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Contact: Natalie Gee, Chief of Staff, natalie.gee@sfgov.org, 415-619-0878

PRESS RELEASE

THE SAN FRANCISCO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS UNANIMOUSLY PASSES ORDINANCE PROHIBITING CITY TRAVEL AND CONTRACTING TO STATES WITH VOTER RESTRICTION LAWS

SAN FRANCISCO, CA – On Tuesday, October 26, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors unanimously passed an ordinance amending the City’s Chapter 12X of the City’s Administrative Code to prohibit city funded travel and contracting to states that have enacted voter restriction laws. The ordinance was introduced by Board President and District 10 Supervisor Shamann Walton in July and was co-sponsored by Supervisors Ahsha Safai, Matt Haney, Myrna Melgar, Catherine Stefani, Dean Preston, Aaron Peskin, and Gordon Mar as a response to a number of states, such as the State of Georgia, enacting voter suppression laws since the November 2020 General Election.

Many states have introduced laws to restrict voting rights across the country. Between January 1 and September 27, at least 19 states enacted 33 laws that restrict access to the vote including making it harder for Americans to register to vote, stay on the voter rolls, and vote as compared to existing state law. Lawmakers across the country have introduced at least 389 restrictive bills in 48 states during the 2021 legislative session. There are at least 61 active bills with restrictive provisions moving through 18 state legislatures and 31 have passed at least in one chamber. [1]

On March 25, 2021, one of the most restrictive voter laws was enacted in the State of Georgia. This law limited vote by mail access, established strict voter ID requirements including on absentee ballots, limited local control over election processes through state intervention, eliminated ballot drop boxes, shortened the period between the election and any potential runoff elections, and established that it is a misdemeanor to provide food or water for voters waiting in line.

Chapter 12X currently prohibits city travel and contracting in states that allow discrimination against LGBTQ+ individuals and states with anti-abortion laws and with the new ordinance, it will expand to include states that enact the following voter restriction laws:



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- Laws that do not allow same-day voting at a polling place if a voter goes to the wrong polling location.
- Laws that prevent voters without photo IDs from satisfying an identification requirement in some other manner, such as by submitting a signed and sworn affidavit.
- Laws limiting or prohibiting local election departments from mailing absentee ballots or absentee ballot applications to all voters.
- Laws that ban pre-paid postage for mail-in ballots.
- Laws that prohibit extension of voting hours if election problems arise.

Under this ordinance, the City and County of San Francisco will not require or pay for any of its employees or officers to travel to a state on the list, subject to certain exceptions necessary to enforce or comply with the City's legal or contractual obligations or to protect the public health, safety, or welfare. The City will also not enter into any contract with a contractor that has its headquarters in a state on the list or where any or all of the work on the contract will be performed in a state on the list.

“All of these states that are proposing and passing voter restrictions are making it clear that they want to make it harder for Black people, people of color, and low income communities throughout the country to exercise their right to vote. It's no surprise that these are the same states that have previously enacted anti-abortion and anti-LGBTQ laws” said Board President Shamann Walton. “Throughout history, there have been recurring efforts to restrict votes of people of color and women in this country. These efforts to restrict the vote in 2021 is a threat to democracy as a whole and San Francisco is taking a stand to protect the rights of voters.”

San Francisco's existing [Chapter 12X](#) Administrative Code: Prohibiting City Travel and Contracting in States that Allow Discrimination already prohibits city travel and contracting in states that allow discrimination against LGBTQ+ individuals and states with anti-abortion laws. There are currently 25 states on the [City's state ban list](#) as of July 9, 2021 and with the passage of this ordinance, it will likely add [Arizona and Wyoming](#) to the list. For more information about the ordinance, please [click here](#). The Mayor has 10 days to sign this ordinance into law.

[1] “Voting Laws Roundup: October 2021.” *Brennan Center for Justice*, 4 October 2021, <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/voting-laws-roundup-october-2021>

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