



**CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
2007 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR 110th Congress**

Housing/Homelessness

- **Homeless Assistance**—Reducing homelessness is a top priority for the City. As of January 2005, the City counted 6,248 individuals as homeless. A new count is scheduled for January 2007. San Francisco’s key strategy for reducing homelessness is to build more supportive housing under the Mayor’s “Housing First” initiative. Since December 2003 the City has built approximately 1,900 new supportive housing units, bringing the 2006 total to 3,100 units of permanent supportive housing for single adults.

The City strongly urges Congress to provide increased funding for homeless assistance within the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). In addition, we urge adoption of the Services to End Long Term Homelessness Act within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) which would provide necessary, new funding for supportive services for persons experiencing chronic homelessness to ensure they succeed in their housing. This dedicated source of funding within HHS for supportive services will greatly assist with the continued development of San Francisco’s permanent supportive housing units.

We will also work to reauthorize the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, provides vital Continuum of Care funding for the City. This year San Francisco has applied for \$18.8 million in McKinney funds. We will seek to preserve and expand Federal resources for San Francisco’s homeless programs, including Project Homeless Connect, a national best practice originated under the Mayor that has now been implemented by 32 cities across the U.S. and has serviced 10,642 homeless clients in the City.

- **Homeless Veterans/Homeownership Assistance for Veterans**—Support increased resources for supportive housing for chronically homeless veterans. The Veterans Administration (VA) estimates that nearly 200,000 veterans are living on the streets or in shelters, and twice as many experience homelessness at some point during the course of a year. This population faces multiple barriers—severe mental illness, addiction, physical disabilities, unemployment and poverty. Without a stable place to live and a support system, most homeless veterans bounce from the streets to shelters to public and VA hospitals to psychiatric institutions and detox centers. Veterans account for a significant and growing number of chronically homeless in San Francisco. 15% of the residents in the City’s Housing First program are veterans.

In addition, we urge support for the American Veterans Homeownership Act, which would allow the Cal-Vet Home Loan program to be offered to any California veteran. With the high cost of housing in San Francisco and throughout California, this program may be one of the only opportunities some veterans have for homeownership. Federal law currently restricts veterans eligible for home loan programs financed by

state tax exempt bonds, called Qualified Veterans Mortgage Bonds (QVMB), to those that entered the military prior to January 1, 1977. This prevents veterans of recent and future conflicts from this important veterans benefit. The State of California is rapidly reaching the point where no veterans are eligible for loans financed by QVMB. The American Veterans Homeownership Act would eliminate the current law's restriction for eligible veterans.

- **Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers**—Support full funding of Section 8 and ensure any reform of the program enhances, and does not further erode, the program. This program, which assists very low-income families, the elderly, and the disabled afford decent, safe and sanitary housing, is essential to San Francisco. The City receives 7,400 Section 8 vouchers funded at over \$120 million and has a waiting list with over 25,000 applicants.
- **Home Investment Partnerships Program (HOME)**—Support increased funding for the HOME program, which provides important formula funding to San Francisco and local governments nationwide to create affordable housing for low-income households. San Francisco currently receives approximately \$8 million in HOME funds.
- **Public Housing**—Oppose cuts to public housing programs within HUD, which are greatly hampering the City's efforts to operate and revitalize public housing. This year, San Francisco Housing Authority's (SFHA) funds to operate its approximately 6,300 units have already been reduced twice. The agency received only 92 percent of needed funds in the first half of the year. Due largely to increases in the cost of utilities, SFHA received only 85 percent of needed funds in the second half of the year. Using the formula developed by HUD, the proposed funding will cover only 78 percent of the public housing authorities' expenses. For SFHA, this shortfall will result in a loss of over \$4 million, in addition to the losses in 2006.

In addition, under HUD's new formula for distributing public housing operating funds, many housing authorities will lose funding, and SFHA is among the ten cities that will lose the most. HUD will limit SFHA's losses to five percent if the agency converts to a new system of budgeting, but HUD has not provided enough time or guidance for housing authorities to make the transition.

- **National Housing Trust Fund**—Support the creation of a National Housing Trust Fund to help fund the production of new housing, and the preservation or rehabilitation of existing housing that is affordable for low-income people. The Trust Fund should be capitalized with ongoing, permanent, dedicated and sufficient resources of revenue and not come from revenues that are currently funding other federal housing programs. The goal of the Fund is to produce, rehabilitate, and preserve 1,500,000 units of housing over the next 10 years.

Health

- **Universal Health Care**—Support efforts to provide universal access to health care for all individuals. Nationwide, there are approximately 46.6 million persons uninsured. In San Francisco alone, we have an estimated 82,000 uninsured adult residents-15% of our population. These residents have limited access to routine preventive care, suffer from poorer health outcomes, delay seeking treatment when ill and ultimately

rely on more costly episodic or emergency care for health conditions that could be treated in primary care settings.

San Francisco is the first City in the nation to initiate a plan to provide health care coverage to all of the City's uninsured residents. Under San Francisco's comprehensive Health Access Program, we will be providing the uninsured with timely access to high quality health care services covering preventive care, primary care, specialty care, urgent and emergency care, laboratory services, inpatient hospitalization, x-ray services and pharmaceuticals.

- **HIV/AIDS**—According to San Francisco's Department of Public Health, San Francisco has the highest per capita prevalence of people living with AIDS, the third highest number of total AIDS cases in the U.S, and there are more people living with HIV in our Eligible Metropolitan Area (EMA), which includes San Mateo and Marin Counties, than at any point in the history of the epidemic. To assist San Francisco care for people living with HIV/AIDS, we strongly urge that Congress: 1) allocates \$70 million in FY 2007 funds to help mitigate the reduction in Title I funds to cities like San Francisco under the recently passed Ryan White CARE Act reauthorization bill; and 2) increase the FY 2008 Title I funds to meet localities' needs in caring for persons living with HIV/AIDS.
- **SCHIP Reauthorization**—Support the reauthorization of the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), which is scheduled to expire on September 30, 2007, and ensure that the funding level is sufficient to support California's Healthy Families Program. California makes health coverage accessible to millions of children through the Healthy Families and Medi-Cal Programs using state and federal funds. Healthy Families currently provides low-cost health coverage to over 750,000 children, thereby reducing the number of children who would otherwise be uninsured.
- **Medicaid**—Ensure that Medicaid is adequately funded and maintains sufficient flexibility to enable states and localities to meet the needs of their populations, and oppose efforts by the Department of Health and Human Services to administratively cut the program. Nearly one-third of the City's public health budget comes from the Medicaid program. These funds are critical resources for the approximately 15% of San Franciscans who rely on Medicaid, as well as the approximately 14% of uninsured San Franciscans who receive care through the City's network of hospital and clinic-based services. Further cuts to Medicaid would severely strain San Francisco's safety net.

Public Safety

- **Crime Prevention**—San Francisco is committed to maintaining a safe community for all of its residents and is committed to reducing the overall level of crime in the City. The City strongly urges that the federal government renew its investment in grant programs that support community policing efforts, such as the COPS program, as well as, anti-drug, anti-violence, crime lab and gang prevention funding to cities.
- **Gun Control**—Strongly oppose legislation that would weaken laws governing the sale of firearms and restrict the access of local law enforcement to crime gun trace data gathered by the Department of Justice. At a time when cities nationwide, including

San Francisco, are fighting increased gun violence in our cities, we need more tools, not fewer, to remove dangerous guns from our streets.

- **Urban Area Security Initiative and Homeland Security Grant Programs—** Maximize funding for the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI), port security, mass transit security, biological terrorism, and other federal funding available to high-threat areas, like San Francisco, to address terrorist threats.

In addition, in FY 2006, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) consolidated the existing 50 UASI cities into 35 areas to apply for and receive funding. Three of the six major consolidations of UASI cities occurred in California, including a new Bay Area Super-UASI that combined San Francisco, Oakland, and San Jose. We led a major effort to put together a joint, 3-city, 10-county application in an expedited timeframe and were awarded \$22.66 by DHS of the total \$332.2 million requested to fund the Bay Area's homeland security needs. In the next round of grants, management of this new process would be helped by DHS designating San Francisco, which is the highest threat City in the Bay Area, as the core city in the Super-UASI.

Homeland Security Funding for San Francisco

UASI FY 03:	\$28.94 million
UASI FY 04:	\$26.35 million
UASI FY 05:	\$21.37 million
UASI FY 06 :	\$22.66 million – total for entire Bay Area under Super-UASI
Non-UASI:	\$ 7.94 million (est.)

Grand Total = \$107.26 million

- **Transit Security—** Support new federal appropriations to enhance the security and safety of the nation's transportation systems. In order for security funds to result in increased safety, funds must be targeted to high threat transit systems, such as San Francisco Muni which is the 7th largest transit system in the nation, carrying over 700,000 passengers per day. San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (MTA) has initially identified over \$200 million in transit security needs. These costs include surveillance equipment, equipment to secure stations and subway tunnels, emergency communication equipment and systems. In addition, security ultimately depends on people, but Federal money only pays for capital expenses. We need more flexibility to spend federal funds on training people.
- **Port Security—**Support maximum funding to assist the City's port facilities prepare for, respond to and recover from chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive (CBRNE) threats and attacks. San Francisco maintains a heavily used and busy port facility that is vulnerable to CBRNE threats. The Port of San Francisco is the leading passenger port of the 11 public California ports. Nearly seven million passengers passed through the Port's facilities last year, including approximately 3.5 million ferry passengers, 3 million excursion passengers, and record cruise business with approximately 210,000 passengers.

Additionally, the Port hosts significant maritime, transportation, commercial, and governmental activities. Port facilities include container and bulk cargo terminals, a cruise terminal, ferry and excursion passenger terminals, a major ship repair yard and

drydock, multiple layberths for Maritime Administration vessels, two power plants, the western anchorage of the Bay Bridge, the landmark Ferry Building, Pacific Bell Park, and world-renowned tourist attractions such as Fisherman's Wharf, which approximately 16 million people visit every year.

- **Interoperability Communications**—The City urges support for the San Francisco Bay Area Public Safety Interoperable Communications initiative, which will serve the City and County of San Francisco, City of Oakland, Alameda County, Contra Costa County and San Mateo County. This regional standards-based (Project 25) 700/800MHz shared public safety radio system will support both voice and data interoperability. This shared network builds on previous public safety infrastructure investments and will provide the highest level of interoperability according to SAFECOM.
- **Immigration Reform**—Oppose legislation that would deny federal funds to “sanctuary cities” that do not have a policy of collecting information on the immigration status of residents seeking city services, and which refuse to provide such information to the federal government. Such provisions pose a threat to public health and safety by discouraging City residents from using public health clinics and cooperating with local law enforcement. Further, the City supports efforts to create a clear path to citizenship for the millions of undocumented workers who already work, pay taxes and contribute to the economy, and urges opposition to any federal legislation that would criminalize undocumented workers or the people who help them.

The City is also opposed to the Department of Homeland Security's proposal to hold employers liable for violating immigration law if they continue to employ workers who receive "no-match letters" from the Social Security Administration (SSA). The City does not believe that SSA no-match letters are an appropriate tool for enforcing immigration law. In addition to creating unclear and burdensome new requirements for employers, they penalize workers regardless of their true immigration status.

Community and Economic Development

- **Building Assets for the Working Poor**—The City urges Congress to expand tax incentives available to working families, including the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). The Mayor is committed to helping working San Franciscans keep more of their earned income, and turning that income into assets that can help them get ahead. The Mayor has launched the Working Families Credit, a \$100 local match to the EITC that provides an extra incentive for families to apply for the EITC. The Mayor and the City Treasurer have also launched the Bank on San Francisco initiative, which works with banks to provide more accessible products to low-income residents as an alternative to check-cashing outlets. Federal support for helping the working poor build assets is key to addressing urban poverty.
- **Central Subway/SFgo/Transbay Terminal**—Seek continued Federal resources for important transportation projects in the City that will reduce congestion, improve service reliability and travel times, enhance transit connections, and help generate economic opportunities and jobs for local residents and business owners. These projects include:

- ◆ *Central Subway/Third Street Light Rail*, which is being constructed in two phases, and is projected to carry 92,000 riders per day. San Francisco Muni expects to begin revenue service on Phase 1, a surface light rail line with 18 stops funded almost exclusively with state and local fund sources, in April 2007. Phase 2—Central Subway will extend this light rail line through San Francisco's booming South of Market area and the downtown-Union Square shopping district into the heart of the City's Chinatown. San Francisco Muni is the 7th largest transit system in the nation, carrying over 700,000 passengers per day.
 - ◆ *SFgo*, San Francisco's Integrated Management System, will make San Francisco's streets more effective and safer through the use of proven technologies and strategies. Under SFgo, travelers can expect signals that respond to actual volume of traffic on a roadway, faster response by City personnel clearing an incident, real-time information on travel conditions and important coordination between all modes of transportation. The City plans to wire all of its 1,200 signals.
 - ◆ *Transbay Terminal*, which will replace the outdated Transbay Terminal with a new model intermodal Transit Center, extend Caltrain to the new downtown Transit Center (which will also serve as the San Francisco station for the future California High Speed Rail), and create a new neighborhood with homes, offices, parks and shops surrounding the new Transit Center.
- **Hunters Point and Treasure Island**—Seek continued Federal resources to remediate and revitalize former military installations, Hunters Point Shipyard and Treasure Island. Redevelopment of these sites are critical to the economic redevelopment of the City, building and promoting the next generation of the City's growth industries, and, for the Bayview Hunters Point neighborhood, will help remedy over 30 years of significant adverse environmental and economic impacts as a result of the Shipyard closure by the Navy.
 - **Hetch Hetchy**—Continue to oppose removal of the O'Shaughnessy Dam and any attempt to raise the fee charged by the Department of the Interior to the City as rent for the reservoir in the Hetch-Hetchy valley. In addition, we will seek continued federal resources to help mitigate flood prone areas in the City.
 - **Communities of Opportunity**—The City has initiated an innovative, place-based strategy of renewal, Communities of Opportunity (COO), which is being developed through the partnership of community residents, government officials, community leaders and philanthropic organizations. COO will target long-neglected communities, like Bayview/Hunters Point and Visitacion Valley in the southeast sector of the City, and transform them into strong communities of stable, self-sufficient families by 2010. We urge the Congress to look at new holistic approaches that help the nation's most at-risk communities create safe and healthy neighborhoods that provide opportunities for individuals and families to achieve self-sufficiency.
 - **Community Development Block Grants**—San Francisco receives between \$21-\$25 million a year from the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, which is vital in supporting the City's community, housing and economic development programs and initiatives. We are opposed to further proposed cuts by the Administration to the CDBG program. Federal cuts to this important program between FY 2001 and FY 2006 have reduced San Francisco's CDBG allocation by \$3,949,663 or 15.3%. The largest of these cuts occurred in FY 2005 and FY 2006, resulting in a total reduction of \$3,387,663 to City's allocation from FY 2004.

- **Telecommunications Act Reform**—Support in Federal telecommunications reform legislation innovation and increased competition that:
 - ◆ Provides universal availability for all consumers. The current House and Senate bills provide no build-out requirements and allow providers to cherry pick which areas they want to serve.
 - ◆ Preserves San Francisco’s and other local governments’ authority to deploy and operate municipal broadband networks.
 - ◆ Preserves local governments’ authority to regulate and be compensated for the use of public rights-of-way.
 - ◆ Preserves local franchising authority and fees over video service providers.
 - ◆ Preserves Public, Educational, and Government (PEG) channels.
 - ◆ Provides enforceable customer service/protection requirements.

San Francisco is committed to ensuring that consumers benefit from any federal telecommunications reform policy. To maximize consumer benefit it is important for local governments to maintain the ability to work with video service providers through franchise agreements to ensure the public rights-of-way are accessed in a safe and reasonable manner, and to continue the provision of key services, including public, education and government channels. Maintaining the City’s ability to negotiate franchise agreements with potential providers will also ensure that local emergency alerts and institutional networks are tailored to meet specific local needs.

- **Workforce Investment Act (WIA)**—As Congress reauthorizes WIA, we urge support for the continuation of a strong locally-based business-led workforce investment system that: 1) ensures the appointment of local boards by local elected officials; 2) preserves or increases WIA funding levels; 3) preserves the existing separate WIA funding streams for Adults, Dislocated Workers, and Youth 4) makes statutory the linkages between WIA and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) programs, and 5) supports customized, sector-based training. In addition, oppose language, which would repeal critical civil rights protections by allowing organizations that provide job-training services to discriminate in hiring employees based on religion. While government works collaboratively with faith-based organizations, organizations that take federal funds should not be allowed to discriminate against applicants for jobs on the basis of religion, marital status, sexual orientation, gender, HIV status or any other characteristic that a religious organization finds objectionable.

In addition, we urge support for full funding of workforce programs, which the Administration has consistently proposed to cut in its proposed budgets. Such cuts would significantly erode San Francisco’s local workforce system and three local One Stop Centers. The City’s centers, which receive more than 45,000 visits on average per year, provide job search assistance, job and career workshops, labor market research and job training.

- **Community Revitalization & Eminent Domain**—San Francisco believes that it should be left to states and local governments to examine, based on their own particular laws and specific factual experiences, whether changes to eminent domain law are needed. The power of eminent domain is critically important to promote sensible land use, revitalize distressed communities, clean up polluted land, build

new, needed infrastructure for residents, and alleviate the problems of unemployment and economic distress by fostering economic development.

The U.S. Supreme Court decision in the *Kelo v. New London* case generated a significant amount of unfounded public concern that local jurisdictions were abusing eminent domain laws to acquire property. Federal legislation to address this concern fails to recognize that: (1) eminent domain is rarely exercised, (2) private landowners often want their property to be acquired under the threat of eminent domain in order to receive tax benefits, and (3) California and San Francisco already have in place statutory requirements to ensure that private property owners are treated fairly and that eminent domain is used only as an instrument of last resort.

Federal legislation to restrict use of eminent domain could severely hamper major renewal projects approved by San Francisco voters, including the Transbay Terminal project. In addition, the proposed federal measures could prevent San Francisco from receiving federal funds, such as CDBG funding, necessary to begin or complete community key community development projects and make it impossible for San Francisco to acquire key parcels from cooperating private property owners.

- **Federal Takings**—Oppose the so-called Private Property Rights Implementation Act. While this measure is being promoted as a necessary response to the Supreme Court’s verdict in the *Kelo v. City of New London* case, it does not address direct condemnations, eminent domain, or *Kelo*-style economic development projects in any way. This legislation is a fundamental intrusion upon the City’s authority over local land use decisions. Enactment of this legislation would expand the scope of municipal liability, impose a major new, unfunded financial burden on state and local governments, both in terms of added litigation expenses and potential damages awards and create many new questions about the extent of local government liability.

The Act is designed to help developers sue cities over land use issues in federal court. The legislation would encourage developers to bypass State courts and local resolution procedures, where most land use disputes are now resolved. The existing rules, developed over hundreds of years, allow courts to strike a fair balance between takings claimants, neighboring property owners, and the public.

Clean and Green

- **Global Warming**— Support Federal legislation to establish mandatory limits on greenhouse gas emissions. San Francisco has been a leader in reducing greenhouse emissions. The City has adopted the goal of reducing our emissions to 20 percent below 1990 levels by 2012. Federally-established mandatory limits would enhance our efforts to achieve this goal.
- **Renewable Energies**—Support federal resources that assist with the development of technologies and build markets for the next generation of revolutionary energy technologies, including tidal energy, biotechnology, nanotechnology, solar and fuel cell research. A sustained investment in these cutting-edge technologies is crucial to creating clean, sustainable energy alternatives, which capitalize on our nation’s vast renewable natural resources.

An area of particular focus for the City is the massive potential for tidal energy generation in the San Francisco Bay. San Francisco's unique tidal energy resource is unmatched in California or anywhere else in the lower 48 states. The volume and speed of water passing through the Golden Gate, coupled with the depth of water below the bridge itself, provide a near-perfect setting for the deployment of a tidal energy generation system. It is conservatively estimated that the Golden Gate site has 35.5 megawatts of total extractable average annual power, and that 15-17 average megawatts of this power could realistically be extracted by technologies currently in development.

To advance these important technologies, we specifically urge that Congress: 1) extend and increase the size of the investment tax credit (ITC) for all residential and commercial solar and fuel cell equipment to continue to help stimulate market growth in these technologies; 2) provide increased funding for the Department of Energy's Renewable Energy Production Incentive (REPI) Program, which currently has a backlog of requests close to \$80 million with the demand for affordable renewable projects growing; and 3) modify the Energy Policy Act's Rural and Remote Community Electrification Grants Program, which local governments can apply for to use renewable energy resources, to include tidal energy, as well as ensure that the full \$20 million authorized for the program is provided.

- **Livable Cities**—Support federal resources that help to improve the greening and environmental quality of the City by enhancing the quality of our streets, parks, plazas and buildings. This includes: 1) seeking increased Federal funding for the Urban and Community Forestry Program, which helps maintain, restore and improve the health of urban trees, forests, and greenspaces; 2) supporting Federal policy initiatives that promote the use of green building practices; and 3) supporting passage of a Federal Bottle Bill and implementing a Federal recycling goal of 50%.

As part of World Environment Day, the Mayor signed the Urban Environmental Accords which call for San Francisco, along with more than 65 other cities, to improve the environmental quality of cities and reduce environmental impacts by 2012.

Education

- **Teachers**—Support federal programs that are intended to train, recruit and retain highly qualified teachers and principals for our neighborhood schools. Research studies show that a highly qualified teacher is the single most important factor in a student's academic success.

Like other urban school districts throughout the nation, San Francisco Unified School District continues to struggle to attract and retain highly qualified teachers. On average, a recent college graduate who enters teaching is likely to leave the profession within five years. The Mayor's 2006-2007 budget proposal includes a new \$125,000 teacher student loan repayment program.

As the reauthorization of No Child Left Behind approaches, we encourage federal education policy makers to increase the \$2.8 billion funding level for Teacher Quality Grants and target the funds for efforts that include: teacher training, tuition and housing assistance; financial incentives to encourage exceptional teachers and

administrators to remain in the education field; and accessibility to alternative paths to teacher certification.

- **Science and Technology**—Ensure a sound federal investment in science and technology education programs. The Federal government must answer the demand of the business community and the high tech sector to allocate more federal dollars to train and prepare students for sustainable jobs in industries like science and technology.

High technology and entrepreneurship are the backbone of the San Francisco economy. Presently, the San Francisco's Galileo Academy of Science and Technology provides education opportunities for students interested in careers in booming fields of science and technology. Federal dollars are needed to expand and implement more programs like Galileo to ensure San Francisco's businesses have a skilled, highly trained workforce.

- **Funding for School Age Children Programs**—Increase federal funding for important programs that benefit San Francisco's school-age children. In the Mayor's 2006-2007 budget, a \$2 million down payment is provided for an "After-school for All" initiative. We encourage the federal government to increase their support for after school programs through the 21st Century Community Learning Centers initiative. We also ask for an increased investment in pre-school programs, K-12 learning initiatives authorized under the No Child Left Behind Act and vocational education grants.

Government Efficiency and Effectiveness

- **Democrats' New Direction for America and Innovation Agenda**—Urge support for these important initiatives, which advance the right priorities for our nation by pressing for commonsense, effective policies that will make our nation safer and our economy fairer; make health care and education more affordable; achieve energy independence by developing emerging energy technologies for clean, sustainable alternatives; guarantee affordable access to broadband technologies; and guarantee a dignified retirement for all Americans. We believe these principles will help build a nation where all families can live and prosper in diverse, safe, and vibrant communities.

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