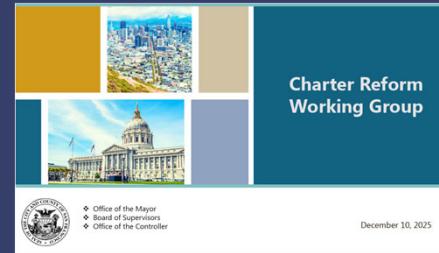


Charter Reform Update for LBEAC

February 5, 2026



Charter Reform



<https://www.sf.gov/december-10-2025-charter-reform-working-group-meeting>



<https://www.sf.gov/january-30-2026-charter-reform-working-group-meeting>



Charter 101

What is the Charter and why does it exist?

- **Acts as our local constitution**
 - A Charter establishes the structure of City government and the powers and duties of each arm of government
- **Grants us special power under state law**
 - Charter cities have the power to adopt laws affecting municipal affairs
- **Can't easily be amended**
 - The Charter can only be amended by the voters
 - Process is dictated in state law

Charter Reform Engagement Process

1

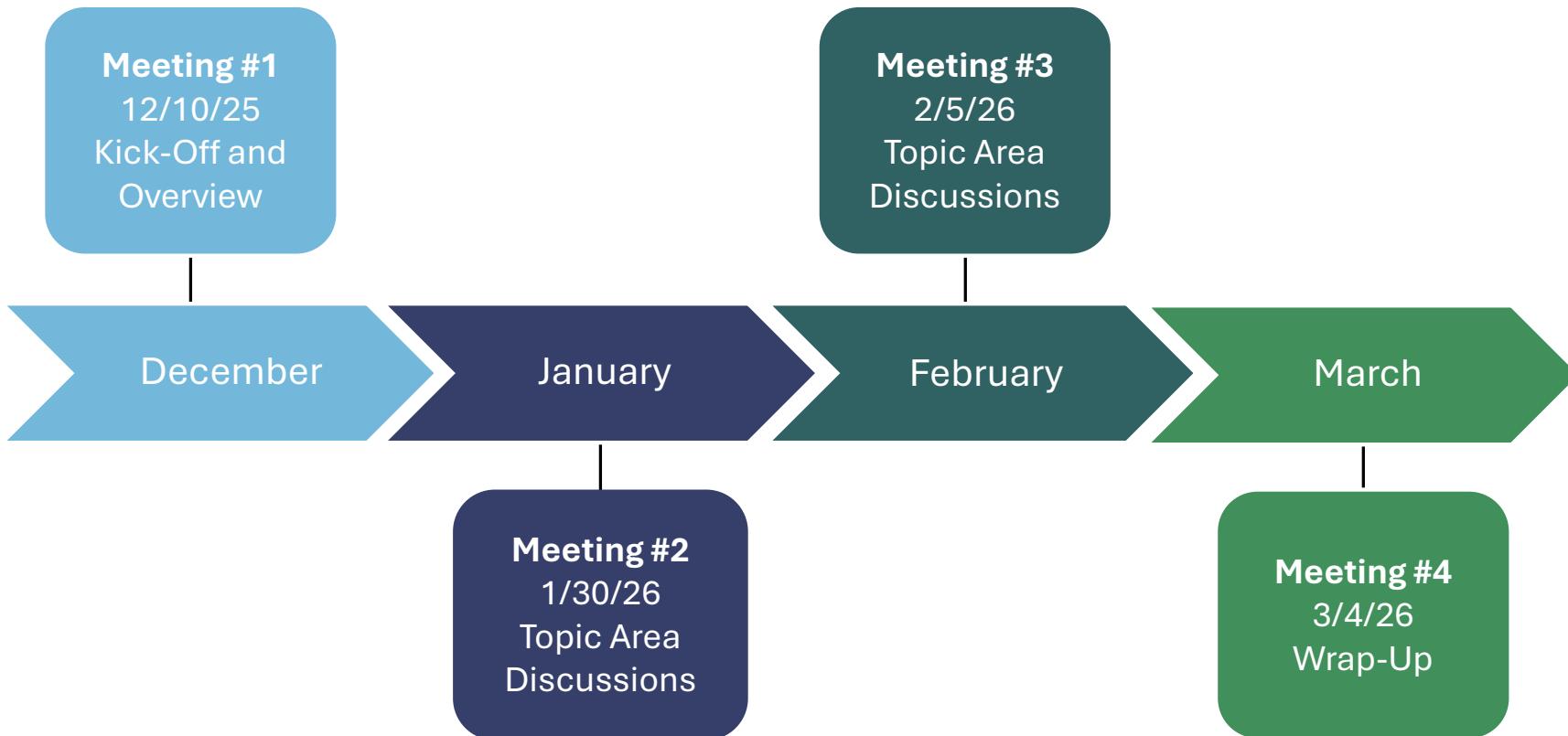
Provide input on a set of potential Charter reforms to modernize and improve San Francisco's government

2

Enable more efficient and effective delivery of City services



Recap: Meeting Schedule



What Problems Are We Trying To Solve?



Operational Efficiency

Departments are empowered to set their own operations and administrative policies, creating redundancies, delays in service delivery, and increasing costs.

Policymaking

San Francisco places more than twice as many ballot measures before voters than other large California cities, constraining policymakers' ability to lead.

City Organization

The structure of government is difficult to change and authority is spread out, leading to difficulty holding officials accountable.

Resource Management

Baselines are approved one at a time, sometimes for overlapping issue areas, without a big-picture view of the City's services and budget.

City Administrator

The City Administrator oversees some of the City's core operations, but the Charter limits their authority and does not fully protect the role from political influence.

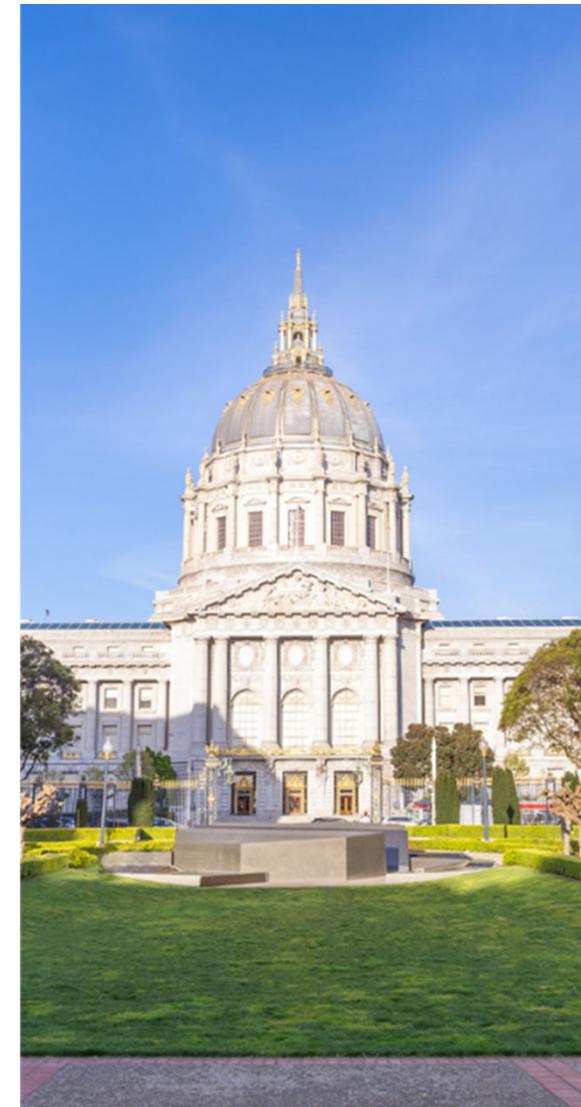
The way it is now:

- The City Administrator oversees a mix of basic operations (e.g., procurement), public services (e.g., 311), and smaller departments (e.g., Entertainment).
- Departments maintain significant autonomy over most core operations, even in areas where the City Administrator issues rules and guidance.
- The City Administrator is appointed by the Mayor to a **5-year term**, subject to Board confirmation, and **may be removed** by the Mayor **for any reason**, with Board approval.

City Administrator

Changes over time:

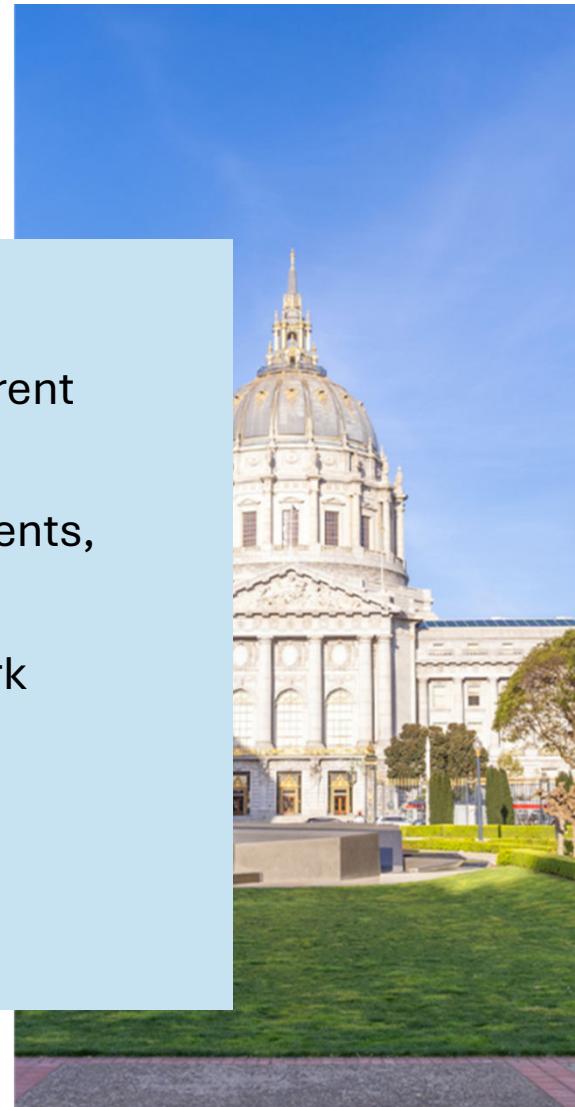
- Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) created in 1932 Charter.
 - Re-assigned oversight of most departments from the Mayor to CAO
 - 10-year term, only removable for cause
 - Part of a nationwide movement to professionalize government
- Replaced by a City Administrator in 1996 Charter
 - Shorter term, removable for any reason
 - Reduced authority



City Administrator

Reasons to consider Charter changes:

- The City Administrator's Charter responsibilities don't reflect current realities of the office or the City's org chart.
- Many core operational functions are fragmented across departments, leading to inconsistent approaches and inefficient delivery.
- Excellent service delivery for long-range, cross-departmental work requires shared standards and clear expectations across City departments guided by professional, apolitical decision-making.



Ways to Address these Problems



Grant the City Administrator more authority over citywide administrative functions

to create operational efficiencies and improve service delivery



Change how the City sets **procurement rules**

to centralize accountability for purchasing processes and allow for simplification, standardization, and modernization of procurement rules over time



Streamline the **contract approval process**

to reduce contracting timelines for non-controversial, non-discretionary products



Increase the **City Administrator's independence**

to insulate core City operations from day-to-day politics

Why Modernize Procurement Processes?

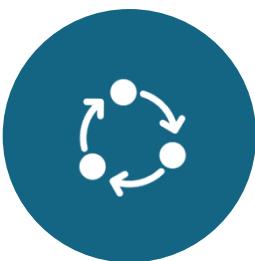
Procurement is one of the City's main pain points. When we think about improving procurement, we have an opportunity to **build the kind of City government** that delivers more effectively for San Francisco:



A government that is easy for **small businesses and nonprofits to work with**



Reduce internal bureaucracy and frustration for employees



A government that is **responsive & evolves** based on learnings



Effective service delivery for San Francisco



Transparent, ethical processes that result in **best value** for San Francisco

Overview of Reform Ideas



Change how the City sets **procurement rules**



Streamline the **contract approval process**

Options for Discussion

1

Grant the City Administrator sole authority to propose changes to purchasing laws

Including goods, services, grants, and construction, in consultation with the Mayor and Board of Supervisors

2

Clarify that all departments must continue to comply with citywide purchasing rules

Including departments with special authorities listed in the Charter (e.g., MTA, PUC)

3

Permit changes to outdated voter-approved Administrative Code sections

Related to the City's official newspaper, physical posting of solicitations, and required terms in City contracts

4

Reset the threshold for contracts requiring Board approval based on 2026 dollars

From \$10 million to \$25 million, and adjust automatically with inflation

5

Re-define the universe of contracts that require Board approval

For example, exempt certain commodities contracts

Commission Streamlining

Commission Streamlining Background and Process

- Prop E (Nov. 2024) established the **Commission Streamlining Task Force**
- Purpose: *Make recommendations to the Mayor and Board of Supervisors about ways to modify, eliminate, or combine the City's 152 boards and commissions to improve the administration of City government*

Process:

- **23** public meetings since January 2025
 - **320+ unique** people provided 556 comments in public meetings
 - **Over 700 pieces** of written feedback
- **January-August 2025:** Gathered data; developed standards and decision-making tools
- **September-November:** Conducted granular body-by-body reviews, by policy area
- **December:** Revisited deferred decisions and checked for consistency





Timeline

Task Force develops recommendations

JAN-DEC 2025

FEB 1, 2026

Draft legislation to BOS (**ordinance**, **Charter amendment**)

MAR 1, 2026

Final report to MYR/BOS

APR 1, 2026

BOS holds hearing on legislation by 4/1

JUN 2026

JUL 2026

Ordinance takes effect within 90 days unless rejected by BOS supermajority

BOS decides whether to place **Charter amendment** on ballot

Voters approve/reject possible **Charter amendment**

NOV 2026

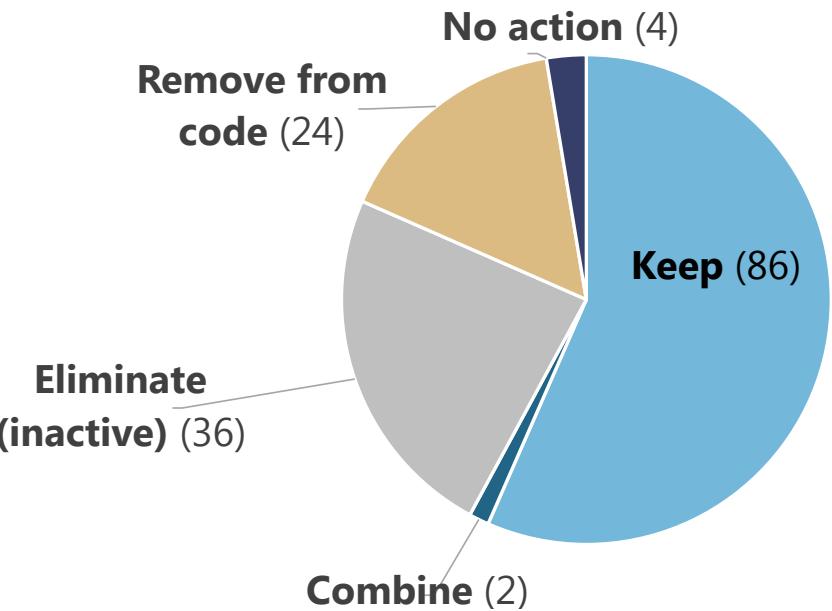


Overview of the Task Force's Recommendations

Recommendation #1: Strengthen Meaningful Public Engagement by Consolidating Boards and Commissions

152 total bodies
(115 active, 37 inactive)

- Keep: **86** active and effective or legally required bodies
- Combine: **2** bodies with overlapping mandates
- Eliminate: **36** inactive bodies
- Remove from code: **24**
- No Action: **4**



Bodies Related to Procurement

5 inactive bodies recommended to be removed from Code:

1. Contract Review Committee
2. Subcontracting Goals Committee
3. Local Business Enterprise Preference Program Working Group
4. Working Group on Local Business Enterprise Preference Program for City Leases and Concession Agreements
5. Working Group to Investigate Barriers to LBE Participation

How does the LBEAC fit in?

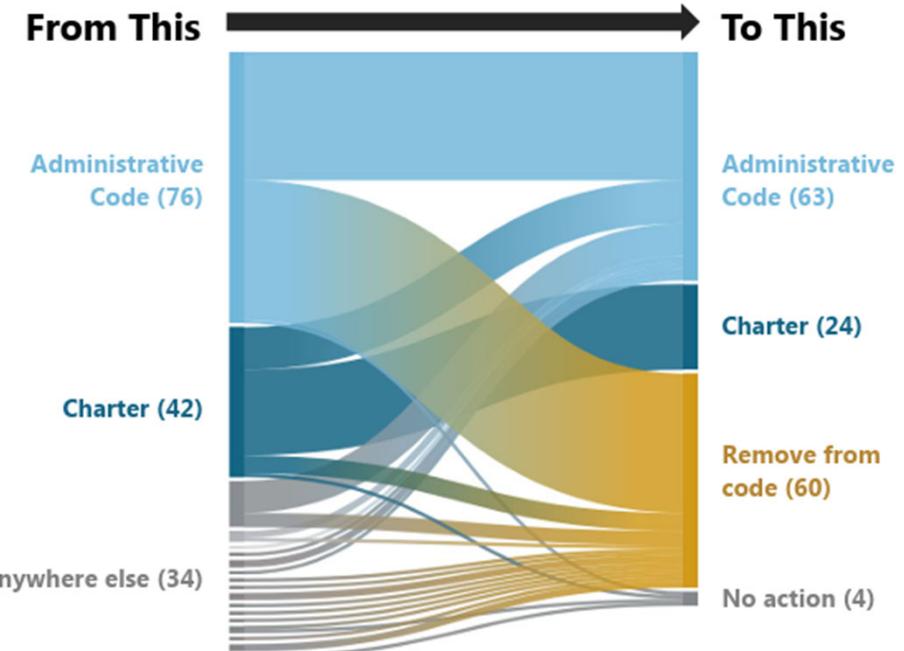
- The LBEAC is a **passive meeting body**:
 - Meets and conducts business without being enshrined in City Charter or Code
 - Does not need to comply with public meeting rules (e.g., Brown Act)
- Passive meeting bodies are **not** in the purview of the Commission Streamlining Task Force
 - It cannot take action on the LBEAC

Overview of the Task Force's Recommendations

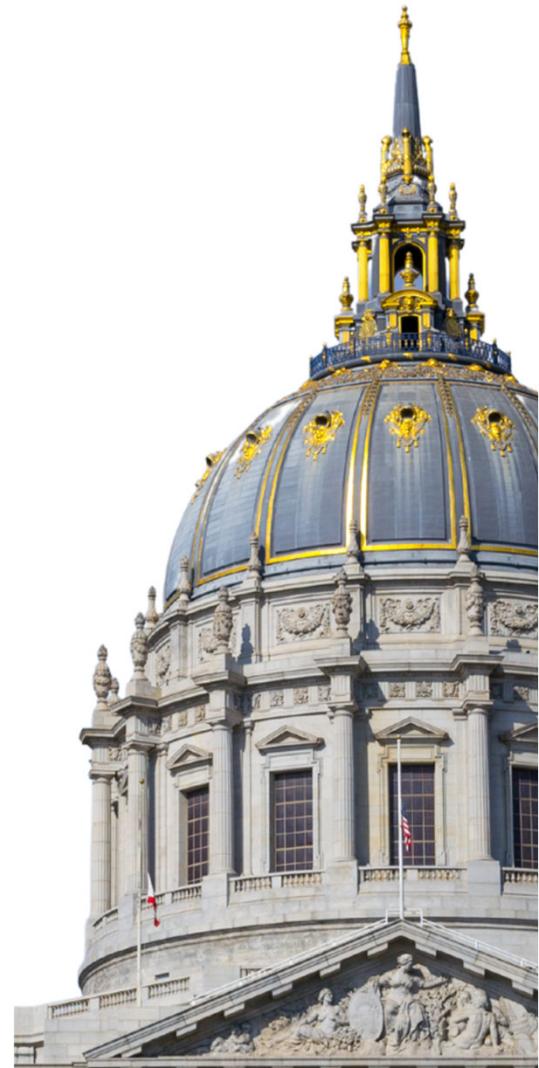
- **Recommendation #2:** Increase Flexibility to Adapt to New Challenges by Moving Bodies to the Administrative Code
- **Recommendation #3:** Improve Accountability by Updating and Clarifying Commission Responsibilities
- **Recommendation #4:** Make Government More Consistent and Understandable by Standardizing Structure and Membership



FIGURE 7: RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO ESTABLISHING AUTHORITY



For more information, visit
sf.gov/commissionstreamlining
or contact Rachel Alonso:
rachel.alonso@sfgov.org



Thank you!