

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women Condemns Task Force Vote to Strip the Commission of Its Governance Authority

SAN FRANCISCO, CA — [Date] — The San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women today issued a call to action following the Commission Streamlining Task Force’s October 15, 2025 vote to downgrade the Commission from a **Charter-established Governance Commission** to an **Administrative Code Advisory Committee**. The Commission strongly objects to this decision, which would significantly diminish its authority, independence, and ability to protect and advance the rights and well-being of women, girls, and gender-nonconforming community members in San Francisco.

This vote passed **4 to 1** - comes amid the ongoing implementation of **Proposition E**, which voters approved in November 2024. Proposition E created the Commission Streamlining Task Force to evaluate all appointive boards, commissions, and public bodies, with authority to recommend consolidation, modification, or elimination of these entities. The Task Force’s final recommendations are due February 1, 2026, after which the City Attorney will draft a related Charter amendment for consideration by the Board of Supervisors.

A Moment of Crisis for Women’s Equity and Community Voice

The Commission warns that this vote is part of a broader pattern revealing a troubling consolidation of authority in City government, diminishing community-led oversight at a moment when equity, safety, and representation remain urgent issues.

“Many in our community believed San Francisco stood for progressive values, fairness, and justice. This decision threatens those very principles,” the Commission states. “Women’s voices must not be sidelined or reduced to advisory roles that lack the power to effect change. The future of our city depends on inclusive, community-driven governance, not centralized authority that reduces transparency and accountability.”

Proposition E Implementation Timeline

- **By February 1, 2026:** Task Force final recommendations and report.
- **By March 1, 2026:** City Attorney drafts Charter amendment language.
- **By April 1, 2026:** Board of Supervisors holds hearing on the recommendations.
- **By July 2026:** Board determines whether to place the Charter amendment on the November 2026 ballot.

Next Immediate Steps for the Community

The Commission urges residents, organizations, and advocates throughout San Francisco to join in protecting the integrity of public oversight.

Raise Awareness: Community members must understand what the Task Force has proposed, not just for this Commission, but for many others facing major structural reductions. We encourage individuals and organizations to circulate this information widely and to connect others who may wish to support ongoing advocacy efforts. A full Decision Log is available here: https://media.api.sf.gov/documents/6a._Task_Force_Decisions.pdf

Call to Action for Our Community: As we move toward early 2026, please email, call, and meet directly with members of the Board of Supervisors and the city’s executive leadership offices to share your concerns. Urge city leaders to reject proposals that undermine community oversight or concentrate too much authority within a single executive office.

Your voice, presence, and participation will be essential to protecting accountable and transparent governance.

Background: A Deeply Concerning Vote

On October 15, 2025, Task Force designees voted as follows:

Votes in Favor (4):

- **Sophia Kittler**, Mayor’s Office (Daniel Lurie)
- **Sophie Hayward**, City Administrator’s Office (Carmen Chu)
- **Andrea Bruss**, City Attorney’s Office (David Chiu)
- **Natasha Mihal**, Controller’s Office (Greg Wagner)

Vote Opposed (1):

- **Ed Harrington**, Board of Supervisors (San Francisco D1 - D11)

The Commission on the Status of Women expresses profound concern that this vote, supported by all four women representatives on the Task Force, would **weaken not only the Commission itself, but also the ability of women and marginalized communities to participate meaningfully in City oversight, policy shaping, and accountability structures.**

Proposed Changes to the Commission on the Status of Women

Under the Task Force’s recommendation, the Commission would move from a Charter-established entity with governing authority to an advisory body without decision-making power. If approved by voters in 2026, these changes would eliminate the Commission’s independence, reduce community oversight, and silence a critical platform that has served San Francisco for nearly 50 years.

Component	Current State	Task Force Recommendation
Commission Type	Governance Commission	Advisory Committee
Number of Members	7	11
Appointing Authority	Mayor	Mayor
Member Removal	For cause	At will
Term Length	4 years	4 years

Term Limits	None	3 terms
Establishing Authority	Charter	Administrative Code
Hiring/Firing Authority	Yes	Remove authority
Contract Approval Authority	Yes	Remove authority
Budget Approval Authority	Yes	Remove authority

About the San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women

Established in 1975, the San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women emerged from the women's movement through the advocacy of leading local feminists. With the adoption of the 1994 City Charter, the City created the Department on the Status of Women (DOSW), tasking it with monitoring the status of women and girls in San Francisco, investigating inequities, and recommending solutions. Today, the Commission advances gender equity, safety, and opportunity for women, girls, and gender-nonconforming individuals, providing decades of essential advocacy, program oversight, data-driven policymaking, and community leadership.

Media Contact

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