
- ✓ Make government easy to understand

Recommendations

- Define “Commissions” and “Advisory Bodies” in the Charter
- Allow the Mayor to **hire and fire** most department heads, with commission input
- Clarify that advisory bodies’ role is to provide valuable expertise and shape citywide policy

Why These Changes?

- Voters expect to hold the Mayor accountable for departmental performance
- Advisory bodies play a valuable role in shaping policy, not directing department operations

Decision-Making Bodies

- Oversee and help **direct the work of City departments**
- Formulate departmental goals, objectives, policies, and programs
- Approve departmental budgets
- Provide input to the Mayor on appointing and removing department heads
- Provide a forum for public input and transparency

Advisory Bodies

- **Advise City departments**, elected officials, or decision-making bodies
- Shape citywide policy by contributing subject-matter expertise
- May advise departments or elected officials on budget priorities and funding allocations
- Provide a forum for public input and transparency

Make Government More Understandable by Standardizing Structure and Membership

Guiding Principles

- ✓ Use public resources efficiently and responsibly
- ✓ Create clear lines of accountability
- ✓ Make government easy to understand

Recommendations

- Set **term lengths** and **term limits** for commission members (up to 12 years total)
- Add 3-year **sunset dates** to most advisory bodies
- Streamline the appointment and removal process for commission members

Why These Changes?

- Term lengths and limits create opportunities for broader public participation
- Sunset dates ensure regular review of each body's relevance and impact
- Simplified appointment and removal fills seats faster and creates clear lines of accountability for commissioners

	Governance	Advisory
Members	5-7	Up to 15
Appointing authority	Mayor (default)	Varies
Appointment Confirmations	None ¹	None
Member removal	At will (default)	At will
Term lengths	4 years	3 years
Term limits	3 terms	4 terms
Sunset dates	None	3 years
1. Appointments are effective immediately unless rejected by 2/3 of the Board of Supervisors within 30 days		

Recommendations by Body

- Brief write-up for each body that includes the **recommended outcome**.
- More detail provided if recommended changes are substantial or body is eliminated.
- If recommendation is to keep body, write-up includes a table with body **structures** and **responsibilities**.

Entertainment Commission: Keep, modify structure and responsibilities

Type	Establishing Authority	Members	Appointing officers	Term length	Term limits	Member removal	Sunset
Governance	Charter	7	MYR (4), BOS (3)	4 years	None	For cause	None
	Administrative Code				3 terms	At will	

Changes to responsibilities

Consultative role in hiring and firing department head

The Entertainment Commission plays a unique economic development role in San Francisco to encourage a rich, compliant, and vibrant entertainment scene. Its responsibilities go beyond those of a more typical governance commission, including permitting and hearing appeals of the Director's decisions. The Task Force discussed the value of the Entertainment Commission, particularly in supporting San Francisco's pandemic recovery. The Task Force recommends keeping the Commission as a governance commission and moving it to the Administrative Code in order to allow for future flexibility. Recommended modifications follow the governance commission template and include removing qualifications requirements. The Task Force recommends deviating from the template by retaining split appointments.

Next step: ballot measure

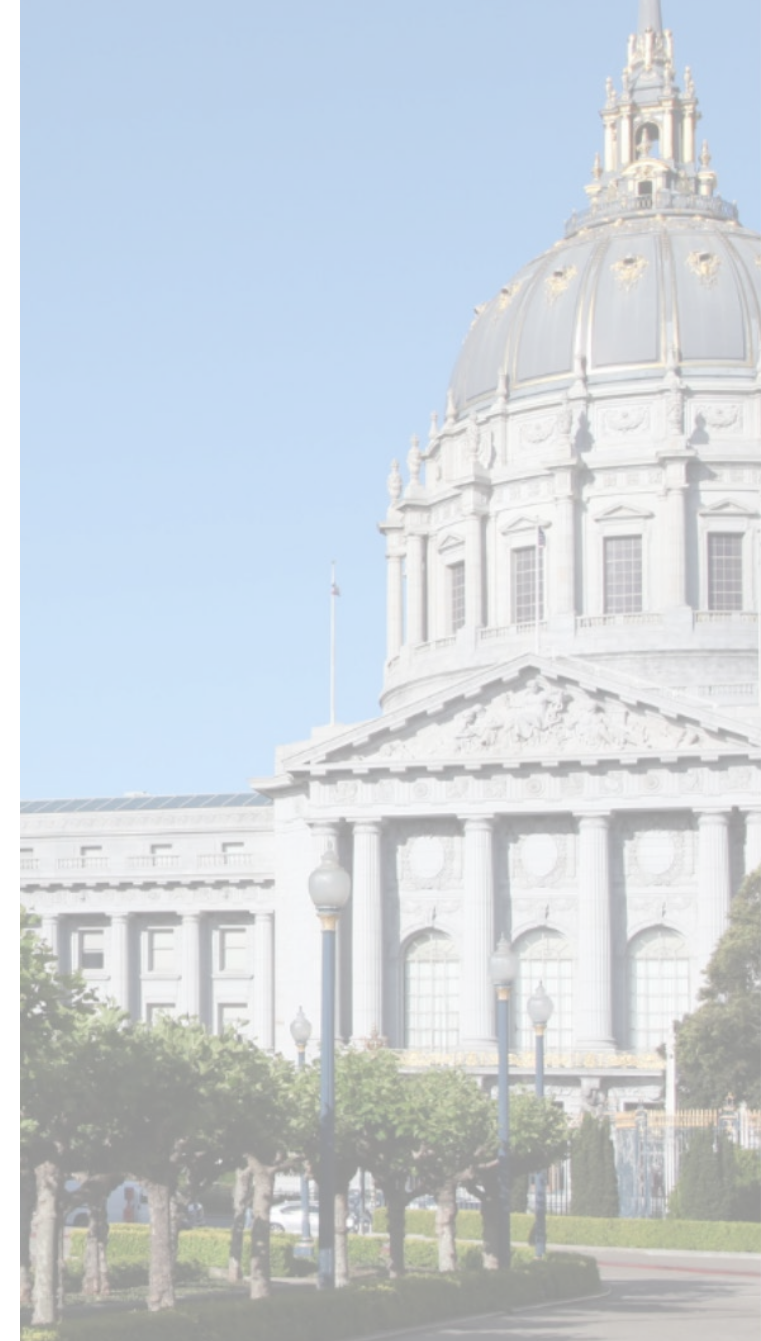
Next Steps

- Staff will continue editing report based on feedback today
- Task Force members will have opportunity for red-line edits
- Two January meetings with planned report review and discussion

Would any other review opportunities would be helpful?

Important Dates for Report and Legislation

- **January 14th CSTF Meeting:** review second draft of report
- **January 21st CSTF Meeting:** can meet if needed
- **January 28th CSTF Meeting:** approve final report; discuss legislation
- **February 1st:** deadline to approve final report
- **February 4th and 11th CSTF Meetings:** present and discuss draft legislation
- **February 25th:CSTF Meeting:** approve legislation
- **March 1st:** deadline to approve legislation



Appendix



Summary Table

Proposed Outcomes Language:

“Proposed Outcome” summarizes the recommendation with the outcome, reason, and proposed changes (if any).

Outcomes:

- Keep
- Combine
- Eliminate

Description (Eliminated Bodies)

- Inactive
- Has fulfilled purpose
- Functions overlap with [body/department]
- Not needed in code

Changes

- Modify structure and/or responsibilities
- Subsume functions from [body]
- Transfer functions to [body/department]
- Combine with [body]
- Keep as passive meeting body

Example:

Body Name	Proposed Outcome	Establishing Authority	Next step
Municipal Green Building Task Force (MGBTIF)	Eliminate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transfer functions to City staff 	Environment Code <i>Remove from code</i>	Ordinance
Municipal Transportation Agency Board of Directors (MTAB)	Keep <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modify structure and responsibilities 	Charter	Ballot measure
Municipal Transportation Agency Citizens' Advisory Council (MTA CAC)	Keep <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modify structure 	Charter <i>Administrative Code</i>	Ballot measure
Newsrack Advisory Committee	Eliminate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inactive 	Public Works Code <i>Remove from code</i>	Ordinance
Our Children, Our Families Council (OCOF)	Eliminate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transfer functions to City staff 	Charter, Administrative Code <i>Remove from code</i>	Ballot measure

Department Head Hiring and Firing

Mayor appoints and removes

Children, Youth, and Their Families

Early Childhood

Mayor must select from commission shortlist; commission removes

Airport

Human Services Agency

Building Inspection

Juvenile Probation

Disability and Aging Services

Library

Entertainment

Office of Small Business

Film

Planning

Fire

Police

Health

Port

Homelessness and Supportive Housing

Public Utilities Commission

Human Resources

Public Works

Human Rights Commission

Recreation and Park

Rent Board

Commission appoints and removes

Arts Commission

Asian Art Museum

Board of Appeals

Civil Service Commission

Elections

Ethics

Fine Arts Museums

Health Service System

Law Library

Municipal Transportation Agency

Police Accountability

Retirement System

Sheriff's Department Oversight

War Memorial

Legend:

No change recommended

Recommend changing to mayoral appointments

Number of Commission Members

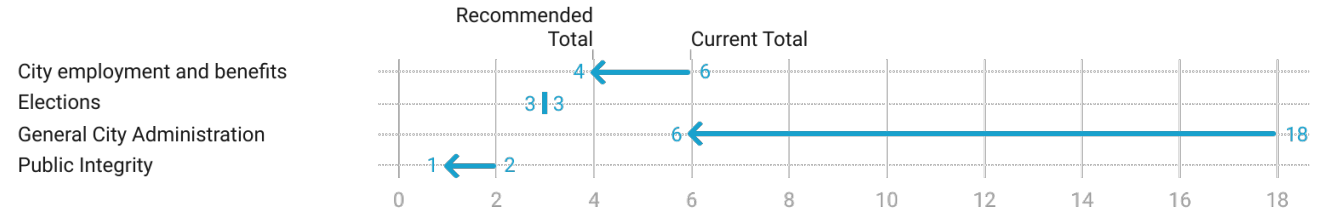
Current Type of Body	Current Seats	Recommended Seats	Seat Reduction	Percent Change
Governance	254	236	18	-7%
Advisory	545	333	212	-39%
Staff Working Groups	241	169	72	-30%
Other	147	137	10	-7%
Total	1187	875	312	-26%
Service Provider Working Group	295	7	288	-98%
Total (including SPWG)	1482	882	600	-40%

Impact by Policy Area

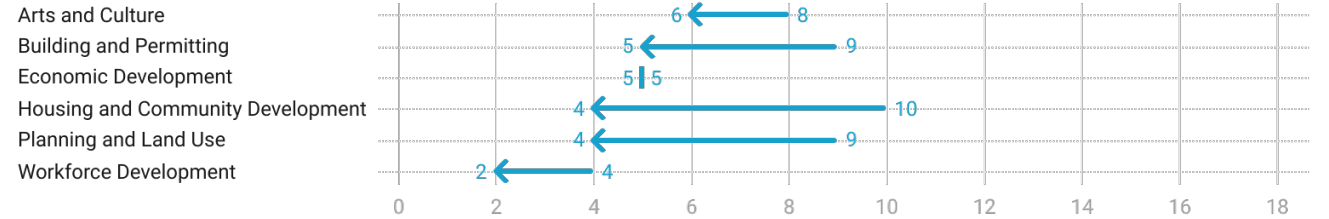
Key takeaways

- Task Force recommendations will reduce the number of bodies across most policy areas
- Largest reduction in “General City Administration”
- No reductions in “Elections”, “Public Integrity”, or “Economic Development”

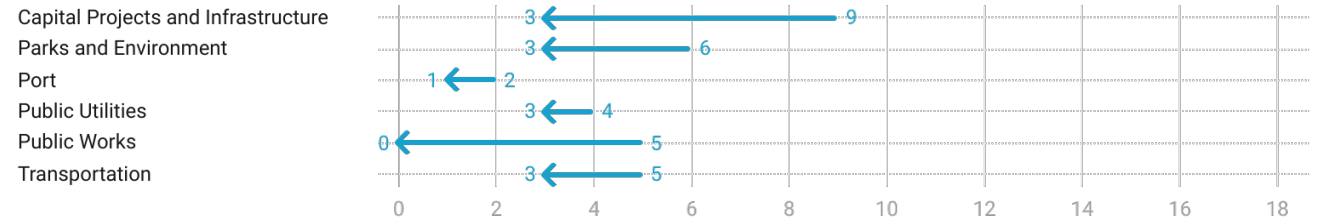
General Administration & Finance



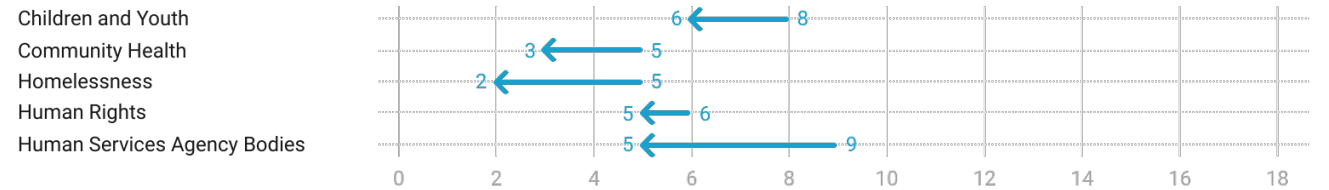
Housing and Economic Development



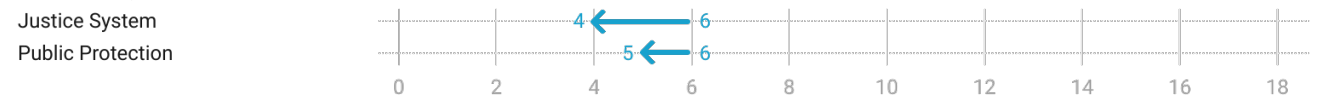
Infrastructure, Climate, & Mobility



Public Health & Wellbeing



Public Safety



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