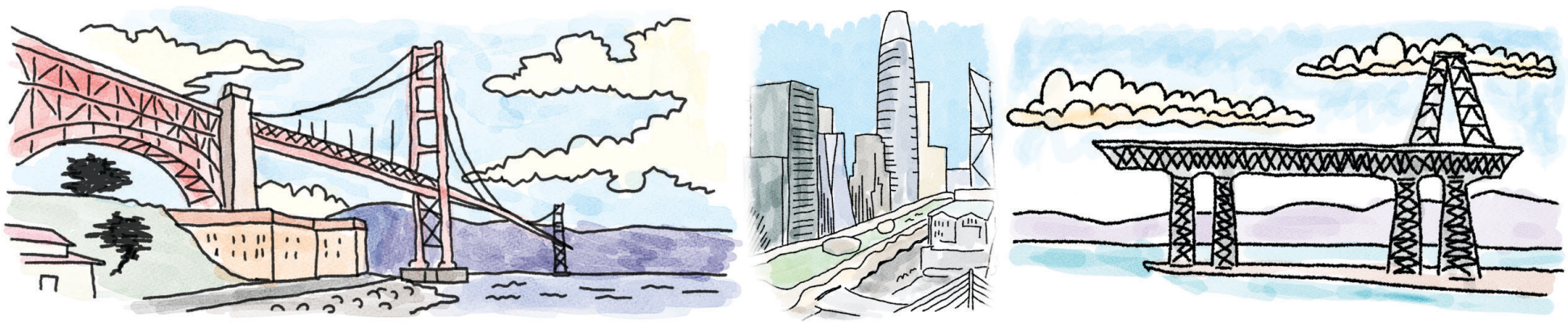
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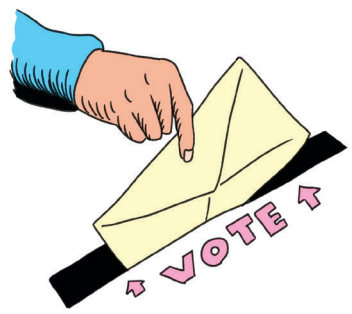
2026 San Francisco Elections



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Who's bankrolling San Francisco's coming election? These 16 donors.

At least $18 million has been raised for the November races overall, and the top 16 donors have contributed some $13 million so far

By Kelly Waldron | Sept. 11, 2026

Labor Day marked the beginning, for political campaigns at least, of an eight-week sprint to the Nov. 3 general election during which millions of mailers will be sent to voters' homes, door-knockers will fan out across San Francisco, and candidates will hit the campaign trail.

All of that costs money. Fundraising and spending will likely ramp up in the coming weeks, but already, eye-watering contributions have been made in this election: At least $18 million has been raised for the November races and the top 16 donors have contributed some $13 million. That number includes 11 donors who have contributed at least $500,000 each — and three who have contributed $1 million or more.

Mission Local mapped out the biggest donors. Topping the list: Cryptocurrency company founder Chris Larsen (together with his wife Lyna Lam and company Ripple); Michael Moritz, a journalist-turned-venture-capitalist and financier behind the San Francisco Standard; and John Pritzker, an investor and heir to the Hyatt hotel chain.
The bulk of the major giving is going toward Mayor Lurie's package of charter-reform measures. Those measures — propositions D, E and F — seek to consolidate mayoral authority by shifting power from city commissions to the mayor, make it more difficult for measures to qualify for the ballot, and give the city administrator more say over the city's contracts.

This isn't the first time the big money has sought to change the charter. In November 2024, Proposition D, which also aimed to consolidate mayoral power, raised some $9.5 million, most of it from Moritz.

Data as of Sept. 11, 2026, 4 a.m.

(Continue on page 15)





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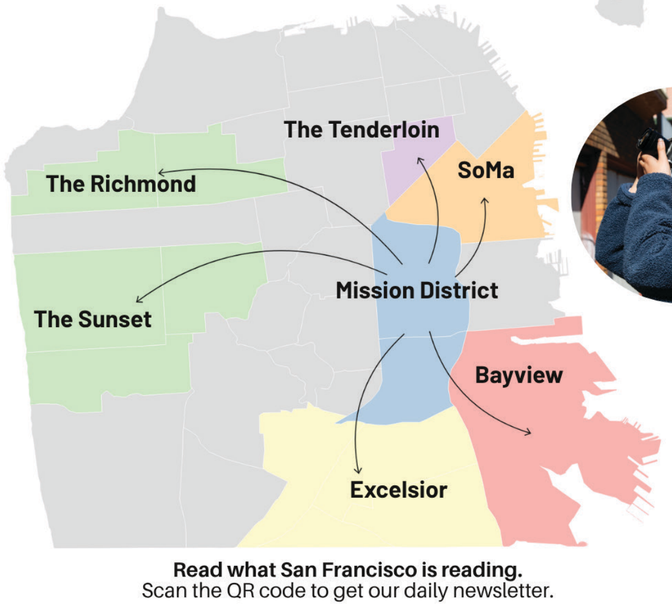
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AI was the hot new topic at San Francisco's first congressional debate

Candidates also asked to clarify positions on aid to Israel

By Io Yeh Gilman | Oct. 2, 2026

Overnight, AI has become a central issue in the San Francisco congressional race, and at Thursday's forum, both candidates made the case for why they would be the better regulator.

State Sen. Scott Wiener pointed to the AI regulation he has already passed. SB 53, approved in 2025, protects whistleblowers at AI companies, requires companies to report safety incidents to the state, and requires AI developers to publish their safety plans.

"I was the first state legislator in the country to introduce legislation to regulate AI for safety," Wiener said to the audience at KQED's headquarters in the Mission District. "It's a strong law and it's just the beginning."

Supervisor Connie Chan tried to undercut that experience by calling Wiener untrustworthy because an AI-backed PAC is supporting his campaign.

"Can we actually trust politicians who are bankrolled by the AI industries to also write legislation to regulate the industries? The answer is no, we cannot," she said.

While the candidates largely agreed on what kind of AI regulation is needed — independent safety checks and human oversight — the topic remained front and center at the debate co-hosted by KQED and the San Francisco Chronicle, and moderated by their reporters Marisa Lagos, Scott Shafer and Joe Garofoli.

Answers to four of the 10 questions touched on AI, offering a strong indication that it will continue to take center stage, joining the



San Francisco Supervisor Connie Chan, right, during her debate with State Sen. Scott Wiener at KQED in San Francisco on Oct. 1, 2026. Photo by Santiago Mejia/S.F. Chronicle/Pool

campaign's earlier playbooks that focused on searing criticism of Donald Trump, addressing the affordability crisis, the cruelty of the American healthcare system, and pleas for progressive taxation.

The pivot began on Sept. 8 when AI researcher Jacob Coxon resigned from Anthropic, accusing AI labs of "gambling with our lives." His post on X went viral, setting off a news cycle in which, all the sudden, government regulation of AI became the biggest political story in America.

Chan and Wiener's campaigns quickly adjusted. Wiener trained his canvassers to be fluent in the minutia of AI safety, while Chan took to social media, posting her "late-night thoughts on the future of AI."

On Thursday night, Wiener defended the $500,000 that Public First Action gave to a PAC supporting him. The Anthropic-funded organization advocates for AI regulation and was founded in opposition to other AI-industry PACs, which spend against candidates who want regulation.

If anything, Wiener said, that support is evidence that he will effectively regulate AI. "The people who are most focused on AI safety, they're supporting me because they know that I have done the work to regulate AI, and that I will do the work in Congress," Wiener said.

Chan also accused Wiener of hiding who had shaped the amendments to his AI law, calling the final version "watered-down."

Wiener tried to pass a more stringent AI-safety bill in 2024, but Gov. Gavin Newsom vetoed that bill.

"To refer to SB 53 as 'watered down' is a joke," Wiener retorted. "Multiple states have literally cut and pasted this law and then built on it. … Other states don't think it's watered down. All the tech companies that tried to undermine and sabotage SB 53 don't think it's watered down."

"It's very easy when you've never lifted a finger for AI safety regulation to armchair-quarterback it," Wiener added. "That's fine. That's politics. But I'm proud of the work that we've done."

AI also came up because of the chatbot that Wiener's campaign released in August. It was intended to be a parody of Chan that highlighted her history of opposing housing and transit projects.

But Chan accused it of sexism for "putting words in my mouth," and racism because prompting it with "accent" made it say, "my San Francisco accent is so thick I can barely understand myself."

Amid criticism, Wiener took the bot down, and at Thursday's debate, he apologized to Chan.

"It was a terrible mistake, which is why we took it down, and why I apologize," he said.

Chan and Wiener also responded to a question about ensuring that the United States stays competitive with China in the AI race.

Chan rejected the premise of the question.

"We should not allow the AI industries to pit our country, United States, with other countries in the name of competition," she said. "It should not be in the framework of competition, but the framework of protecting our future, protecting our humanity, and protecting our workforce."

Wiener called for cooperation between the United States and China.

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Why does Matt Dorsey have no competitive challenger? Start with the D6 map.

2022 redistricting moved out key progressive base in District 6 and left would-be challengers facing smaller, hard-to-reach electorate

By Sarah Hopkins | Sept. 9, 2026

Four years ago, Matt Dorsey had to fight for his seat.

In a six-month brawl between Dorsey, who had been appointed District 6 supervisor when Matt Haney was elected to state office, and Honey Mahogany — Haney's chief of staff and preferred successor — Dorsey came out on top: He won by a 53-47 tilt.

This year, it will likely be a far greater margin. The moderate District 6 supervisor is heading toward November without a competitive challenger.

His only opponent, Alex Behrend, identifies himself on election documents as "Neglected Voter Organizer," a reference to his effort, he said, to try and "open up the black box" of why some registered voters repeatedly sit out elections.

Behrend has reported no campaign contributions or spending as of Sept. 8. According to Behrend, he has yet to receive any endorsements.

To understand why Dorsey has such an open road, former District 6 politicians and organizers refer to an event that happened just weeks before he was appointed to the Board of Supervisors in 2022: San Francisco redrew district lines.



Supervisor Matt Dorsey, seen here being sworn into office on Jan. 9, 2023. Photo by Joe Eskenazi

The most consequential change, they say, was the removal of the Tenderloin, which was excised from District 6 and grafted into District 5. The change removed one of the centers of tenant and progressive organizing from District 6.

"The nature of D6 changed with redistricting," said Sue Bushnell, president of the District 6 South Beach Democratic Club. Before the Tenderloin was removed, she said, it was more competitive.

Bushnell likes Dorsey, describing him as accessible and hands-on. But she has also wondered why he has drawn no real opposition.

"It's relatively standard that you have a serious competitor or challenger," she said. "In this situation, there isn't."

New map, new electorate

Chris Daly, the District 6 supervisor from 2001 to 2011, described the district he led as a disparate collection of neighborhoods and constituencies, where some of San Francisco's poorest blocks sat alongside some of its wealthiest.

That divide has not disappeared. The current district still includes residential hotels, public and affordable housing cheek-by-jowl with some of the city's newest and most expensive residential towers. But the Tenderloin brought with it a large population of low-income renters and long-established tenant and progressive organizations.

Daly said those organizing networks helped make progressive campaigns viable.

Sunny Angulo, a former aide to District 6 Supervisor Jane Kim and District 3 Supervisor Aaron Peskin, who once considered running for District 6, said Kim later built a broader coalition, connecting single-room-occupancy hotel tenants and Filipino residents in SoMa with young tech workers and residents of new towers.

The few elections held under the 2022 boundaries suggest the district's political balance has shifted.

The redrawn district retained SoMa and includes Mission Bay, South Beach, Rincon Hill and Treasure Island — neighborhoods that encompass much of the city's recent housing development.

At the same time, its registered electorate shrank by nearly 9,000 voters between the June and November 2022 elections, when the new supervisorial boundaries took effect, even as registration citywide increased.

District 6 remains overwhelmingly Democratic and votes much like San Francisco as a whole in national partisan contests. But registered voters are about four percentage points less Democratic than the city overall, and three points more likely to have no party preference.

"Redistricting really changed the dynamic of the neighborhood," said Mahogany, the vanquished 2022 candidate. "It's a hard district, and I don't know that people know what to do to tackle it."

Behrend disputes the idea that the current district is inhospitable to progressives. He calls Dorsey "MAGA-lite," arguing that the supervisor too often sides with wealthy interests while offering insufficient support for renters.

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Manny Yekutiel drops out of S.F. supervisor race after sexual assault claim

By Io Yeh Gilman | Oct. 1, 2026

Manny Yekutiel dropped out of the District 8 supervisor race on Thursday, hours after new sexual assault allegations were published by the San Francisco Standard.

"I am not admitting to having assaulted anyone, and some of the things that are being said about me are fundamentally untrue. But I am deeply sorry for any boundaries that I crossed. I'm going to take this time to work on myself," Yekutiel said.

Yekutiel's candidacy became untenable. Within hours of the allegations, which Yekutiel said he had "no memory" of, most of his endorsers pulled their support, including Mayor Daniel Lurie and six city supervisors.

"My endorsement is a statement of my confidence in someone's character and leadership, and in light of the additional accounts reported today, I am withdrawing it," Lurie said. Other backers, including labor unions and advocacy groups like GrowSF, also withdrew their support.

Gary McCoy, a former Rep. Nancy Pelosi aide, is now the presumed frontrunner in District 8. He has formed an alliance with rival Darshini Patel and is also facing Michael Nguyen as an opponent. All three had called on Yekutiel to withdraw.

Though Yekutiel is suspending his campaign, his name will still appear on the ballot; the deadline to withdraw passed in June.

Yekutiel was first accused of sexual assault in June by progressive political organizer Brad Chapin, who alleged that in 2020 Yekutiel stuck his hands down his pants and painfully grabbed his testicles at a house party.

Thursday's allegations matched Chapin's closely: Ryan Clark and his partner told the Standard that Yekutiel had grabbed their testicles, both inside and outside their pants, at a Pride club party in 2023.

Clark said he was motivated to come forward after seeing Yekutiel's supporters stick with him after Chapin's allegation, and particularly by Lurie's decision to do so: In August and September, Yekutiel became the official pick of Mayor Lurie and the San Francisco Democratic Party.

The new allegations were too much for most of Yekutiel's endorsers.

The local party chapter has now scheduled an Oct. 11 vote to reconsider its endorsement, which is all but certain to be withdrawn.

Even District 8 supervisor Rafael Mandelman, who stood by Yekutiel the morning of the new allegations, had pulled his endorsement by the afternoon.

"Manny is an extraordinary person who has made extraordinary contributions to San Francisco," Mandelman said. "Unfortunately, it has become painfully clear to me that he has work to do on himself and is not ready to serve as a public official. I have therefore asked him to remove my name from his endorsers."

** District 8 Supervisor Rafael Mandelman initially stood by Manny Yekutiel on Thursday morning, but rescinded his endorsement hours later.*

Additional reporting by Kelly Waldron.

Chart by Junyao Yang.

Manny Yekutiel's allies pull endorsements after new sexual assault allegation

name	position after Brad Chapin's allegation	position after Ryan Clark and partner's allegation
Rob Bonta	rescinded	rescinded
Matt Haney	rescinded	rescinded
Myrna Melgar	rescinded	rescinded
Daniel Lurie	endorsed	rescinded
Catherine Stefani	endorsed	rescinded
Bilal Mahmood	endorsed	rescinded
Danny Sauter	endorsed	rescinded
Stephen Sherrill	endorsed	rescinded
Matt Dorsey *#2 endorsement*	endorsed	rescinded
Rafael Mandelman*	endorsed	rescinded
Alan Wong	endorsed	rescinded
Grow SF	endorsed	rescinded
Abundant SF	endorsed	rescinded
United Food and Commercial Workers Local 5	endorsed	rescinded
Honey Mahogany	endorsed	rescinded
Phil Kim *dual endorsement*	endorsed	rescinded
SF YIMBY *#2 endorsement*	endorsed	rescinded
International Association of Fire Fighters Local 798	endorsed	rescinded
Paul Miyamoto	endorsed	rescinded
SF Deputy Sheriffs' Association	endorsed	rescinded
Fiona Ma	endorsed	endorsed
SFPOA	endorsed	endorsed
SF Democratic Party	endorsed	considering, special meeting on Oct. 11

‘They do not speak for me:’ After $500K gift from crypto exec, Theo Ellington looks to show independence from tech

Ripple exec Chris Larsen, whose donation was the largest to any supervisor race in city history, says he was ‘impressed’ with Ellington’s ‘pragmatism’

By Marina Newman & Brandon Pho | Sept. 14, 2026

The largest political donation in a San Francisco supervisor’s race happened between a donor and a candidate who have only met in passing.

District 10 supervisor candidate Theo Ellington said he’s only had a “couple of brief conversations” — and no formal meeting — with billionaire Ripple co-founder Chris Larsen, who gave $500,000 on Sept. 3 to a political action committee backing Ellington.

The donation became the starkest example of the attention Ellington has garnered from the city’s tech political machine in his race to represent one of the city’s southernmost industrial and working-class districts — one increasingly important to tech.

In a Wednesday sit-down interview at Ripple’s headquarters, Larsen, a major donor to police surveillance technology in the city, said he was “impressed” by Ellington’s “pragmatism.” He described the candidate as “cut from the same cloth” as Mayor Daniel Lurie, whose initiatives Larsen has backed with millions of dollars, including by giving to ballot initiatives to strengthen the mayor’s hand.

Larsen said he expected Ellington, the executive director of the Bayview Opera house who has been one of three front-running candidates from the outset, to “work with the mayor and not try to sabotage” him.

When asked what he would stand to gain from the donation, Larsen shook his head. “What do I need?” he asked. “I could be anywhere.”

Ellington hasn’t exactly welcomed the association.

The candidate insisted that he had not asked for Larsen’s donation and would not be influenced by it. “Outside organizations make their own decisions about how they participate in elections,” said Ellington. The donation was given to a PAC, which is not controlled by Ellington and cannot coordinate with him. “They do not speak for me or our campaign.”

Ellington added that he will “work with anyone who has a good idea for neighborhoods that have been overlooked for far too long.”

Ellington is open to at least one of Larsen’s signature projects: Flock surveillance cameras. He told Mission Local that, with appropriate guardrails, he would support the use of the cameras, which the San Francisco Police Department has embraced.

Still, in the days following Larsen’s gift, Ellington said that if elected, he would support a moratorium on AI data centers in District 10, an issue that residents have raised deep concerns about.

At Ripple on Wednesday, Larsen said Ellington’s stance made sense. “The AI industry has done a spectacularly terrible job at preserving their image,” said Larsen. “I’ve never seen a brand be so unpopular.”



Photo courtesy of Theo Ellington.

The moratorium, and Ellington’s “pragmatic, balanced,” approach, he said, would overall, be a “good thing” for the industry.

Larsen said that the magnitude of his donation stemmed from what he saw as a lack of investment into Ellington’s campaign from other allies.

“Was this another example of Bayview being ignored?” Larsen asked, describing the neighborhood’s turnaround as “key” to the success of San Francisco’s image. He compared it to the Tenderloin, another neighborhood often ignored by the city and one which Larsen has tried to steer downtown revitalization efforts toward.

There’s no doubt that District 10’s southeastern neighborhoods have been overlooked, from the toxic contamination of the former Hunters Point Naval shipyard to racial inequities and the poor upkeep of its public housing.

But the district has been changing dramatically. If the size of the donation baffled many, it made perfect sense to Larsen and some political consultants.

Tech entrepreneurs are diving into District 10. The world’s largest industrial landlord, Prologis, is building a logistics hub in Bayview. The nearby Dogpatch neighborhood, which falls within the district, has emerged as a critical artery for tech offices like Y Combinator, whose graduate founders have set up companies across the street.

Larsen’s gift wasn’t the first from the tech sector. The industry’s growing interest in the neighborhood has resulted in thousands of dollars from tech executives poured directly into Ellington’s campaign already.

Garry Tan, a moderate political donor and the CEO of Y Combinator, Dogpatch’s most recent tech firm, donated the maximum of $500 to Ellington’s campaign. Other former and current tech executives now involved in a growing faction of moderate political donors, including Sachin Agarwal, also made $500 contributions to Ellington.

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Warring slates will face off in S.F. school board race, and one’s got a lot more cash

By Rosina Boehm | Sept. 24, 2026

Cassondra Curiel, the San Francisco teachers union president, said that she couldn’t turn on her TV without seeing the ads.

“Mayor Lurie and SF Parents Action trust Phil Kim to lead our schools,” ran one GrowSF-sponsored message for the group’s June school board pick. GrowSF, which is largely backed by tech executives, spent some $220,000 to elect Kim to the school board in that race; he got a whopping 61 percent of the vote.

The group is now getting ready for round two. November’s contest will pit its three picks against three rivals tapped by the San Francisco teachers union, and a separate slate from the San Francisco Parent Coalition that includes two of GrowSF’s candidates. One other candidate is not part of any slate.

The teachers union knows it’s outspent: In its two political committees, it had about $191,000 in the bank as of the end of June. GrowSF, meanwhile, entered the election season with just over $1 million in the bank, as of June 30, the latest date for which filings are available. (The group will spend on a variety of races, however, not just the school board.)

“When it comes down to the slate that we are representing, the distinction is clear,” Curiel said. She said the rallying cry “teachers vs. billionaires” has become the union’s slogan this season. “These are regular everyday people, parents and community workers with a long history in our district.”

The union’s slate is working closely together and campaigning jointly on the weekends. So are the Parents Coalition picks: Kim, Alida Fisher, and Autumn Brown Garibay have posed together at events, and the Parents Coalition have posters featuring all three.



The GrowSF slate, less so: At least one candidate said she is not aligned “with a particular political slate,” and there is no indication the group’s picks have any joint messaging.

Still, the group will spend heavily to jointly promote its three picks, and the race is a priority.

“It comes down to how important public education is for a healthy and prosperous and thriving society,” said Steven Buss Bacio, the group’s co-director.

He told Mission Local that his group’s outlay for November would be even more than the $220,000 it spent for June.

GrowSF, a balanced budget and ‘excellent’ schools

GrowSF has endorsed three candidates from a pool of eight running this November:

- Phil Kim, the incumbent school board president and a deputy director at the San Francisco Agency for Human Rights, who was appointed to the body in 2024 and won his first election in June with the help of $239,000 from GrowSF and the San Francisco Parents Coalition;
- Autumn Brown Garibay, a senior customer-success manager at Sprout Social;
- Tim Tung, a public finance and research analyst who is also the brother of Assistant District Attorney Nancy Tung, a former district attorney candidate and the chair of the San Francisco Democratic Party.

The slate of candidates is also endorsed by Mayor Daniel Lurie, who threw his support behind many of the candidates GrowSF is supporting in other races, too.

Bacio said the group’s candidates reflect the organization’s focus on getting the school district “back on track” — a balanced budget after years of deficits, which have led to more than $100 million in planned cuts; supporting students learning to read and learning math; and “excellent” public schools that can compete with private ones.

About 30 percent of San Francisco children go to private schools, the highest rate in the state, and one of the highest in the country.

“We’ve let too many kids fall behind because we’ve taken our eye off the ball in the school district,” Bacio said. “And I think that’s where the board of education is so important.”

GrowSF has become the most active of several well-funded pressure groups to emerge in post-pandemic San Francisco. It is involved in picking winners in races big and small across the city and benefits from large checks.

The group cited Kim’s role in evaluating the superintendent on fiscal stability, Garibay helping San Francisco Unified School District parents navigate the enrollment system, and Tung’s experience as an auditor, currently serving on the city’s bond committee. The three together, Bacio said, were the most “forward-thinking.”

The eighth-grade algebra stance, in particular, became a lightning rod in school board politics; GrowSF and many others now use it as a litmus test.

“For the last decade, it’s been illegal at our public schools to teach kids algebra before ninth grade,” Bacio said. “It, to me, borders on criminal negligence.”

The group’s voter guide puts it succinctly: Kim, Garibay and Tung are “a dream team: An educator who put algebra back in eighth grade, a parent who caught the district promising one thing and planning another, and an auditor who balanced city budgets through the 2008 crash.”

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Mayor Lurie blasts Prop. I as a 'slush fund.' His office would control the money.

With so much of San Francisco government being both practiced and received at a superficial level, it is deeply unfortunate that the mayor is telling voters there's a slush fund being run out of his office

Aug. 17, 2026

A long time ago, in a school not so far, far away, your humble narrator had a job feeding Scantron multiple-choice tests through the grading machine.

The device emitted a telltale click every time it marked a wrong answer. When you ran an ace student's test through the machine, it would make a pop or two. But, for a particular class clown, God help me, that machine sounded like being strafed by an AK-47 — the audible signifier of a barrage of uninterrupted nonsense.

Sometimes, all these years later, I still hear that staccato burst in my head, unbidden, when reading or hearing the words of certain politicians.

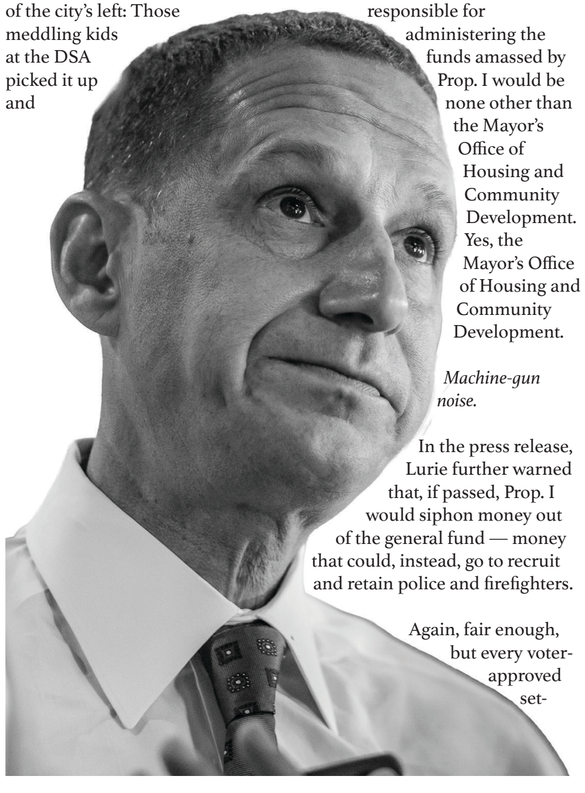
It is surprising — and disappointing — that the most recent politician to induce this unwelcome nostalgia is Mayor Daniel Lurie.

In a joint press release with the police and firefighter unions issued last week, Lurie took aim at Proposition I, an affordable-housing measure.

Fair enough: There's nothing wrong with the mayor opposing this measure, which was signature-gathered onto the ballot largely by the Democratic Socialists of America.

That's especially the case when his office, labor, the Board of Supervisors, affordable housing developers and others have already created Prop. C, their own deeply negotiated, consensus affordable-housing measure, to bolster the Housing Trust Fund.

Affordable-housing groups wrote the future Prop. I, but dropped it as part of the grand bargain that led to Prop. C. But that deal evidently didn't apply to every last vestige of the city's left: Those meddling kids at the DSA picked it up and signature-gathered it onto the ballot, so here we are. Some degree of irritation is understandable.



The issue, however, isn't with the mayor's sentiment but his salesmanship. To wit: Lurie described Prop. I as an "unaccountable slush fund."

Well, that's odd: The entity responsible for administering the funds amassed by Prop. I would be none other than the Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development. Yes, the Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development.

Machine-gun noise.

In the press release, Lurie further warned that, if passed, Prop. I would siphon money out of the general fund — money that could, instead, go to recruit and retain police and firefighters.

Again, fair enough, but every voter-approved set-aside — be it for libraries, trees, early childhood education or, in fact, the bolstering of the Housing Trust Fund — reduces the size of the general fund.

But it took particular chutzpah for Lurie to lament the loss of these specific dollars. Because, in February, he also proposed doing away with them.

Rather than sucking them out of the general fund to ostensibly fund affordable housing, he proposed to simply eliminate them altogether as a tax break for sellers of property valued at $10 million or more. This is a group we could, by way of shorthand, refer to as the wealthy.

Machine gun noise.

It's not problematic for Lurie, or anyone, to object to Prop. I. But it is deeply problematic — and irresponsible — for anyone, let alone the mayor, to claim that an "unaccountable slush fund" is being run out of the mayor's office.

The Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development has a longstanding reputation for monomaniacal scrutiny over its monetary distributions. Its present director, Dan Adams, is a highly regarded public servant.

(Photo by Zoe Malen)

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Joe Eskenazi's column:
Joe Eskenazi is the managing editor and columnist at Mission Local. "Your humble narrator" reports on the people and power that run San Francisco. Scan the QR code to read more.

San Francisco Democrats made a mockery of policing sexual misconduct

Two years after tough talk about confronting sexual misconduct, the S.F. Dems' process has proven to be a farce

Aug. 31, 2026

Brad Chapin alleges that aspirational District 8 supervisor Manny Yekutiel sexually assaulted him six years ago. Yekutiel denies this.

Mission Local did not publish articles about Chapin's claim against Yekutiel, which would be our procedure with most any single-sourced claim against any candidate.

But when Chapin on Wednesday stood before the members of San Francisco's Democratic Party during an endorsement meeting and described the process it used to "investigate" his allegation as a sham, that was a far less controversial claim. This process was a sham.

We've spoken to half a dozen members of the local Democratic Party, across the spectrum of local political ideology, and that's how they feel, too.

San Francisco's Democratic Party in 2024 created its own "Code of Conduct and Policies for Sexual Assault and Harassment" in the wake of disturbing allegations being leveled at local Democratic politicos — most notably Mission District leader Jon Jacobo, who is presently being prosecuted on rape charges.

Members of the local Democratic Party risked repetitive stress injuries over the level of back-patting they self-applied over creating that code of conduct: The party's website lists more than a dozen articles documenting its professed campaign to take on alleged political malefactors.

A 2024 letter from party chair Nancy Tung unmistakably refers to Jacobo and former Latinx Democratic Club president Kevin Ortiz as the impetus for this action.

The code of conduct was expediently spun up and enacted, to great fanfare. At last, we were led to believe, the scourge of alleged predators and harassers lurking within San Francisco political circles would be addressed.

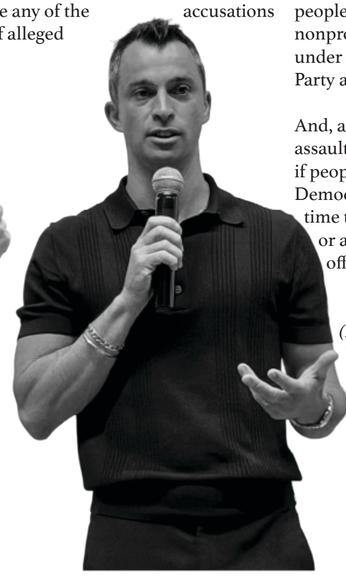
Not since the America's Cup have San Francisco officials so overpromised and underdelivered.

The Democratic Party's much-vaunted code of conduct, it turns out, is narrowly applicable. Not only did it not cover whatever did or didn't happen between Chapin and Yekutiel, it wouldn't even have applied to Jacobo — who, again, has been charged with rape by the district attorney and is being criminally prosecuted.

"If Jon was seeking an endorsement, and I went to the Democratic Party and reported what happened to me, they would say that was also outside their jurisdiction," said Sasha Perigo, one of Jacobo's accusers.

Ortiz, meanwhile, was never prosecuted, nor were any of the accusations of alleged unwanted behavior officially substantiated. Regardless, these, too, would not have come under the aegis of the Democratic Party's new dictum.





That's because the local Democratic Party code of conduct governing inappropriate sexual conduct only covers what happens at official party or chartered Democratic club meetings or connected official events.

Blessedly, most meetings do not feature this manner of behavior. Most official events don't, either, though this would seem to cover someone misbehaving at, say, a club holiday gathering or a symposium.

The code of conduct is certainly not applicable to Chapin's allegation that he was assaulted in someone's private home, years before Yekutiel was an office-seeker.

The much-ballyhooed policy does not cover people working in City Hall, on campaigns, at nonprofits or pretty much anywhere that isn't under the umbrella of the local Democratic Party and its chartered clubs.

And, as Perigo notes, that's not how sexual assault and harassment typically work. Even if people meet at official clubs or events, the Democratic Party's reach does not extend to time they spend in bars, in taxis, in homes — or anywhere that isn't somehow tied to an official meeting or event.

(Left: Brad Chapin, photographed by Junyao Yang. Right: Manny Yekutiel, photographed by Io Yeh Gilman.)

Scan the QR code to finish reading

Connie Chan's S.F. congressional bid lays bare geopolitical quagmire: China-Taiwan

At stake for the only Chinese-American candidate are thousands of Chinese-American votes

By Yujie Zhou | Feb. 20, 2026

To prevail in her San Francisco congressional race, Connie Chan, the only major Chinese-American candidate, must win over a good number of the 73,000 or so Chinese American voters in California's 11th congressional district — about 16 percent of the electorate.

A major factor for them is an island nearly 7,000 miles away: Taiwan.

China-Taiwan relations are tricky for any politician, as Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez learned this week when her answers on the issue were microscopically scrutinized around the world.

For Chan, the consequences are local. To be too supportive of an assertive U.S. policy that encourages arms sales to Taiwan would be seen by many Chinese voters here as provoking conflict.

The District 1 supervisor seems to have passed that test earlier this month, when she met with three San Francisco Chinese leaders known for having a strong following in the local community: Henry Der, the former California deputy superintendent of public instruction; and retired judges Lillian Sing and Julie Tang.

The meeting allowed Der, Sing and Tang to learn the specifics of Chan's views — and, in turn, serve as conduits for potentially thousands of local voters for whom this issue is paramount.

The local Chinese community is far from monolithic, but the majority rank maintaining peace with China around Taiwan as a top priority, said Tang.

For many, Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi's 2022 visit to Taiwan looms large — and is a cautionary tale. The junket was the highest-profile U.S. visit to the island in 25 years, and greatly aggravated the mainland Chinese government. It subsequently encircled the island with unprecedented military exercises.

Der called Pelosi's trip provocative.

Many people in Taiwan "are happy with the status quo. In other words, it's ambiguous," said Der, who opposes authoritarian governments and doesn't often disagree with Pelosi. Still, he and the retired judges blamed the visit for riling up China.

He, like many in the Asian community here, doesn't want a war or poor relations with China. Many here prize travel to China and Taiwan, and believe business and commerce between the two are vital.

"We don't need these military exercises by either side," he said.

Tang, for her part, was even more alarmed about Pelosi's visit. "She almost provoked a Third World War," she said.

Peace, and an internal matter

Chan, the three elders recalled after their Feb. 9 meeting, took a stance that stressed supporting the One-China Policy, which has been an official U.S. policy since the 1970s and remains the mainstream view in Congress.

The policy, which is deliberately vague, recognizes the People's Republic of China as the sole legal government of China while allowing the United States to maintain unofficial relations with Taiwan.



Connie Chan at the Board of Supervisors meeting on April 14, 2026 at the San Francisco City Hall. Photo by Zoe Malen.

Second, Chan stressed that she is for peace. When the three leaders asked her to elaborate, Der recalled Chan telling them that there should be direct dialogue between China and Taiwan — without the U.S. government dictating the terms and conditions.

This is a notable distinction. Der, Sing and Tang walked away from their meeting with Chan believing her desired policy would be for China-Taiwan relations to be an internal matter between the two governments. This aligns with Beijing's wishes, but differs from the congressional mainstream.

It also differs from the views of Pelosi and the four current Chinese members of Congress. All support the United States playing a role in China-Taiwan relations, and view arms sales to Taiwan as a means of keeping China in check. Pelosi has been particularly critical of the Chinese government and its human-rights record.

When asked about China policies and her meeting with Der, Sing and Tang, Chan's campaign released a statement noting that "her focus will be on best representing the interests and priorities of San Francisco, and she will always work for peaceful resolution of conflict."

While still heavily Chinese, California's 11th congressional district has fewer Chinese voters than San Francisco writ large, as it excludes Chinese-American enclaves such as the Excelsior, Visitation Valley and Portola.

Still, it includes more than 73,000 Chinese voters, according to political consultant David Ho's rough estimate, accounting for around 16 percent of its 470,000 voters.

Der, Sing and Tang applauded Chan's stance, saying it reflected a non-confrontational attitude espoused by many within the Chinese American community. All three subsequently said they would endorse her candidacy.

"What I got out of the conversation," said Der, "is she doesn't want the United States to dictate what that dialogue should be between Taiwan and China."

Chan, for her part, said in a statement that "the U.S. should be an agent for peace and stability, and that will be her guiding principle on foreign policy."

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Congress Race

CONGRESSIONAL CA D-11 RACE



CONNIE CHAN

- **Job:** San Francisco Supervisor (2021-present), budget chair (2023-2026)
- **Age:** 47
- **Party:** Democrat
- **Prior offices:** San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee (2024-present)
- **Residency:** Homeowner in the Richmond District, where she's lived since 2011. Immigrated to San Francisco to Chinatown when she was 13.
- **Children:** One son who attended SFUSD schools through the 4th grade and currently attends Catholic school
- **Transportation:** Driving, public transit, walking
- **Website:** https://www.conniechansf.com/
- **Education:** Bachelor's degree from the University of California, Davis
- **Languages:** English, Cantonese, Mandarin



SCOTT WIENER

- **Job:** California State Senator representing San Francisco and Northern San Mateo County
- **Age:** 56
- **Party:** Democratic
- **Prior offices:** Member, San Francisco Board of Supervisors, District 8; Deputy City Attorney, San Francisco City Attorney's Office; member, San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee (served as chair for two years)
- **Residency:** Homeowner in the Castro
- **Children:** None
- **Transportation:** Public transit, walking
- **Website:** https://www.scottwiener.com/
- **Education:** Bachelor's degree from Duke University, juris doctor degree from Harvard Law School
- **Languages:** English and Spanish

Where do they stand on November measures?



	Connie Chan	Scott Wiener
Prop. A: Commission streamlining	No	Yes
Prop. B: Public bank	Yes	Yes
Prop. C: Expanding affordable housing fund	Yes	Yes
Prop. D: Raising signatures/legislators needed for propositions	No	Yes
Prop. E: Changing city contracting rules	No	Yes
Prop. F: Boosting mayoral power	No	Yes
Prop. G: Reopening the Great Highway	Yes	No
Prop. H: Muni parcel tax	Yes	Yes
Prop. I: Directing transfer tax toward affordable housing	No position	No position
Prop. J: Foreclosure tax	Yes	Yes
Regional transit measure	Yes	Yes

SUPERVISOR RACES

We have made the decision to cover candidates that meet either or both of the following criteria:

(1) Qualify for the SF Ethics Commission's public financing program, which requires raising at least $10,000 from 100 or more San Francisco residents ($15,000 from 150+ for an incumbent), in donations of $10 to $100, certified by Sept. 9, 2026. (2) Received endorsements by democratic clubs, current or former elected officials, labor groups, newspaper editorial boards, major local groups or nonprofits, or community leaders.

Emanuel "Manny" Yekutiel dropped out of the race on Oct. 1, 2026. His name will still be on the ballot.

District 6

November 2024 election turnout: 74.3%
Neighborhoods: SoMa, Mission Bay, Treasure Island, Yerba Buena



MATT DORSEY

- Job: Current District 6 Supervisor
- Age: 61
- Residency: Renter, living in District 6 since 2008, has lived in San Francisco since 1990 (except for four years in Washington, D.C.).
- Transportation: Public transit, walking, biking
- Education: Bachelor's degree from Emerson College
- Languages: English



ALEX BEHREND

- Job: No current job, formerly a voter organizer for Dean Preston's 2024 campaign, a Safeway checker and a housekeeper at the San Francisco Zen Center
- Age: 54
- Residency: Renter living in District 6 since April 2026, and in San Francisco since 2011, with a previous stint in 1990-91 while attending the University of San Francisco
- Transportation: Public transit, walking
- Education: Bachelor's degree from the University of California, San Diego
- Languages: English

SUPERVISOR RACES

District 2

November 2024 election turnout: 86.2%
Neighborhoods: Marina, Pacific Heights, Cow Hollow, Presidio Heights



STEPHEN SHERRILL
- Job: Current District 2 Supervisor
- Age: 39
- Residency: Homeowner, has lived in District 2 since 2015
- Transportation: Driving, public transit, biking
- Education: Bachelor's degree from Yale University
- Languages: English

District 4

November 2024 election turnout: 78.6%
Neighborhoods: the Sunset, Outer Sunset, Parkside, Pine Lake Park, *Lakeshore, Merced Manor*



ALBERT CHOW
- Job: Owner of Great Wall Hardware, president of People of Parkside Sunset
- Age: 59
- Residency: Homeowner, living in District 4 since 1978
- Transportation: Driving and walking
- Education: Bachelor's degree from UC Berkeley
- Languages: English, semi-fluent in Cantonese



JEREMY GRECO
- Job: Campus coordinator at Presidio Hill School
- Age: 54
- Residency: Renter, living in District 4 since 2001
- Transportation: Driving
- Education: Bachelor's degree from SF State
- Languages: English



ALAN WONG
- Job: Current District 4 Supervisor, commander in California's National Guard
- Age: 38
- Residency: Renter, born and raised in District 4, and moved back to District 4 from Inner Sunset in October 2025
- Transportation: Driving, walking and public transit
- Education: Bachelor's degree in political science and public policy, UC San Diego; master's degree in public affairs from USF
- Languages: English, Cantonese

District 8

November 2024 election turnout: 88.1%
Neighborhoods: the Castro, Noe Valley, Glen Park, Diamond Heights



GARY MCCOY
- Job: No current job. Former staffer to Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi and former vice president of policy and public affairs at HealthRIGHT 360
- Age: 48
- Residency: Renter, has lived in San Francisco for 24 years and District 8 for 15 years
- Transportation: Driving, biking, public transit and walking
- Education: Former City College of San Francisco student, certified phlebotomy technician from Bay Area Medical Academy
- Languages: English

District 10

November 2024 election turnout: 66.7%
Neighborhoods: Bayview-Hunters Point, Potrero Hill, Dogpatch, Visitacion Valley



DION-JAY (DJ) BROOKTER
- Job: No current job, formerly chief executive officer at Young Community Developers
- Age: 43
- Residency: Homeowner in Candlestick Point/Little Hollywood area, moved to San Francisco in 2014
- Transportation: Driving, public transit and walking
- Education: Bachelor's degree in speech communication, Utah State University, master's degree in business administration, University of Phoenix
- Languages: English and some Spanish



THEO ELLINGTON
- Job: Executive director, Ruth Williams Bayview Opera House. Policy director, Brownstein, public affairs director for the Golden State Warriors and the first director of homelessness initiatives and community development for The Salvation Army San Francisco.
- Age: 37
- Residency: Renter, lifelong San Franciscan and third-generation resident, born and raised in Bayview near Third and Palou streets, has lived in the Hunters Point Shipyard in District 10 since 2016
- Transportation: Driving, public transit and walking
- Education: Bachelor's degree in political science, Notre Dame de Namur University; master's degree in urban affairs from USF.
- Languages: English

J.R. EPPLER
- Job: Small business attorney
- Age: 46
- Residency: Homeowner in Potrero Hill, living there since 2010 after moving to San Francisco in 2007
- Transportation: Driving, public transit, walking and biking
- Education: Bachelor's degree in economics and history from Stanford University; JD and MBA from UCLA
- Languages: English



DARNISHI PATEL
- Job: No current job. Former DoorDash employee, worked on the 2012 Obama campaign and the 2024 Harris campaign, former Obama White House staffer
- Age: 38
- Residency: Homeowner, has lived in San Francisco for 15 years and District 8 for 10 years
- Transportation: Public transit, walking and biking
- Education: Bachelor's degree from Wellesley College
- Languages: Gujarati, English



MICHAEL NGUYEN
- Job: Patent attorney, elected to the San Francisco Democratic Club
- Age: 44
- Residency: Renter, has lived in District 8 since 2006
- Transportation: Driving, public transit and walking
- Education: Bachelor's degree from Southwestern University, law degree from University of California Law San Francisco
- Languages: English, some Spanish, some Vietnamese





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SCHOOL BOARD RACE



AUTUMN BROWN GARIBAY

- Job: Senior customer success manager at Sprout Social, Inc.
- Age: 41
- Party: Democratic
- Residency: Renter in the Mission District
- Children: Three in SFUSD schools
- SFUSD experience: PTA at kids' school, served on the parent leadership council of the San Francisco Parent Coalition
- Education: Bachelor's degree in public relations and marketing from Long Beach State University and Sacramento State University
- Languages: English
- Transportation: Public transit, walking and biking



VIRGINIA CHEUNG

- Job: Chief advancement officer of Open Door Legal
- Age: 43
- Party: Democratic
- Residency: Homeowner in Crocker Amazon, previously lived in the Mission District and the Portola since moving to San Francisco in 2008
- Children: Yes, they attend Alice Fong Yu Alternative School and Wah Mei School
- SFUSD experience: Treasurer for Parents for Public Schools of San Francisco and served on the Parent Advisory Board of Wah Mei BASE ExCel
- Education: Bachelor's degree in social ecology with a minor in digital art from the University of California, Irvine
- Languages: English, Cantonese, Mandarin and French
- Transportation: Driving



ALIDA FISHER

- Job: Executive director at the Community Alliance for Special Education, incumbent Board of Education member
- Age: 51
- Party: Democratic
- Residency: Homeowner in Lakeview/OMI, lived in the Sunset until 2015
- Children: Yes, four adults, ages 18-25. Three have graduated from SFUSD, and the fourth is a senior at Mission High School this year.
- SFUSD experience: Current SFUSD Board of Education member. Has served as chair of the Community Advisory Committee for Special Education, member or past member of SFUSD's African American Parent Advisory Council, LCAP Task Force, Charter School Oversight Committee, and PIR/CEIS/CCEIS Committee, PTSAs and SSCs at nine school sites
- Education: Bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Case Western Reserve University
- Languages: English, with limited ability to speak and understand Spanish and French
- Transportation: Driving, public transit and walking



RYAN HAZELTON

- Job: Executive director of Mariposa Kids, a nonprofit for play-based programs for kids ages 1-11
- Age: 43
- Party: Democratic
- Residency: Homeowner in the SoMa, living in San Francisco since 2007
- Children: None
- SFUSD experience: Chair of San Francisco Child Care Planning & Advisory Council, appointed by SFUSD
- Education: Bachelor's degree in communications from the University of California, San Diego
- Languages: English
- Transportation: Public transit, walking and biking



PHIL KIM

- Job: Deputy director at San Francisco Agency for Human Rights, incumbent Board of Education president
- Age: 36
- Party: Democratic
- Residency: Renter in the Castro
- Children: None
- SFUSD experience: School board president
- Education: Bachelor's degree in neuroscience from Bucknell University; master's degree in education policy and administration from Loyola Marymount University; Pursuing Ed.D. at the University of California, Berkeley
- Languages: English and Korean
- Transportation: Public transit, walking



LAURANCE LEE

- Job: Volunteer at schools and licensed general contractor
- Age: 56
- Party: Democratic
- Residency: Homeowner in Noe Valley, born in the Richmond District
- Children: Yes, but they did not attend SFUSD
- SFUSD experience: Current vice chair SFUSD Citizens Bond Oversight Committee (appointed in 2022)
- Education: Bachelor's degrees in chemistry and history & science from Harvard University
- Languages: English (learning Cantonese, Mandarin, Spanish and French)
- Transportation: Driving, public transit and walking



REINA TELLO

- Job: Community organizer
- Age: 44
- Party: Democratic
- Residency: Renter, born and raised in San Francisco
- Children: Two children: 14, rising eighth grader at James Lick Middle School; 18, recently graduated from June Jordan School for Equity
- SFUSD experience: Served on School Site Council two years ago
- Education: Current City College of San Francisco student studying labor and community studies
- Languages: English and Spanish
- Transportation: Driving



TIM TUNG

- Job: Public finance analyst, research analyst
- Age: 46
- Party: Democratic
- Residency: Homeowner in the Western Addition, previously lived in the Richmond and SoMa
- Children: Two children at Chinese Immersion School at De Avila
- SFUSD experience: Chair of the school site council at the Chinese Immersion School at De Avila; serves on SFUSD's local control and accountability plan advisory committee
- Education: Bachelor's degree and master's degree in information and data science from the University of California, Berkeley; master's degree in public administration from San Jose State University
- Languages: English
- Transportation: Driving, public transit and walking

Who's bankrolling San Francisco's coming election? These 16 donors.

At least $18 million has been raised for the November races overall, and the top 16 donors have contributed some $13 million so far

(Continue from page 1)

That was more than any other measure on the ballot that year.

Overall, several of the big donors in this election have previously given to measures, candidates and PACs that support expanding mayoral power, increasing police funding and technology use, and offer incentives to help housing developers and boost construction. That includes GrowSF, a political advocacy group that has grown significantly in recent years and received several large contributions from wealthy donors this cycle. Significant sums are also going toward Lurie's PAC, "Daniel Lurie Ballot Measure Committee — Safe, Affordable Muni for a Thriving San Francisco," to support the Muni parcel tax that would tax property owners to raise money to support the city's transit network.

The biggest contributions have gone to support the package of charter-reform measures. As Mission Local previously reported, nearly half of that money went toward signature gathering to get those measures on the ballot in the first place.

Below are the top 16 donors who have contributed $250,000 or more. Data as of Sept. 11, 2026, 4 a.m.

Scan the QR code to finish reading

Top donors to Mayor Lurie's charter reform measures

DONOR	CONTRIBUTIONS
Chris Larsen and Lyna Lam tech	**$2.5M**
Michael Moritz tech	**$2.1M**
John Pritzker finance	**$1M**
Laurene Powell Jobs and Emerson Collective tech	**$550K**
Dagmar Dolby tech	**$500K**
John Doerr finance	**$500K**
John Wolthuis tech	**$500K**
Michael Seibel tech	**$450K**
Matthew Paige finance	**$250K**
Tony Salewski finance	**$250K**

Top donors to the November races

Chris Larsen, Lyna Lam and Ripple tech — **$3.8M**
Chris Larsen is the co-founder of Ripple Labs, a cryptocurrency tech company, and is married to Lyna Lam, a philanthropist.

Michael Moritz tech — **$2.2M**
Michael Moritz is a journalist-turned-venture-capitalist and financier behind *The San Francisco Standard*.

John Pritzker finance — **$1M**
John Pritzker is an investor, and son of Jay Pritzker, who founded the Hyatt hotel chain.

Laurene Powell Jobs and Emerson Collective tech — **$849K**
Emerson Collective, founded by Laurene Powell Jobs, is a company that invests in entrepreneurship and philanthropy.

Michael Seibel tech — **$650.5K**
Michael Seibel is a tech founder and partner at Y Combinator, the tech startup incubator.

Anthropic tech — **$500K**
Anthropic is a tech company that produces AI models.

Airbnb tech — **$500K**
Airbnb is a tech platform that facilitates short-term rentals and other activities.

Dagmar Dolby tech — **$500K**
Dagmar Dolby is an American philanthropist.

John Doerr finance — **$500K**
John Doerr is a venture capitalist and chairman at Kleiner Perkins, a venture capital firm.

John Wolthuis tech — **$500K**
John Wolthuis is an engineer and co-founder of the tech platform Twilio.

OpenAI tech — **$500K**
OpenAI is a tech company that produces AI models.

Non-Profit Housing Association of California — **$407.7K**
NPH is an organization that works on issues around affordable housing.

Jeffrey Lawson tech — **$350K**
Jeffrey Lawson is the co-founder of the tech platform Twilio and CEO of Inertia, an energy company. He also owns *The Onion*, a satirical news site.

Matthew Paige finance — **$275.5K**
Matthew Paige is an investor and vice president at Z2 Capital Partners, an investment firm.

Tony Salewski finance — **$250K**
Anthony Salewski is managing partner at Genstar Capital, an investment firm.

Visa finance — **$250K**
Visa is a payments technology company.

S.F. economy will take a hit if Muni measure fails, controller warns

Report says city's GDP would grow $310 to $400 million over 15 years by passing measure

By Kelly Waldron | Sept. 16, 2026

Potential cuts to San Francisco's public transit system would be significantly worse for the city's economy than the effects of a proposed parcel tax to fund it, according to a new analysis from the controller's office released Wednesday.

The report analyzed Proposition H, which is on the Nov. 3 ballot and would impose a parcel tax to raise money for Muni. The city would net 800 to 1,445 additional jobs over 15 years and increase its GDP by between $310 and $400 million by passing the measure, but not doing so would result in a "substantially worse transportation system," the report warned.

"While the parcel tax carries an economic cost, this analysis finds it would clearly be a smaller cost than these significant cuts to Muni services," the report reads.

City officials stand united in support for Prop. H and the measure is heavily funded by the city's downtown businesses. It has become a priority for Mayor Daniel Lurie, who campaigned on reversing San Francisco's downtown decline.

Without the cash infusion from Prop. H, Muni would face steep service cuts that could include reducing frequency on certain routes by up to 50 percent, suspending less-used lines and reducing nighttime service. That would be devastating to downtown recovery, which rests on frequent transit for workers, shoppers, and people about town.

The San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency faces a large deficit, and Prop. H would generate an estimated $184 million in annual revenue, according to the controller's office and the SFMTA.

Homeowners would account for 25 percent of the tax revenue, while commercial property owners would account for 75 percent. The parcel tax would remain in place for 15 years.

Separately, another tax measure is also on the ballot: A regional sales tax that would raise funds for transit systems across the Bay Area, including Muni, BART and Caltrain. That measure was not factored into the controller's analysis.

The projections for Muni without the parcel tax are dire: Should the transit agency make cuts, there would be an estimated 18 percent decrease in "unlinked" Muni trips (those are trips where riders don't transfer to BART or other transit) and more than 15,000 hours of trip delay per weekday for San Francisco residents. Transit's share of all trips taken would also go down by 1.5 percent.

The SFMTA has relied on a number of short-term solutions to temporarily plug its growing deficit. Prop. H, as well as the regional tax measure, would provide a long-term financial reprieve and let the agency maintain full service.

The report details the number of ways in which a reduced transit network would affect the local economy. A system with more delays and fewer connections would reduce the number of people who can work in San Francisco, increase commute times and reduce labor productivity.

The report acknowledges that, whether the measure passes or fails, property values will decrease. For residential properties, the drop is more severe if it fails: The tax would drive residential property values down by 0.2 percent, the report estimated, but transit cuts would drive values down by 0.6 to 0.9 percent.

The opposite is true for non-residential properties: The tax would drive the values of non-residential properties down by an average of 1.9 percent, but the transit cuts would decrease their value by some 1.1 percent.

"This analysis suggests that the potential service cuts would be far worse for the local economy than the parcel tax," the report reads. "They would make it more expensive for employers to create jobs in the city, make workers less productive, and consume residents' leisure time, hurting their quality of life."



Passengers entering the bus on 16th and Mission Streets at roughly 8:30 am on Wednesday June 24, 2026. Photo by Zoe Malen.

Sunset Dunes becomes proxy battle in San Francisco congressional race

Scott Wiener wrote the official argument against Prop. G. Connie Chan backs it, quietly.

By Yujie Zhou | Sept. 12, 2026

Proposition G, the November measure that seeks to reopen the area now known as Sunset Dunes Park to cars on weekdays, has cleaved the two San Francisco congressional candidates: Sen. Scott Wiener is against the measure, and District 1 Supervisor Connie Chan is for it.

It may yet become a key issue in the race, and it is not clear who will come out on top.

Prop. G is a favorite on the Westside, where more than 60 percent of voters in the Richmond and Sunset neighborhoods opposed the 2024 proposition that closed the Great Highway to cars and turned it into a permanent park.

Chan, the Richmond supervisor, is certain to profit from an aggrieved base of residents heading to the polls in a long-shot attempt to revert the park back to a road. But the congressional race is citywide, and there Wiener may take the advantage: San Franciscans voted 55 to 45 in favor of the park two years ago.

While Chan's stance is seen as a winner on the Westside, Wiener is banking that it's a winner for him across San Francisco.

"For every vote on the Westside that potentially is Yes on G, there's also many folks in the center, north and eastern parts of the city that are No on G," said Wiener campaign spokesperson Joe Arellano.

Wiener is embracing the difference. He has authored the official argument against the measures, which will be printed on the information pamphlet sent to every voter, and spoke at the No on G campaign's Aug. 16 kickoff.

His satellite campaign office in the Richmond, created to court Westside voters, features posters reading "We love Sunset Dunes."

Chan is more reticent. She supports Prop. G, according to her campaign, but has not publicly interacted with the Yes on G campaign. The measure's opponents, in fact, did not realize Chan had taken a position until they were contacted by Mission Local.

"I always heard she was not going to get involved with G," said Jane Natoli, a Richmond resident and YIMBY leader involved in both Wiener's race and the No on G campaign. Others echoed Natoli's remarks.

Chan's recent timidity is notable. Before June, she was a standard-bearer for reopening the Upper Great Highway. In April last year she wrote in the Richmond Review that she wanted to explore a ballot measure to partially reopen the road, and in January she was the first to sign an ultimately failed measure that would have done so.

Asked to comment on the perception that she is now keeping the issue at arm's length, Chan said in a written statement that Prop. G is a community-driven effort by Westside residents to "put forward their vision for the future of the Great Highway and let their fellow San Franciscans decide."



A group of bikers ride on Sunset Dunes park in March 2026. Photo by Junyao Yang.

Observers of the congressional races say Prop. G will help both candidates with voters they need. But it isn't clear who will benefit more.

Having Prop. G on the ballot "will probably bump the turnout on the Westside, particularly areas where the Great Highway has a direct impact," said political consultant David Ho, who runs a pro-Chan political action committee. That may bring out less politically engaged residents to vote for Chan.

Prop. G supporters are also more likely to use the measure as a litmus test when weighing who to send to Congress, said Jamie Hughes, leader of the Yes on G campaign. Already, observers of the race said, many Yes on G voters are for Chan — and against Wiener.

Even the official rebuttal from Prop. G proponents attacks Chan's rival: The statement, titled "Scott Wiener turns his back on serious safety concerns," will also appear in the voter pamphlet.

"We're angry out here," said Sunset community leader and Chan supporter Albert Chow, one of the early opponents of Sunset Dunes. "She is true to her Richmond folks. She's listening to them. They're being boxed in and so is the Sunset, of course."

Still, Ho acknowledged, "it makes sense for Scott to preserve and maintain his core base of supporters" by being vocal in support of the park — that is, YIMBYs and urbanists, who have long counted Wiener as the dean of pro-housing, pro-transit policies.

Wiener being the poster child for No on G gives him a chance "to remind some of those more progressive voters that he's on the right side of the issue," argued Natoli, the No on G and pro-Wiener organizer. About 36,000 more voters in 2024 opted to open the park than keep it a road, after all. And the California 11th congressional district is even more pro-park because it excludes the Excelsior area, which voted for keeping cars on the road.

Prop. G has put Chan in a bit of a bind, because it is "an issue that doesn't fit neatly within our political divide," said Natoli.

The No on G coalition, for example, also includes Chan endorsers and former supervisors Eric Mar, Gordon Mar and Dean Preston. Wiener and Preston are "not the kind of people that you see on the same side of stuff that much," but both have endorsed No on G.

And that may be why Chan is taking more of an "if asked, I'll answer, but I'm not going to bring this up" approach toward Prop. G, said Natoli. "It's a shrewd way of approaching it."

Meet the congressional candidates: What are your foreign policy stances?

In our "Meet the Candidates" series, we ask the congressional candidates for the Nov. 3, 2026 election one question each week. Candidates are asked to answer questions on policy, ideology, and more in 100 words or fewer. Scan the QR code to read the full series.

Q1: Would you block the sale of weapons to Israel?



CONNIE CHAN

I would co-sponsor the Block the Bombs Act with the understanding that the Netanyahu government, at this moment, has violated human rights and committed war crimes ,and the United States should not be aiding that effort.



SCOTT WIENER

The Block the Bombs Act is aligned with where I am. The one caveat I would say is that the Block the Bombs Act, right now, is permanent. I think that it should be for a set period of time, and then reviewed to see if the situation has changed in terms of the Israeli government.

As a Jew, I believe strongly in the critical importance of Israel's existence as a Jewish homeland that matters to Jews globally. Israel matters to me. That's why it's particularly painful to me that we have a government in Israel that is so extremist and messianic. That includes people who are just vile, in my view, such as [Itamar] Ben-Gvir and [Bezalel] Smotrich. My hope, as a Jew, is that in the future, Israel will have a different kind of government that's committed to peace and democracy.

Q2: Should the U.S. use force to defend Taiwan if it is invaded by China?



CONNIE CHAN

The U.S. has a longstanding one-China policy since 1979, and that also comes with the Taiwan Relations Act in the same year. The goal is that the United States will always act as an agent for peace. That is the position that I'm going to be consistent with.

There is no reason to impose an arms embargo on Taiwan at the moment. Arms sales to Taiwan from the U.S. government has been a very longstanding policy that has been affirmed by both Republican and Democratic presidents.

I was born in Hong Kong. I went to grade school in Taiwan. My family roots clearly trace back to China. I think, on a personal level, that I do appreciate this longstanding U.S. one-China policy, and also the Taiwan Relations Act since 1979. I still have family in Hong Kong. I have friends in Taiwan, and definitely still have family back in China. I know that everyday people living in Hong Kong and Taiwan and China would always hope for peace, and would always hope for a stabilized economy where they can actually travel and visit.

To somehow think of them as just simply one space and not the other, that there's no linkage of people, that people don't travel, and that people don't do business or have family and friends all across, that's not us. We have all those linkages all across. For me, that's deeply personal.



SCOTT WIENER

The U.S. should support Taiwan's defense, and I support the current U.S. policy of selling defensive arms to Taiwan.

Q3: Have free trade agreements like NAFTA and USMCA benefited the U.S.?



CONNIE CHAN

No. The United States, in terms of what we have gained from the agreement, has consistently projected less than what we thought it was going to be. I would be in a position to support the renegotiation of NAFTA, and particularly to ensure that labor standards are consistent across the board.



SCOTT WIENER

I think that NAFTA has had some benefits, for sure. But it's also had some real detriments, in terms of so much manufacturing leaving the US. We've seen communities that have gone into free-fall. NAFTA went beyond where it should have gone.

There was the reform back in 2018, 2019, and NAFTA should be subject to reevaluation. I'm not saying get rid of it, but we want to make sure that American workers are being treated fairly and environmental standards, etc..

But with all of that said, Canada and Mexico are critical trading partners for the US, and we should not be engaging in firehose trade wars with them.

Joe Eskenazi's column:
Joe Eskenazi is the managing editor and columnist at Mission Local. "Your humble narrator" reports on the people and power that run San Francisco. Scan the QR code to read more.

San Francisco's wealthiest have unprecedented control of city politics

Our city fathers (if you like them) or oligarchs (if you don't) have never been richer, more brazen or faced weaker opposition

Sept. 28, 2026

San Francisco is a pricey town; the $3 the 49ers paid for an egg during the Gold Rush days translates into well over $100 in today's money.

Money in politics has been prodigious for quite some time, too. But a Rubicon of sorts was crossed this year when crypto billionaire Chris Larsen, apparently proactively, dropped a $500,000 donation into a PAC supporting District 10 supervisor aspirant Theo Ellington, the mayor's pick.

Ellington was already, far and away, the fundraising leader in this race. He is widely viewed as the prohibitive favorite. So that's a bit of a head-scratcher. Or maybe not: A $500,000 donation for Larsen is the equivalent of a person with a net worth of $1 million giving $36.50.

So it wasn't just the (staggering) size of the donation that caught politicians' eyes, it was the casualness of it.

Yes, unions put $1 million into re-electing Supervisor Connie Chan in 2024 — but that was a broad consortium of organized labor in a months-long campaign. This was a single individual dropping half-a-mil the way folks pull out their wallets to buy a bacon-wrapped hot dog.

Larsen could do this again tomorrow if he felt like it — and the next day, and the next day, and all the way to election day.

"And here's what no one likes to talk about," says a city campaign strategist. Politicians "don't do things because of money or they think they'll get money. They do things because they're worried money will be spent against them."



Illustration by Neil Ballard.

Politics, it turns out, is one of the more affordable and efficient pastimes for free-spending billionaires. It's cheaper than fast cars or art or even the incredible philanthropy that many of our biggest political donors engage in.

And here's the thing: The ROI is significant. You can't solve world hunger or homelessness or climate change, even with massive, ongoing philanthropic donations.

But you can, absolutely, politically remake a city for a small fraction of the price of a Van Gogh or a McLaren.

It's election season again, and that means you can't venture into the virtual world without stumbling into Mayor Daniel Lurie.

To wit: A San Francisco political strategist plays YouTube videos of chirping birds to either amuse, placate or torment his cat, Lucy. And, like clockwork, after five minutes of tweeting and flapping and squawking, there's Lurie, imploring Lucy to vote for his Measures D, E and F to strengthen and consolidate mayoral power.

Higher-ups in organized labor confirm they are, perhaps monomaniacally, putting all of their blood and treasure behind Chan's congressional race.

Lurie and his allies, meanwhile, have enough money in their collective couch cushions to pour $11 million into his ballot-measure campaign — more money raised than every other proposition on the ballot combined, largely financed by a cadre of millionaires and billionaires.

This means that there will be no significant opposition to the mayor's measures, even though Prop. D would quadruple the signature-gathering requirements to place items on the ballot — a significant hurdle for labor unions, neighborhood types or anyone not wealthy enough to plaster ads between bird videos for cats.

Of note, $4.5 million has been spent to date to signature-gather for these ballot measures, one of which would make it harder for you to signature-gather items onto the ballot.

That's a bad look; Lucy is unimpressed. But it's hard to imagine the city's human voters are going to spurn this mayor's wishes. Certainly not without a coherent and decently funded opposition campaign.

There has always been a lot of money in San Francisco politics and there have always been rich and politically influential city figures — your Fishers, your Hellmans, your Bernsteins — going back to the days when Samuel Brannan shouted to all who'd hear, "Gold! Gold from the American River!"

In the present day, however, the city's rich have never been richer, more brazen or faced with less pushback and less viable opposition. They are spending more and asking for more. Today's big shots don't just ask for more cops (and cameras) in their neighborhood, a sweetheart development deal or a tax cut (but they do want those t

Scan the QR code to finish reading

Scott Wiener and Connie Chan both want to rein in AI. They disagree on how to do that.

Even canvassers are learning a new language on how to address voters' AI questions

By Brandon Pho | Sept. 21, 2026

Several months ago, campaign door-knockers in San Francisco's congressional race to replace Nancy Pelosi might have only fielded general questions about their bosses' stance on AI.

But after Anthropic researcher Jacob Coxon's Sept. 8 public flameout triggered widespread alarm about AI firms "gambling with our lives," campaign foot soldiers are boning up for somewhat different conversations.

Volunteers and organizers with state Sen. Scott Wiener's campaign are training themselves on how to give voters a crash course on AI safety, starting with translating industry jargon into terms voters can grasp, according to two campaign workers.

Words like "guardrails" or "kill switches" are now to be avoided for campaign canvassers, the workers said. Both connote danger. Instead, better to use "safety controls" and "emergency shutdowns."

Still, AI hasn't moved to the front of either campaign's ground game, according to workers from both campaigns. The issue has taken the backseat to more urgent questions about affordable housing between voters and canvassers for Wiener's rival, Connie Chan, according to one worker for the District 1 supervisor's congressional campaign.

It's just one measure of how AI safety, which has lagged behind cost-of-living concerns in San Francisco, has become a growing focus in November, affecting the language canvassers use, a closer scrutiny of campaign donations, a candidate's expertise, and their policy statements.

Door-knockers, the candidates, and their positions

"We went back to school with ourselves," one of the two Wiener campaign workers said. "We've had to do training with field staff to take these terms and make them more accessible to the public."

It's about meeting voters where they are, one worker said. "Our canvassers say — after that Jacob Coxon tweet — people have gone from asking, 'What is your stance on AI?' to 'How will you regulate it?'"

The issue has "taken on a life of its own," the worker added.



Chan has, along with more than a dozen lawmakers across the country, signed the "AI Pact," in which she committed to opposing tax breaks and subsidies for data centers, mandating safety reviews for major AI products before release, supporting localities' rights to regulate AI, and other stances.

Wiener, in turn, has publicly pointed to his record of authoring first-in-the-nation AI safety bills, one of which, SB 1047, was vetoed by Gov. Gavin Newsom after critics — including Pelosi, who is backing Chan in the race — dismissed the law, saying it's based on "hypothetical" concerns.

Some of the bill's critics have since switched their stance on Wiener's original bill amid consensus from AI safety advocates that Newsom's veto was a mistake.

"The risk of an AI-driven catastrophe has rocketed up in the public consciousness. People are rightly concerned that AI is being built without guardrails or oversight, and they want to see someone with a plan to tackle those issues on day one," Wiener said.

"I began working on these issues in 2023, and I have the knowledge and the skills to lead the fight to protect the public from AI risks on day one."

Chan said her approach regulates AI based on its capabilities, how it is used and whom it could harm.

"The defining question is whether AI will improve life for working people, or become another tool for billionaires and corporations to eliminate jobs, raise costs and concentrate wealth and power," Chan said. "Scott's so-called 'signature law' focuses on only the largest frontier models and the aftermath of catastrophic circumstances."

U.S. lawmakers — some of whom severely lack AI literacy — are now scrambling to come to some bipartisan agreement on comprehensive federal AI regulation where none currently exists.

Both Wiener and Chan agree that AI will displace large numbers of workers and needs strict safeguards and monitoring, and that Congress has been slow to act.

Scan the QR code to finish reading

'We need a jingle': Will voters know the 'Yes-No-No' ballot sequence to pass California's wealth tax?

It won't be as simple as voting 'Yes' on Prop. 40, proponents fret. Ballots are now being mailed out.

By Brandon Pho | Oct. 6, 2026

Spirits, for the most part, were high in the San Francisco Hibernia's Beaux-Arts halls on Monday, where a who's who of wealth tax champions gathered at the "US vs Billionaires" summit in the grand old building at the junction of Jones, Market and McAllister.

But a lingering concern for many attendees was the logistics of passing Proposition 40, the California billionaire tax: Ballots started going out that same day to California's 23 million registered voters, and most of them will need to make a sequence of deliberate choices to pass the tax: They need to mark "Yes" on Prop. 40, and "No" on Propositions 41 and 42.

If Prop. 40 gets more votes than Prop. 41 and Prop. 42, the billionaire tax survives. But it will fail if either 41 or 42 gets more votes. So — one "Yes" and two "No's."

Even at the conference of progressive authors, researchers, lawmakers and think tank leaders who came from different parts of the state and country, some did not know that was the case, and many more were worried: 25 guests told Mission Local they were not confident voters had gotten the message. The question caused some to shake their heads or groan over lunch.

"We need a jingle — an earworm jingle of some sort for advertisements," one guest proposed to his table during a panel break. Oakland musician Mistah F.A.B. knew this much two days earlier, rapping the ballot instructions, "Yes on Prop. 40, no on 41 and 42," to a crowd that had come to see Sen. Bernie Sanders at the Curran Theater on Saturday.

Those at the table exchanged nods and affirming grunts.



Congressman Ro Khanna (left) and billionaire Tom Steyer (middle). Photo by Brandon Pho.

"I have said 'No on 41 and 42' to Uber drivers, to people randomly standing in line for things," said Frank Jernigan, a retired Google millionaire and co-founder of Patriotic Millionaires, a group of the rich agitating for wealth redistribution. "Almost nobody I have talked to knew about it before."

The Hibernia conference featured a series of on-stage panels hosted by a group called Excessive Wealth, with everyone from Rep. Ro Khanna to anti-billionaire millionaires rousing a room of proponents for American wealth redistribution over the course of eight hours.

California political 'machine'

Prop. 40's opponents have backed the two other "poison pill" ballot measures. Those measures would sink the tax if they get more votes. Prop. 41 prohibits new state taxes that exclude revenues from the state spending limit, and Prop. 42 prohibits new state personal property taxes and certain retroactive state taxes.

The confusion is intentional, most supporters said. Google co-founder Sergey Brin has spent $328 million on the campaign to kill Prop. 40 and back the other two measures, according to campaign finance filings. SEIU-United Healthcare Workers West, which is leading the pro-Prop. 40 coalition, has spent $38 million so far this year by comparison, filings show.

A New York Times list of recent polling shows more Californians generally favor the wealth tax, but most polls showed support at less than 50 percent as of Tuesday.

Prop. 40's fate will to some extent shape the long-term political course of the guests who had gathered near the civic center. Speakers included San Francisco Supervisors Bilal Mahmood and Chyanne Chen and "The Nerd Reich" author Gil Duran.

The wealth tax has notably faced opposition from Gov. Gavin Newsom and his would-be Democratic successor, Xavier Becerra, who's running against Republican Steve Hilton in November.

Not only has Newsom broken with the California Democratic Party on opposing the measure — he's become as prominent an opponent as the billionaires, arguing the state faces heavy losses to its tax base, and thus its funding for services like schools, should billionaires choose to leave California. The San Francisco Democratic Party changed its bylaws, in a rare move, to buck the state party and vote to oppose the wealth tax in August.

Rep. Khanna of San Jose has in recent days railed against Newsom over his efforts to kill Prop. 40. He's also considering a run for president in 2028. During the Monday conference's fireside chat with pro-wealth tax billionaire Tom Steyer — the failed Democratic primary contender for governor — Khanna broadened his targets to a California political machine that he said frequently goes against voters' wishes.

"California is a machine-dominated political state. They brag about it ... they still like to revere [former San Francisco mayor] Willie Brown ... the Getty Machine. You know why I speak the truth? It's because [House Speaker Emerita] Nancy Pelosi, who I respect, endorsed against me three times when I ran for Congress ... Ron Conway ... this whole cabal ... Xavier Becerra is part of this machine," Khanna said.

All the panels on Monday sought to answer this question: How do you wrest power from the billionaires and put it in the hands of working people? Those talks supplied a number of eye-popping statistics, including this: By the conference's sixth hour, the combined wealth of the world's richest individuals grew by $4 billion, as purported by a live tracker run by the event's organizers.

Mayor Lurie's charter measures raise stunning $11M, more than all others combined

San Francisco on par to have another very expensive election cycle, filings show

By Kelly Waldron | Sept. 11, 2026



The exterior of San Francisco City Hall on August 21, 2026. Photo by Zoe Malen. Photo by Zoe Malen.

Mayor Daniel Lurie's package of three charter measures are the most expensive issues on the ballot, according to new campaign finance filings released Thursday.

The mayor's committee pushing the three measures, "Clean Up City Hall," has raised over $11 million so far. That is more than all the other local ballot measures combined this cycle, and comes from a host of wealthy donors, including several billionaires.

The three measures — Propositions D, E, and F — would make it harder to put measures on the ballot (Prop. D), give the city administrator more authority over the city's contracts (Prop. E) and expand mayoral power (Prop. F).
Much of that money, $4.5 million, was already spent gathering signatures to qualify the measures. But a chunk of the rest is likely to be spent on advertising to tout the measures' benefits far and wide; already, since July, the committee has spent $928,281 on digital ads. It has some $3.5 million cash on hand.

The three measures follow previous attempts to amend San Francisco's charter.

In 2024, a proposed measure that would have expanded mayoral powers and overhauled the city's commissions raised over $9 million, and failed spectacularly. That measure was backed by the political advocacy group then known as TogetherSF (and now SF Blueprint), then-mayoral candidate Mark Farrell and billionaire Michael Moritz, who spent heavily on the measure.

These new proposals, put forward by Mayor Lurie along with Board of Supervisors President Rafael Mandelman, are based on a report from SPUR, an urbanist think tank.

Opposition to the measures is limited: There is one committee registered against Prop. D, the measure that would raise the city's signature threshold for qualifying a measure from two percent of the electorate to eight percent.

That committee, "Fair Access, No on D" has raised $110,700. Most of that, $80,000, came from TODCO, an affordable housing developer. It is an order of magnitude less money.

The new numbers come from filings released Thursday that show money raised between July 1 and September 19.

On par with previous election cycles, the filings show this November election is shaping up to be very expensive.

Fundraising for the ballot measures is staggering: Over $19 million is going toward the 10 measures on the ballot.

- Proposition H, the Muni parcel tax measure, has continued to receive large contributions from corporations based downtown and invested in San Francisco's downtown recovery. Mayor Lurie's committee supporting the measure has raised $5 million.

- No on G, the committee raising to keep Sunset Dunes park, has amassed at least $352,800 — over three times more than the Yes on G committee advocating to re-open the Great Highway to cars.

Other competitive races, including the supervisor races in districts 8 and 10, continue to draw in more money — and, in a more recent development, PAC money.

District 8

Manny Yekutiel dropped out of the race on Oct. 1, 2026 due to a series of sexual assualt allegations. His name will still be on the ballot.

Yekutiel has previously raised a total of $522,958, with only $13,517 in the most recent reporting period, in addition to $255,000 from the city's public financing program. Gary McCoy, his chief rival, has raised $123,450 and has received $217,524 in public funds.

A PAC was started raising money to support Yekutiel. The committee, "Team Manny, Manny Yekutiel For Supervisor 2026," has raised $104,000, including $50,000 from SF Believes, a Lurie-aligned PAC. GrowSF, a political advocacy group has also spent at least $120,000 supporting his campaign.

That was in spite of a sexual assault allegation made by Brad Joseph Chapin, a political activist and former Harvey Milk LGBTQ Democratic Club board member, which was first reported in The San Francisco Standard on June 30.

McCoy, however, has the support of several labor organizations, including a labor PAC representing several unions that has recently received most of its money from the International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers, which represents thousands of city workers. That PAC has spent some $228,000 backing his campaign.

PAC spending in support of McCoy is slightly more than that backing Yekutiel.

The other two candidates, Michael Nguyen and Darshini Patel, have raised $73,029 and $44,811, respectively.

District 10

In District 10, PAC money has also flooded the supervisor race: Chris Larsen, a cryptocurrency billionaire, paid out $500,000 to a PAC, "From The Neighborhood, For The City, Supporting Theo Ellington For Supervisor 2026."

The contribution was possibly the largest from an individual to a supervisor's campaign in city history, and came as a surprise to Ellington: The two had only had "a couple of brief conversations" prior to the donation, Ellington said, and Ellington already had a strong fundraising lead before the gift.

That single contribution is more than Ellington's candidate committee has received from contributions and public financing combined.

Larsen's money went to an independent committee that cannot legally coordinate with Ellington's campaign. So far, it has only spent $83,000 of the $500,000 it's raised so far: $50,000 to a company named Them Apples LLC, for video (presumably for an ad) and another $25,000 in a contribution to the San Francisco Democratic Party, which has endorsed Ellington. The other $82,000 in PAC spending came from GrowSF's committee.

Ellington's two chief opponents, J.R. Eppler and DJ Brookter, have raised $59,000 and $85,000, respectively.

School board

In the school board race, eight candidates are vying for three seats and most have joined formal or informal slates: One, backed by GrowSF, is made up of school board president Phil Kim, customer-success manager Autumn Brown Garibay, and analyst Tim Tung, the brother of San Francisco Democratic Party Chair and GrowSF ally Nancy Tung.

Garibay and Kim have raised the most so far, and along with Tung, will benefit from GrowSF's third-party spending: The group has pledged to pour in more money to the school board race in November than it did in June, when it shelled out $220,000 to support Kim. The group appears to eschew the connotation of a slate — they are not actively campaigning together — but GrowSF will spend to elect all three.

The other main slate is that of the teachers union, made up of community organizer Reina Loli-Tello, nonprofit executive Ryan Hazelton, and Virginia Cheung, a parent and nonprofit worker who was the union's pick in June and finished second. (The union spent some $109,000 to back Cheung in the June election). Those three embrace the slate — its slogan is "Teachers vs. Billionaires" — and campaign closely together.

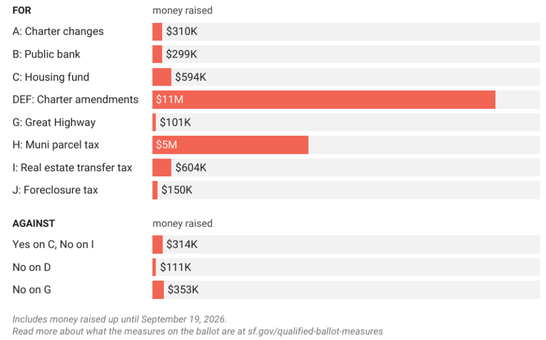
Two of the union's picks, Reina Tello and Ryan Hazelton, have raised $20,000 and $31,000, respectively. The union has spent another $30,000 supporting both candidates. It will likely spend more.

Alida Fisher is part of the SF Parents Action slate, which also includes Kim and Garibay. Fisher is an incumbent, and has raised $4,000. Laurence Lee, the unaffiliated candidate, has raised $6,000.

Charts by Kelly Waldron. Data from San Farncisco Ethics Commission.

Charter amendment measures have raised more than all other measures combined

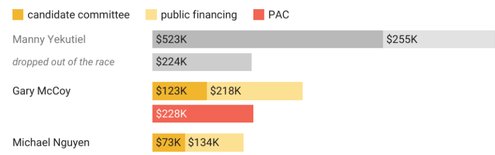
Money raised for measures on the San Francisco November ballot



Includes money raised up until September 19, 2026.
Read more about what the measures on the ballot are at sf.gov/qualified-ballot-measures

Manny Yekutiel dropped out of the race, Gary McCoy leads in fundraising and PAC support

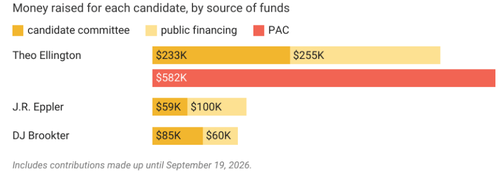
Money raised for each candidate, by source of funds



Includes contributions made up until September 19, 2026.

Theo Ellington has raised far more than opponents, and has strong PAC support

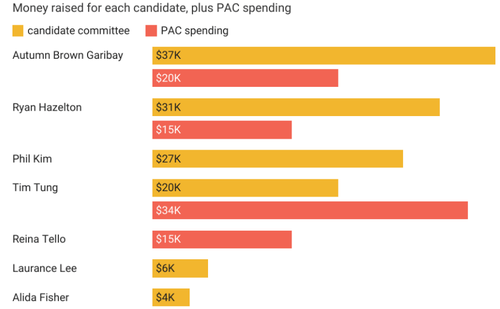
Money raised for each candidate, by source of funds



Includes contributions made up until September 19, 2026.

Autumn Brown Garibay and Ryan Hazelton in lead for fundraising in school board race

Money raised for each candidate, plus PAC spending



Includes contributions made up until September 19, 2026.

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