

Daly hit 500 – his measure B failed, M passed

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only kept pace with, rather than surpassed, the rest of San Francisco suggests how deeply ingrained the neighborhood's voting patterns are.

With so much to vote for — a president we believe in, representatives in Congress, the state Senate and the Assembly we can count on, and local measures like B, K and M, not to mention Prop. 8, that are so meaningful to the neighborhood — it would seem to be good reason to warrant an even higher turnout.

Don Falk, executive director of TNDC — the main sponsor of the big Boeddeker Park registration drive in September — considers the turnout an accomplishment. "On a selfish note, I was really pleased to see the success we experienced in getting Tenderloin residents out to vote," he said. "Seventy-one percent (more than 800) of TNDC residents who were eligible to vote did vote." And more than 500 of eligible TNDC residents cast ballots for the first time in their lives in either the November general election or the June primary, Falk said.

OBAMA, AMMIANO AND LENO

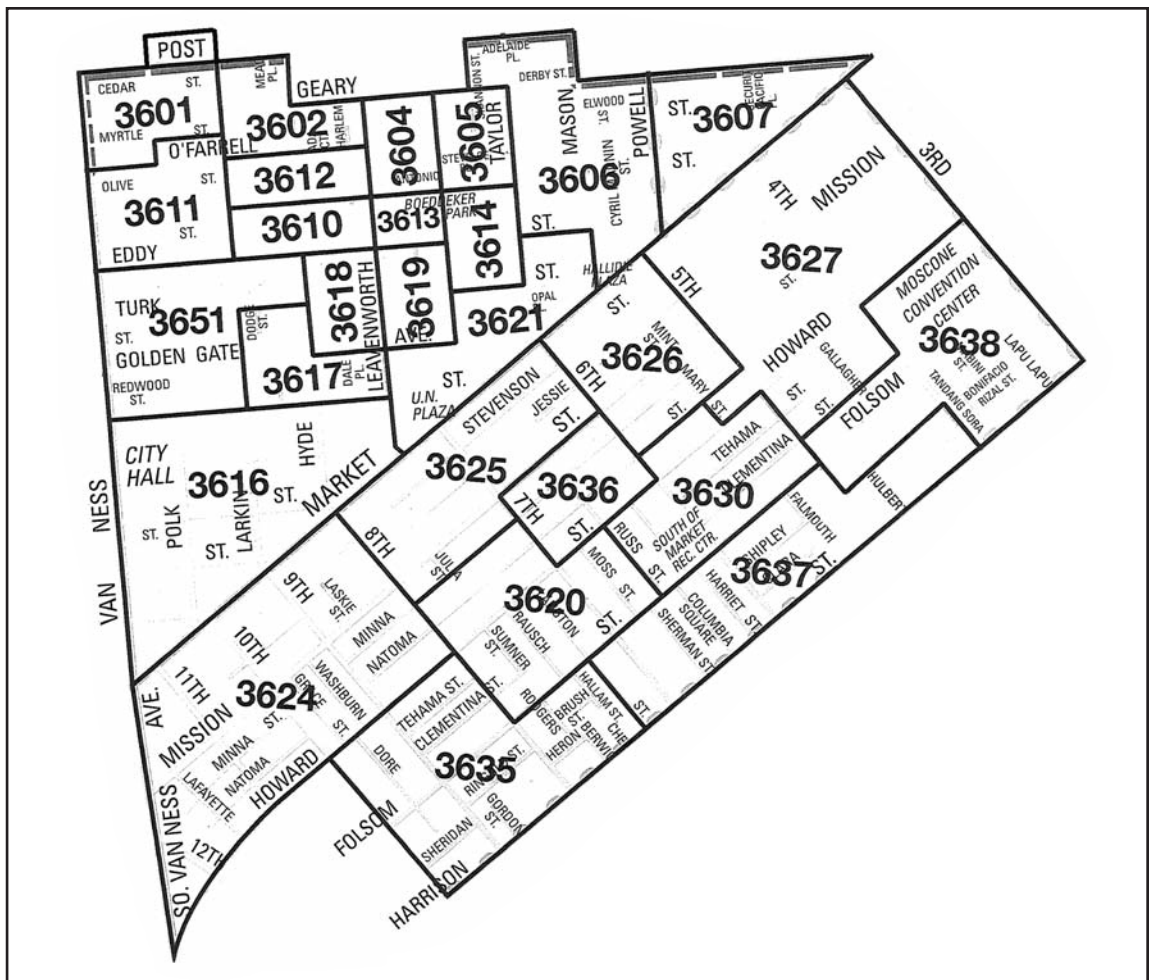
Tenderloin and SoMa voters gave a big thumbs-up to Barack Obama for president, but were less enthusiastic about Tom Ammiano for the District 13 Assembly seat and Mark Leno for District 3 state senator.

The president-elect got 81% of Tenderloin votes and 83% of West SoMa votes. In the TL, he grabbed the most votes, 88%, in precinct 3602 at the high-end of the neighborhood between O'Farrell and Post. Citywide, Obama got 84% of the votes. In West SoMa, where 83% voted for Obama, precincts 3630 and 3635 ran a dead heat for the highest percentage, 89%.

But the more mundane local candidates were less of a draw.

Ammiano got 83% of the overall Assembly District 13 electorate (the eastern half of the city) but 10 percentage points fewer in the central city. Almost 87% of voters in state Senate District 3 (also the eastern half of San Francisco plus all of Marin County and some of Sonoma County) went for Leno. In the Tenderloin it was 75% and in West SoMa, 74%. The falloff for two of the most stalwart champions of the central city was surprising, even to the experts.

Michael Nulty, president of Alliance for a Better District 6, was baffled, but he offered a possible explanation: "I think the TL is more diverse and has



more newbies. Because they're new, they might have been first-time voters, not realizing who they were voting for."

BALLOT MEASURES

• National — even international — attention focused on Proposition 8, the state ban on gay marriage. Citywide, three of four San Francisco voters were against it; the central city came in at 69% against. TL precincts 3605, 3607, 3610, 3613, 3614, 3619 and 3621 ranged from 44% to 59% against, but the other precincts offset those so-so medium votes. In precinct 3613, the Tenderloin Police Station's block, there were 114 votes for the proposition and 113 against. The biggest discrepancy was in precinct 3616, the blocks east and south of City Hall, where 13% voted for and 84% against Prop. 8.

Statewide, the proposition won narrowly, 52% for and 48% against.

• Measure B, Supervisor Chris Daly's affordable housing fund Charter amendment, lost citywide, as 52% of voters shot it down. But even in the central city, it wasn't a resounding victory. The Tenderloin voted 65% yes and 57% in West SoMa.

"We were extremely disappointed in the failure of Measure B to pass," TNDC's Falk said. "It will have ramifications over the next few years. Housing projects already approved and funded will have to go on hold. If B had passed, those projects could have gone forward immediately."

Falk thinks many voters were influenced by "the macro economic situation" and the mayor's opposition to the measure. "There's a lot of support for affordable housing in San Francisco," he said, "but if it doesn't translate into funding, we're going to continue in the crisis we're in."

In other poorer neighborhoods, Measure B fared about the same as in the central city: 68% approved it in the Mission, 63% in Bayview-Hunters Point, 57% in the Haight-Ashbury and 56% in Vis Valley. Chinatown voters came in the same as city-wide voters, 52% against.

"The whole electorate was pretty fiscally conservative," said David Latterman, a Bay

Area political analyst and head of Fall Line Analytics in San Francisco. "For (Measure B's failure), I don't see that as a rebuke on affordable housing, just as a rebuke on the price tag."

There was no "new" money involved and the price tag was uncertain. The measure would have set aside for 15 years an additional 2.5¢ from every \$100 of assessed property tax to purchase, build, rehab or maintain affordable housing; support programs for first-time home buyers; fund rent subsidies and repair public housing. According to the controller in the voter pamphlet, had the measure been in place in 2008-09, it might have raised \$36 million.

The rejection of Measure B extended the city's affordable housing losing streak at the polls even further. In 2002, voters only mustered 56% of the vote for a \$250 million affordable housing measure that needed a two-thirds majority. In November 2004, it was a different story for a \$200 million measure, but the same result. The vote was just 2.5% short. And in June 2008, voters showed little respect for Measure F, which would have designated half of any mixed-use development at Hunters Shipyard and Candlestick Point as affordable housing. Voters by 2-to-1 said no.

Possibly this time around with Measure B, the citizenry was apprehensive about how deep city finances are to be whittled down. Mayor Newsom warned in the voter pamphlet that B would mean more cuts to city services — this when San Francisco was facing an estimated \$250 million deficit for 2009-10 that it could ill afford, a figure that just after the election was re-estimated at a staggering \$575 million.

Calls and emails requesting comment from Supe Daly, B's main author, went unanswered. Even a reporter's trip to his office failed to elicit a reply.

• Confusion about the real effects of Measure K, an ordinance that would have changed how laws are enforced for prostitution and sex workers, was reflected in how San Franciscans voted — or didn't. Citywide, 59% of voters nixed K.

"I was pleased with the outcome — it was a pretty clear vote," said the Rev. Glenda Hope, San Francisco Network Ministries' executive director. "(Network Ministries) opposed it because we felt it was a free pass for pimps, johns and human traffickers. Political progressives opposed the measure as well."

Hope might be less than pleased with the outcome on her home turf, the central city, where she's worked for more than 30 years. Though not all TL voters marked the measure on their ballots (hence the under-100% total), 44% favored it and 40% opposed it in the Tenderloin. In West SoMa, it was 45% for, 43% against.

The biggest discrepancy between Tenderloin voters on Measure K was in precinct 3619, the prostitute-heavy blocks bounded by Leavenworth and Jones, Golden Gate and Eddy. There, 32% voted for

TENDERLOIN				2008			2004		
PRECINCT	REGIS. VOTERS	BALLOTS CAST	%	REGIS. VOTERS	BALLOTS CAST	%	REGIS. VOTERS	BALLOTS CAST	%
3601	815	521	64	864	429	50			
3602	861	653	76	899	597	66			
3604	893	631	71	952	565	59			
3605	779	481	62	835	464	56			
3606	712	494	69	820	481	59			
3607	58	44	76	*	*	*			
3610	558	305	55	649	297	46			
3611	925	595	64	923	529	57			
3612	908	704	78	850	604	71			
3613	453	255	56	536	267	50			
3614	960	589	61	970	528	54			
3616	563	378	67	591	339	57			
3617	746	536	72	772	499	65			
3618	695	427	61	891	460	52			
3619	731	473	65	795	483	61			
3621	1136	669	59	1059	510	48			
3651	840	597	71	862	538	62			
TOTAL	12,633	8,352	66	13,368	7,590	57			

* Figures for precincts 3606 and 3607 were combined by the Department of Elections

SOMA				2008			2004		
PRECINCT	REGIS. VOTERS	BALLOTS CAST	%	REGIS. VOTERS	BALLOTS CAST	%	REGIS. VOTERS	BALLOTS CAST	%
3620	1155	841	73	1159	713	62			
3624	868	568	65	908	538	59			
3625	815	545	67	979	438	45			
3626	455	252	55	464	208	45			
3630	795	552	69	528	345	65			
3635	839	625	74	687	448	65			
3636	1078	694	64	1049	596	57			
3637	820	650	79	916	623	68			
3638	1090	878	81	1056	799	76			
TOTAL	7,915	5,605	70	7,746	4,708	60			

COMBINED				TOTAL		
PRECINCT	REGIS. VOTERS	BALLOTS CAST	%	REGIS. VOTERS	BALLOTS CAST	%
TOTAL	20,548	13,957	68	21,114	12,494	59

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