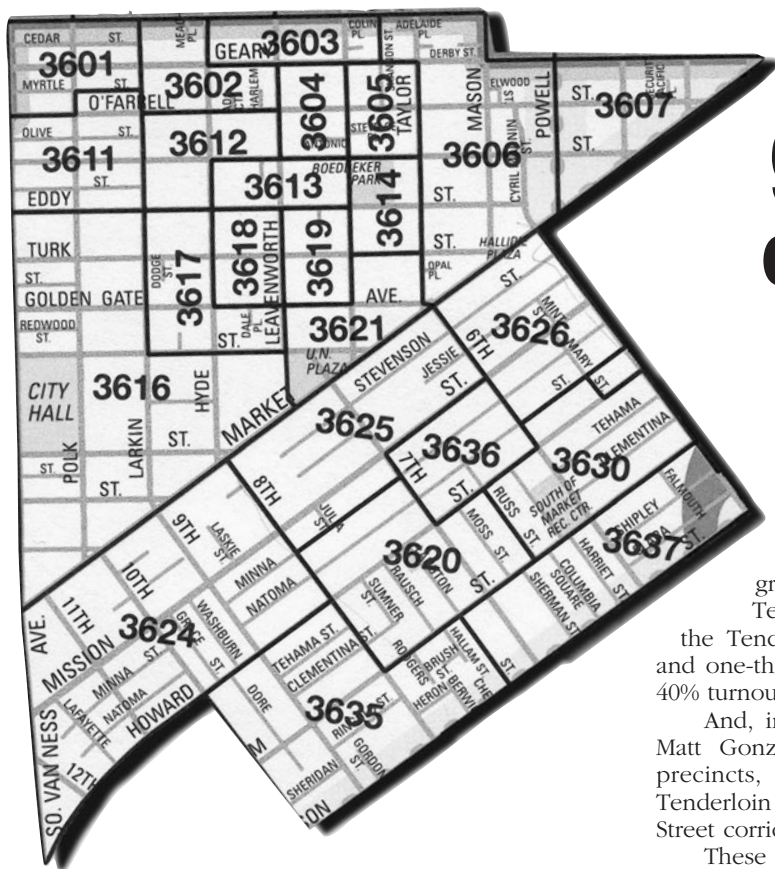


# Runoff galvanizes central city voters

BY GEOFF LINK



The Dec. 9 mayoral runoff got central city voters, especially Tenderloin voters, to the polls in greater numbers than any recent election.

Ten percent more people were registered in the Tenderloin's 16 precincts than in November, and one-third more cast their ballot. This broke the 40% turnout barrier of previous elections wide open.

And, in an about-face from the Nov. 4 results, Matt Gonzalez crushed Gavin Newsom in these precincts, garnering 50% more votes in the Tenderloin and a similar surplus along the Sixth Street corridor.

These same TL precincts had voted only slightly less enthusiastically for Newsom in November, when — with a cornucopia of candidates — they awarded him 37% more votes than Gonzalez. Around Sixth Street, however, Newsom's margin at the time topped Gonzalez by just 15%. The precincts The Extra examined are those that compose the Tenderloin only and Sixth Street from Market to Harrison, and Fifth to 10<sup>th</sup> with a dogleg to South Van Ness.

"The turnout will determine the election," Jim Ross, Newsom's campaign manager, told The Extra before the runoff. "I believe that 100 percent."

In breaking the 40% barrier, the turnout in the central city certainly was remarkable. With 1,563 more registered voters, and 2,065 more who cast their ballots, the Tenderloin and Sixth Street had turnouts of 41.84% and 44.18%, respectively.

In addition to the strong central city turnout, city-wide tallies also were way up over the Nov. 4 vote. The turnout averaged 55.63% with Visitacion Valley posting the lowest turnout at 39.49% and Upper Market the highest at 67.38%.

Citywide, Newsom won with 26,507 more votes than Gonzalez. In our central city precincts, Gonzalez garnered 1,687 more votes than Newsom.

In the race for district attorney, the central city also went counter to the city as a whole, giving incumbent Terence Hallinan a single-digit lead over winner Kamala Harris.

Harris outpolled Hallinan in six of the 24 precincts analyzed, and in most of them she barely squeaked by. Citywide, however, she whipped Hallinan good, 269,500 to 209,415.

The lesson to be learned from this brief analysis is that central city voters turn out in greater numbers if there is a clear choice among candidates. And, chances are, they'll buck the city trends. ■

controversy when it announced its plan to raze its four-story building at 150 Golden Gate and put up a new five-story building on the site. Some TL activists accused the foundation of perpetuating Golden Gate Avenue's reputation as a hangout for dealers and other scofflaws, and ignoring its responsibility to control the folks who line up for free food.

When the 150 Golden Gate application went before the Planning Commission, the besieged St. Anthony's agreed to work to improve its community relations and take real action to keep its clients from bothering others. Paula Lewis, St. Anthony's Foundation operations director, has been reporting on their efforts to the Collaborative, and in January she described a meeting with Capt. David Shinn, Tenderloin station commander, about the "encampments" at Golden Gate and Jones.

"We call the police whenever they spring up," she said, "but technically, the captain told us, the encampments aren't illegal unless they're blocking the sidewalk or the people have built permanent structures. You can help us," she told folks around the table, "by reporting drug use, because people can be cited for that."

Shinn also told her, she said, that the TL police are planning to publish a newsletter about what they're up to, will begin keeping a list of people found with prescription drugs on them, and are going to fence off the Hibernia Bank building.

"But for those encampments, the captain told us the police can only tell them to move on," Lewis said.

"I'm sorry, but I need to say that I'm getting really tired of hearing what the police can't do," said Jim Thompson, property manager at 165 Turk, home mostly to seniors.

As the talk was heating up, Collaborative Chair Glenda Hope announced that the meeting was officially over, but that anyone who wanted to stay could. David Baker took Hope to task for managing the time so closely.

A few people left. Most stayed. Darryl Smith, co-founder of the Luggage Store Gallery, put in a word for the homeless and their encampments. "It comes down to civic design," he said. "There's a basic human need to come together as a community, and we all have challenges."

"Maybe some of the homeless are victims," Thompson responded, "but their behavior deprives others of their rights and degrades them. We shouldn't be willing to sacrifice seniors and children to others' needs."

Welcome to 2004. Everything old is new again. ■

Tenderloin Precincts			Mayor		District Attorney		
Precincts	Registered Voters	Ballots Cast	Turnout Percentage	Gavin Newsom	Matt Gonzalez	Terence Hallinan	Kamala Harris
PCT 3601	782	292	37.34	89	201	170	117
PCT 3602	852	437	51.29	126	307	225	190
PCT 3603	833	398	47.78	127	271	227	158
PCT 3604	945	376	39.79	121	254	191	168
PCT 3605	843	325	38.55	168	154	135	176
PCT 3606/07	1056	434	41.10	167	264	221	195
PCT 3611	821	354	43.12	112	240	198	144
PCT 3612	983	472	48.01	212	259	224	224
PCT 3613	929	319	34.34	159	159	133	161
PCT 3614	855	315	36.85	163	148	138	160
PCT 3616	980	452	46.13	225	218	213	219
PCT 3617	1074	443	41.36	141	299	206	224
PCT 3618	800	775	41.50	101	230	163	151
PCT 3619	819	319	38.95	176	139	125	173
PCT 3621	663	245	36.95	102	139	118	113
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,235</b>	<b>5,956</b>	<b>41.54</b>	<b>2,189</b>	<b>3,282</b>	<b>2,687</b>	<b>2,573</b>

Sixth Street Precincts			Mayor		District Attorney		
Precincts	Registered Voters	Ballots Cast	Turnout Percentage	Gavin Newsom	Matt Gonzalez	Terence Hallinan	Kamala Harris
PCT 3620	972	453	46.60	152	300	220	211
PCT 3624	810	369	45.50	119	249	205	147
PCT 3625	809	321	36.68	59	259	175	136
PCT 3626	397	321	43.07	103	66	84	75
PCT 3630	605	251	41.49	101	148	137	104
PCT 3635	734	315	42.91	97	217	167	128
PCT 3636	824	345	41.87	140	204	170	156
PCT 3637	924	459	49.67	263	195	173	269
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,075</b>	<b>2,834</b>	<b>43.47</b>	<b>1,034</b>	<b>1,638</b>	<b>1,331</b>	<b>1,226</b>

**Café do Brasil**  
 1106 Market Street at Jones  
 LIVE MUSIC **2 FOR 1** GOSPEL BRUNCH  
 Wed. & Thurs. **LUNCH** with S.F. Choir  
 Starting at 7 p.m. **SPECIAL** Sundays 11 a.m - 2 p.m.  
**ALL YOU CAN EAT BUFFET EVERY DAY**  
 PH: (415) 626-6432 www.cafedobrasil.com FAX: (415) 626-6450



PHOTO BY TOM CARTER

Work is proceeding at the old Polo Lounge.