

Voter turnout in the Tenderloin

Precinct	Registered voters	Ballots cast*	Turnout
3601/02	1,757	534	30.3%
3603	779	269	34.5%
3604/05	1,671	486	29%
3606	775	285	36.7%
3610/12	1,478	466	31.5%
3613/14	1,458	510	34.9%
3616	609	218	35.7%
3617/18	1,440	397	27.5%
3619/21	2,054	619	30.1%
3651/3611	1,806	570	31.5%

Source: S.F. Department of Elections (Small precincts are grouped together for reporting purposes)
* Ballots cast includes early voting at City Hall and mail-in

How the Tenderloin voted for mayor

Precinct	Ballots cast	Ed Lee*	John Avalos*	Dennis Herrera*
3601/02	534	122	127 (23%)	69
3603	269	70	72 (27%)	33
3604/05	486	151 (31%)	84	57
3606	285	100 (35%)	39	22
3610/12	466	96	116 (25%)	42
3613/14	510	229 (45%)	52	34
3616	218	39	29	47 (26%)
3617/18	397	81	86 (22%)	47
3619/21	619	175 (28%)	137	46
3651/3611	570	183 (32%)	105	71

Source: S.F. Department of Elections (Small precincts are grouped together for reporting purposes)
* Number of voters' first choice for mayor

Tenderloin voter turnout 32.1%, next to last in the city

Vote-by-mail edges citywide average; Lee beat Avalos by two precincts

BY MARJORIE BEGGS

IN the Tenderloin's 17 election precincts, 13,827 residents were registered to vote in the Nov. 8 election. When the numbers were in, less than a third of them cast ballots, far below the citywide turnout of 42%, but a shade higher than Bayview-Hunters Point, the neighborhood at the bottom of the turnout barrel at 32%. The most voters were West of Twin Peaks, 55%.

Within the Tenderloin, the highest-turnout precinct was the easternmost 3606, the blocks bounded by Powell, Taylor, Market and Post, where 36.7% of the 775 registered residents voted. The lowest turnout — 27.5% of the 1,440 registered voters — was in precincts 3617 and 3618, Leavenworth to Larkin, McAllister to Eddy.

The neighborhood as a whole hit 32.1%.

In the ranked-choice voting for elected officials, TL residents weren't as smitten as the rest of the city by interim Mayor Ed Lee, who ran against 15 other candidates and finished first in 71% of precincts citywide. Only nine of the 17 Tenderloin precincts went for Lee as their first pick. Seven chose Supervisor John Avalos, and one, precinct 3616, the area just east of City Hall, bounded by Van Ness, Leavenworth, Market and McAllister, opted for Dennis Herrera.

In the other electoral races, TL residents mirrored fellow San Franciscans and chose those with the highest name recognition: Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi for sheriff and former Police Chief George Gascón to be district attorney.

Tenderloiners also followed the rest of the city — indeed, the country — in continuing the upward trajectory of voting by mail and early voting, rather than casting ballots in person on election day at their assigned precinct.

A whopping 58% of TL votes were "vote-by-mail," a term used for both mail-in ballots and early voting at City Hall that in 2007 the state mandated to replace the term "absentee." The citywide vote-by-mail percentage for the November election was 57%, way up from the 41% in February 2008 and more than double the 28% of 10 years ago.

The vote-by-mail percentage changes

with each election: Two years ago it hit 62% in a San Francisco election for which the overall turnout was a dismal 28%. Even in the 2008 presidential election when 81% of registered San Franciscans voted, the highest turnout since the 1960s, almost half did so by mail.

"In recent years vote-by-mail turnout has been somewhere in the neighborhood of 50%," Evan Kirk, Elections management assistant, wrote in an email to The Extra. "I can't speculate on the significance of these numbers."

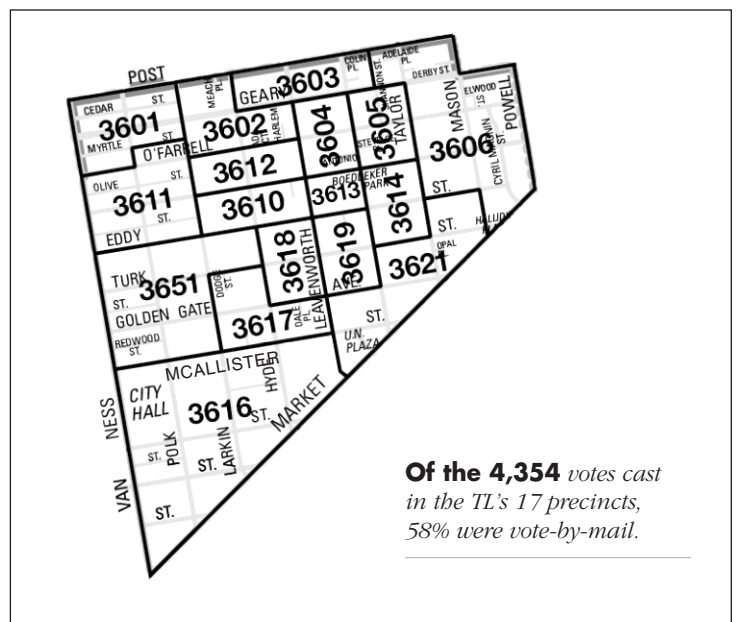
Turnout should be a concern in the Tenderloin. In the presidential election, the TL came in dead last — 66%.

Among the eight measures on the November ballot, Proposition H had the potential to affect the many families and children in the Tenderloin. It would have changed how students are assigned to schools, making neighborhood proximity the highest priority.

In the Tenderloin, kids are kept close, and parents and grandparents walk them protectively to Tenderloin Community School at 627 Turk St. — the only public school in the neighborhood. But Prop H, which needed 50% plus 1 vote to pass, narrowly failed here, as it did citywide.

In the 17 TL precincts, nine nixed the measure and eight voted aye; in many precincts the difference was only about 20 votes. A week after the election, Prop H appeared to have passed, 50.07% to 49.93%. But seven days later, the final election numbers came in at 50.04% against and 49.96% for.

Opponents of H included all the school board members, state Sen. Mark Leno, and Supervisors Eric Mar and Jane Kim. In their ballot guide arguments against the measure, they called H "well-intentioned [but] fatally flawed" because it would be costly to implement, was poorly written and was "unnecessary." ■



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So, the first Central City Extra of 2012 will hit the streets in February. ■

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SAN FRANCISCO Study Center, nonprofit publisher of the Central City Extra, is moving to 944 Market St. in January after 39½ years in the Grant Building at 1095 Market.

Coming with us are Office of Self Help and S.F. Mental Health Clients Rights Advocates, which have been a part of the Study Center for many years.

The February issue will be published out of our new home. ■