

San Francisco Commissions

FOOD SECURITY TASK FORCE

AUGUST 7, 2024

Overview

Reform efforts

Qualified Ballot measures

Civil Grand Jury

- Background
- Report on Commissions and recommendations

Review of Food Security Task Force

Context of food insecurity in San Francisco

Qualified Ballot Measures pertaining to Commissions for Nov. 5, 2024 Election

City Commissions and Mayoral Authority

- Limit the City to 65 commissions
- Retain 22 commissions and any required by fed/state law
- Dissolve all other commissions 16 months after measure effective date. 5-member task force to recommend which commissions to restructure/reauthorize within 9 months.
- Commissions restructured can only advise the BOS and Mayor and not have any decision-making authority
- Allow the Mayor to appoint at least two-thirds of Commission members without BOS review, with the BOS appointing the other one-third
- Prohibit the City from paying Commissioners/providing healthcare benefits
- Give the Mayor sole authority to appoint and remove most City department heads
- Give Police Chief sole authority to adopt rules for officer's conduct

Creating a Task Force to Recommend Changing, Eliminating, or Combining City Commissions

- Convene a 5-person task force no later than Feb. 1, 2026 to submit recommendations to Mayor and BOS.
- BLA to prepare a report by Sept. 1, 2025 analyzing cost of Charter boards/commissions, and projected financial impacts of consolidating and eliminating them, and an estimate of average financial cost of appointive boards/commissions.
- City Attorney to prepare draft Charter amendment to implement recommendations established in the Charter by March 1, 2026
- No later than April 1, 2026, the report/recommendations and draft Charter Amendment will be presented at a hearing.
- Task Force can introduce ordinances implementing recommendations to eliminate, consolidate or revise appointive board/commission established by ordinance (other than those established or amended by ordinance approved by voters) (unless rejected by two-thirds vote of BOS)
- Includes process to address conflicting ballot measures

Other reports mentioning Commissions/Advisory Bodies

SPUR Report – Designed to Serve: Resetting the city's governance structure to better meet the needs of San Franciscans

Access the report here:

https://www.spur.org/sites/default/files/2024-08/SPUR_Designed_to_Serve.pdf

Civil Grand Jury

19 volunteer members

Issued 5 reports on different topics

- Topics:
 - Illegal Fireworks in SF
 - Flood Management
 - Commissions
 - City Infrastructure
 - City budgets, innovations, silos

Made recommendations on commissions/boards/advisory bodies in 87-page report "Commission Impossible" issued June 20, 2024

Recommendations from Civil Grand Jury

City create a permanent Commission Oversight Board (COB) whose purpose will be to:

- regularly evaluate the performance of San Francisco's commissions;
 - create standards for the duties, responsibilities and performance of commissions and the commissioners and members who serve on these bodies; and
 - periodically identify commissions that should be changed or abolished.
-
- Also – Recommendation 3.1 - provided list of current commissions to abolish or retain. Recommended 15 to abolish.
 - Recommended "abolish" Food Security Task Force "*Redundant; we recommend the Human Services Agency perform this activity.*"

Review of FSTF

Civil Grand Jury rationale for which commissions to abolish	Facts pertaining to the Food Security Task Force
<i>Costs: Average FTE of 0.8 staff support per Commission</i>	FSTF has less than 0.8 FTE in staff support
<i>Redundant Efforts</i>	There is no other city department or public body dedicated to food security
<i>Meetings cancelled due to lack of quorum</i>	FSTF has not canceled meetings due to lack of quorum. <i>Less than 15% average member vacancy</i>
<i>Little public comment or engagement at meetings</i>	Since January 2023, average attendance of non-FSTF attendees was 23 (range 12-40)
<i>Annual Reports not available</i>	FSTF issues annual report of recommendations. Includes current data, threats to food security, and opportunities and recommendations to improve food security
<i>More than 75% of advisory bodies have no sunset date</i>	FSTF has a sunset date of July 1, 2026
<i>Few accomplishments</i>	See next slides

Role of the FSTF and Accomplishments

Role

- Provide advice and assistance to the BOS regarding funding priorities, legislative action, and City policies on addressing hunger and food security
- Only forum for departments and community to present, update and coordinate
- No other public body or city agency addresses food insecurity
- Acts as an honest broker of information – collects and presents data
- Transparent – all meetings are public; website is updated and includes all past meeting information and resources
- Highlights emerging and priority issues for discussion and action items

Accomplishments

- Regarded at as a model nationally
- Strong attendance by City agencies and community
- Supports cross sector alignment (government, CBOs, and the public working together)
- Conducts assessments / participates in assessments
- Held 3 public meetings to review data and develop recommendations for the first Biennial Food Security & Equity Report
- Makes recommendations for food programming, funding, and policy to improve food security and equity efforts
- Provides updates on state and federal food policies that impact San Francisco

Food insecurity continues to be a high priority issue in San Francisco

Food insecurity rates among residents <200% federal poverty rate is the highest since 2001 (67%)

Nutrition sensitive health disparities are increasing

- Only 2.5% of local funds for food programs address health disparities and nutrition sensitive medical conditions

Estimated health care cost of food insecurity in San Francisco in 2019 was \$204M

Total food funding in FY 22-23 in SF was \$200.7M (not including CBO and philanthropic spending)

- Amount has decreased in FY 23-24 and FY 24-25

Growing wait list for community food programs