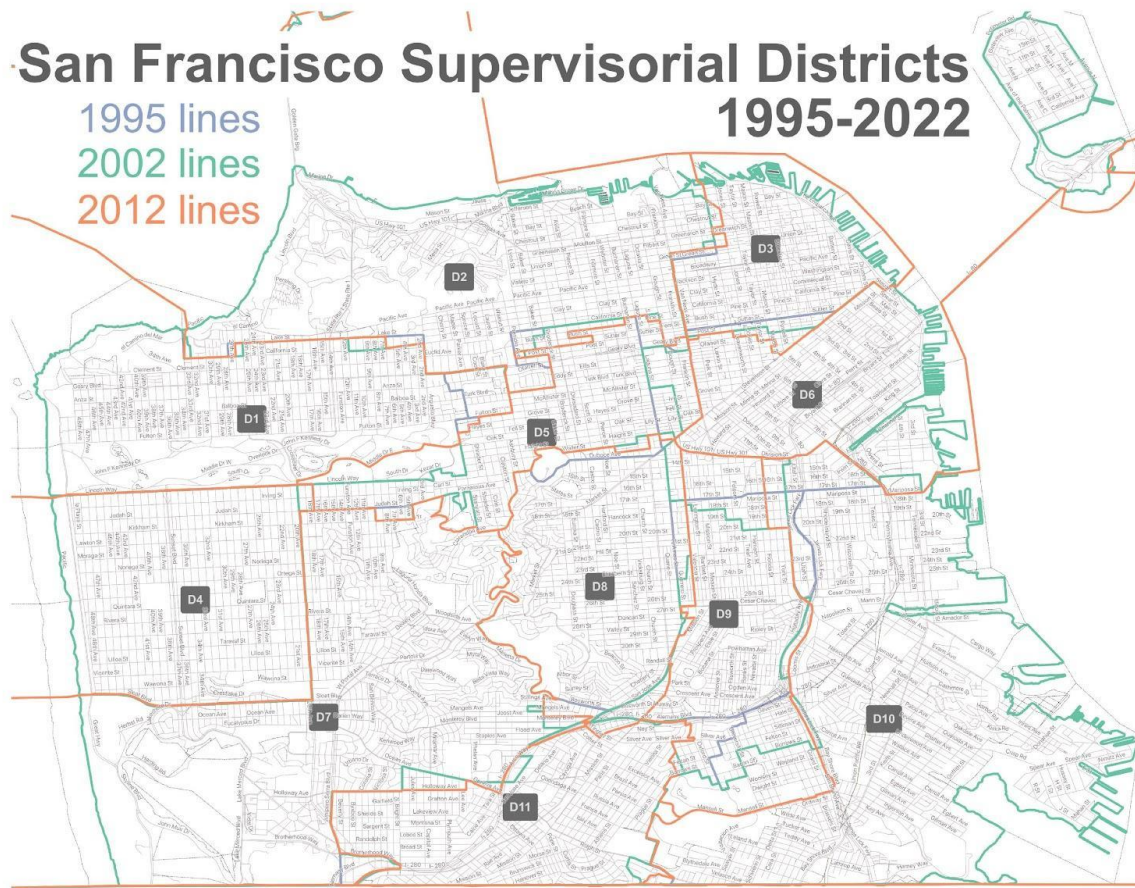


" The task force shall be responsible for redrawing the district lines in accordance with the law and the criteria established in this Section, and shall make such adjustments as appropriate based on public input at public hearings.: Section 13.110 (d) San Francisco Charter (emphasis added).



Dear Election Commission:

We have had several redistricting task forces, under different mayors, and, as the map below shows, modest changes were made to each district.

However, this time the Redistricting Task Force has made changes as large as 50% in districts that weren't even out of the deviation standard. It could be argued that moving the Tenderloin out of D6 and into D5 was to help D6 relocate some 30,000 people. But that proposed change meant that some 57,000 people in D5 had to be relocated. So, it was not a move based on D5 and D6 needs. Subsequently further dividing the original D5 into several more pieces grafted on to other districts suggests that perhaps the purpose was to dismantle the original D5. At

any rate, that was what was achieved. This move was not a modest or needful move.

Every public comment from the Tenderloin and its three Cultural Districts [Transgender, Leather, and Somas Filipina] supported keeping it with Central SOMA. There was no basis in public comment for such a move. What, then was the basis? The Task Force's Chair, Rev. Townsend, made several impassioned speeches asserting that unless changes were made at the Task Force, that no Black Supervisor would ever be elected again. It appears that he had not noticed that Black supervisors were elected multiple times in both D5 and D10, and that San Francisco's Mayor was Black. Nonetheless, such a perspective was not part of the Task Force Charter. There also were somewhat cryptic comments, oh, there will be other reasons we can give for attempting to join the Black populations of two districts into a single district.

In stripping more than half of D5 to accommodate the insertion of the Tenderloin, the COI and city-recognized Haight Ashbury Neighborhood, and public comment supporting retaining most of the current D5 boundaries were completely ignored. Further changes brought Districts 1, 2, 7, and 8 to meet in the center of the city, truly amazing!

The Task Force then tried a map pulling not only the Tenderloin, but also Central SOMA into a new D5, further dismembering the current D5. That is the one they started with this afternoon.

One Task Force member even pointed out that they had made their job harder by moving these large populations.

One might wonder why the Task Force didn't first move to spread its extra 30,000 residents over other adjacent districts that were below deviation. For example, D2 and D3, or even D9.

There are many other issues in the operation of this Task Force.

1. Prioritizing keeping whiter communities and districts over vulnerable and marginalized communities.
2. Having seriously inadequate outreach
3. Ignoring the fact that many San Franciscans do not have home computers, or good internet service. The Vice Chair said they could use libraries. But libraries close by 8pm. And if much or most of the publicity is over the inter-

- net, how would you know to go to a library to do so? And if you are not using the internet, you are not likely to go to a library to learn for this purpose.
4. Spending precious months on procedures, scant weeks hearing public comments, and then rushing to do mapping. And without line mapping training.
  5. Having NO public Task Force meetings in districts, particularly with the most disadvantaged residents.
  6. Questionable practices that veered close to or violated the Brown Act, McKeever, Sunshine and other laws.
  7. Failing to keep public records of whom Task Force members met with. Disclosures such as “met with people in D1” are not disclosures.

Commissioners, please listen to the respected voices of the League of Women Voters and the Asian Law Caucus.

Please take action toward your appointees. At minimum, remind and re-educate them on their duties. Ask them to disclose any contacts they may have had with elected officials or their staffs. Consider removing some of them. There are no consequences to giving more time for the Task Force to work, possibly including new members. I understand that as late as June may be possible.

San Franciscans who are supposed to be prioritized in the Redistricting process have been further harmed. It has been very difficult for them to step away from just survival, working multiple jobs, not getting time off, and family responsibilities.

Please stop “the train wreck” now at the Redistricting Task Force, now bearing down on at least four districts.

Sincerely,

Tes Welborn

D5