

# New map leaves District 6 'conservative,' activist says

BY TOM CARTER

THE end result of the months-long process of redrawing heavily populated District 6 by inches this way and that on a big wall map may have pleased a lot of people but not rock-ribbed progressives.

The map the Redistricting Task Force submitted to the Department of Elections April 14 showed the final boundaries. It pared progressive strongholds and made the district more conservative, critics say.

"These were unconscionable cuts," said a disappointed Otto Duffy, neighborhood activist who represented the Central City Democrats at most of the 30 community meetings that the task force held. "The district now is more conservative. And it didn't have to be that way."

The task force was mandated by the city to equalize San Francisco's 11 supervisorial districts after the 2010 census by dividing the city's new population of 805,000 among them. D6's population came in at 94,800, overshooting the mean figure of

73,200 by 21,600 — more than three times out of kilter than the next size district. Not quite 6,000 in District 6 are under 18 and can't vote.

Shedding population in the historically progressive district was going to be tricky. High-end condominiums have sprouted South of Market, a contrast to the Tenderloin, the city's poorest neighborhood.

Lopped off were Hayes Valley and Inner Mission, "historically progressive" areas, said Duffy, who gave a redistricting summary April 18 to the Central City Collaborative and later talked to The Extra. Mission resident Debra Walker, runnerup to Jane Kim in the 2010 election two years ago, got moved into District 9.

But the unkindest cut, said Duffy, came out of the northern border running east from Van Ness Avenue on Post Street. The ragged line took out about 10 Tenderloin blocks, or about 2,700 residents. One lost block, bound by Leavenworth, Geary, Jones and O'Farrell, had 900 residents.

"That block has a big apartment building," Duffy said. "It's market-rate but they support tenant rights and were important politically."

Given the size of the task force's job in D6, Supervisor Jane Kim said the group did "an incredible job of listening — most voices got heard," and she was "very happy" with the result.

"North of Mission wanted to be reunited with the Mission," she said. "We heard that consistently. But it is not clear to me if there was a major (political) shift. Western SoMa and the Tenderloin are still intact."

Duffy was committed to preserving the central city, a 55,000 population, roughly bounded by Post, Van Ness, Division and Mission Creek just south of Berry Street. He would have let go China Basin/Mission Bay where the "middle-income and high-end condominium owners are."

Guidelines allow a district to vary up to 1% (732 people). But additional variations up to 5% (3,660 people) are okay "if necessary to prevent dividing or diluting the voting power of minorities and/or to keep recognized neighborhoods intact," according to the City Charter. The committee interpreted this liberally.

"The Tenderloin and the central city could have been preserved," Duffy said. "But the committee didn't see it that way. I was trying to hold on to political ballast. Some other districts varied by 5%."

Indeed, Districts 1, 2 and 9 wound up just shy of 5%.

The final District 6 map has a 73,909 population, just 0.96% over.

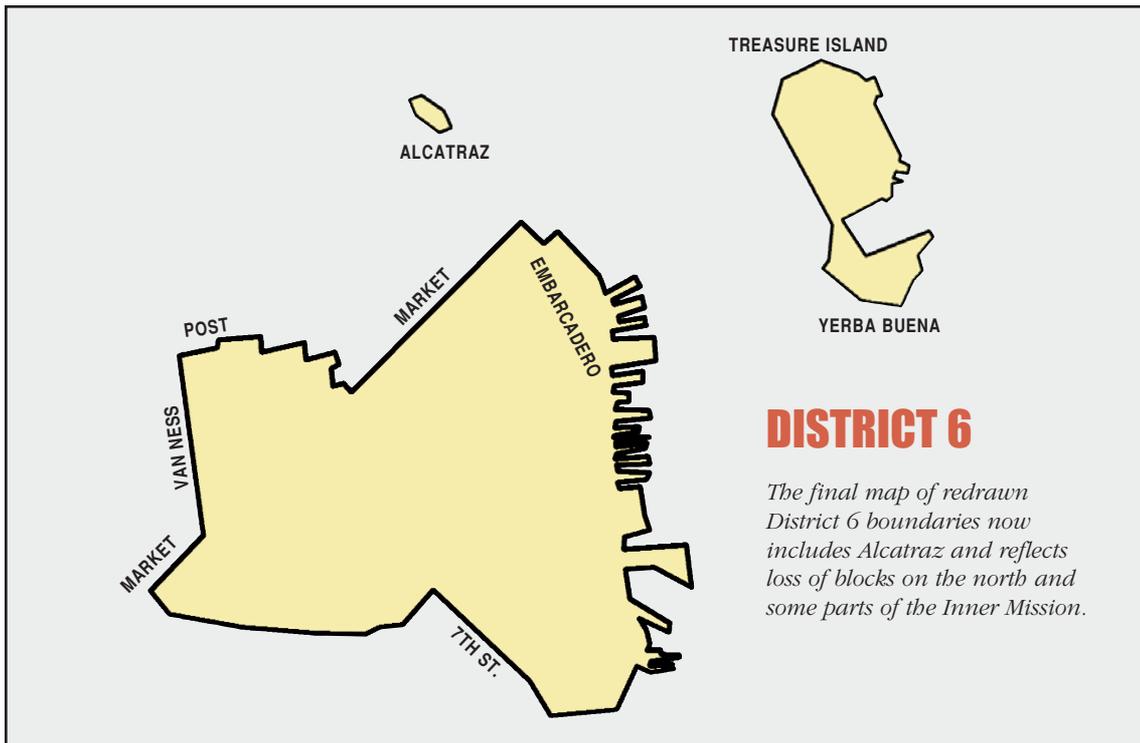
Another surprise in the nine-member committee's 41-page report is two ethnic-voter shifts. Accompanying D6 data showed the percentage of Asian voters at 31.26% of the new 67,943 voter (not population) base, a 20% jump from 10 years ago. Meanwhile, the Latino percentage of voters had dipped 25%, likely a result of losing the Inner Mission. Whites, with 40.5%, had gained 2.5% and blacks (10.5%) edged up 1%, compared with the decade-old data.

Understandably, compatible neighborhood populations and community interest groups were eager to weigh in to protect their spread of involvement.

Indeed, the committee, which spent 100 hours in 30 meetings and a lot more time poring over data, fielded 1,300 written and oral comments. Chairman Eric McDonnell's sense of humor often kept meetings light and palatable, which audiences appreciated.

His task force report highlighted the main con-

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## June 5th ENDORSEMENTS

# Central City Democrats

The Chartered  
District 6  
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Central City Democrats is a chartered Democratic Club affiliated with the San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee serving those who live and work in District 6

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**17th District State Assembly: Tom Ammiano\***

**17th Assembly District (up to 14):**

John Avalos*	David Campos*
David Chiu*	Dean Clark
Matt Dorsey*	Bevan Dufty
Zoe Dunning	Gabriel Haaland*
Rafael Mandelman*	Carole Migden*
Justin Morgan	Stuart Smith
Joaquin Torres	Scott Wiener*

**Statewide Ballot Measures**

Proposition 28: Limits on Legislators' Terms in Office - Yes

Proposition 29: Imposes Additional Tax on Cigarettes for Cancer Research - Yes

**Local Ballot Measures**

Measure A: Garbage Collection and Disposal - No

Measure B: Coit Tower Policy - Yes