

Power shift to SoMa if registrations there climb

District 6 is unlike the other 10. Its character, from dwellings to demographics, is dominated by diversity.

From the lofts of SoMa to the cement boxes of TL, the charm of Hayes Valley homes and the Inner Mission's mixture of commerce and culture, this is the mother of all supervisorial districts. It is even the only district with an island, in fact, two of them.

Utterly different from street to street, District 6 is a haven for the homeless, home to immigrant families, the answer to a poor senior's prayers, the heart of San Francisco's dot-community and, most recently, a realtor's ticket to prosperity.

The 65,000 who live in this cornucopia of cultures are divided into 51 precincts that contain a total of 41,000 registered voters, about 9% of the voters registered city-wide.

To get a handle on the district's voting patterns, the Extra divided it into three areas: downtown and the Tenderloin, South of Market and Hayes Valley. This trio of neighborhoods is etched by natural divisions of two of San Francisco's main thoroughfares, Market Street and Van Ness Avenue. The Inner Mission and micro neighborhoods, such as South Beach and the islands, will have to wait for post-election analysis.

For now we wanted to look more broadly at where the votes are in District 6.

The number of registered voters has been rising throughout the district over the last three elections. South of Mar-

ket has about 1,000 more people registered at its 21 precincts than the approximately 17,000 who are registered in the Tenderloin's 21 precincts.

The seven precincts comprising Hayes Valley have a similar proportional edge over the Tenderloin; slightly more than 6,000 voters are registered in a third the number of precincts.

Citywide there are 647 precincts; five of these are "mail ballot only" precincts. One of these "virtual" precincts is located in District 6, in the South of Market area.

VOTING PATTERNS baseline data

by Geoff Link

The districts are based on population; each of the 11 has, like Dist. 6, roughly 65,000 people.

The number of precincts in each district is determined by the number of registered voters — no fewer than 250, no more than 1,000 voters per precinct.

In the March primaries, six precincts in District 6 exceeded 1,000 voters — one in Hayes Valley, two in the Tenderloin and three South of Market.

The precinct with the fewest voters is 3704 South of Market, weighing in with a bare minimum 251.

Registered voters in the Tenderloin have climbed by 1,355 or 8.5% over the last three elections, from 15,944 in November '98 to 17,309 in March 2000. But SoMa bested

it by 1,000, jumping from 15,707 in '98 to 18,200 in the mayoral runoff of December 1999, up 13.1%.

A voter-friendly Hayes Valley where the percentage of registered voters is 10% to 17% higher than the Tenderloin, was up only 7.6% from the '98 general election to the '99 mayoral runoff, but then lost half that increase in the March 2000 primary.

But even more important can be the turnout.

While the Tenderloin turnout for the last three elections averaged 38.9%, 36.5%

and 32.7%, respectively, and SoMa's turnout for each was 1% - 2% higher, Hayes Valley showed that it is a neighborhood where a candidate can get more of a bang for his or

her buck.

Hayes Valley turnout for the last general election in November 1998 was 51.83% and 50.17% for the December 1999 mayoral runoff. In the most recent election, the March 2000 presidential primary, the turnout slipped significantly — as it did in the Tenderloin and SoMa — to 45.78%.

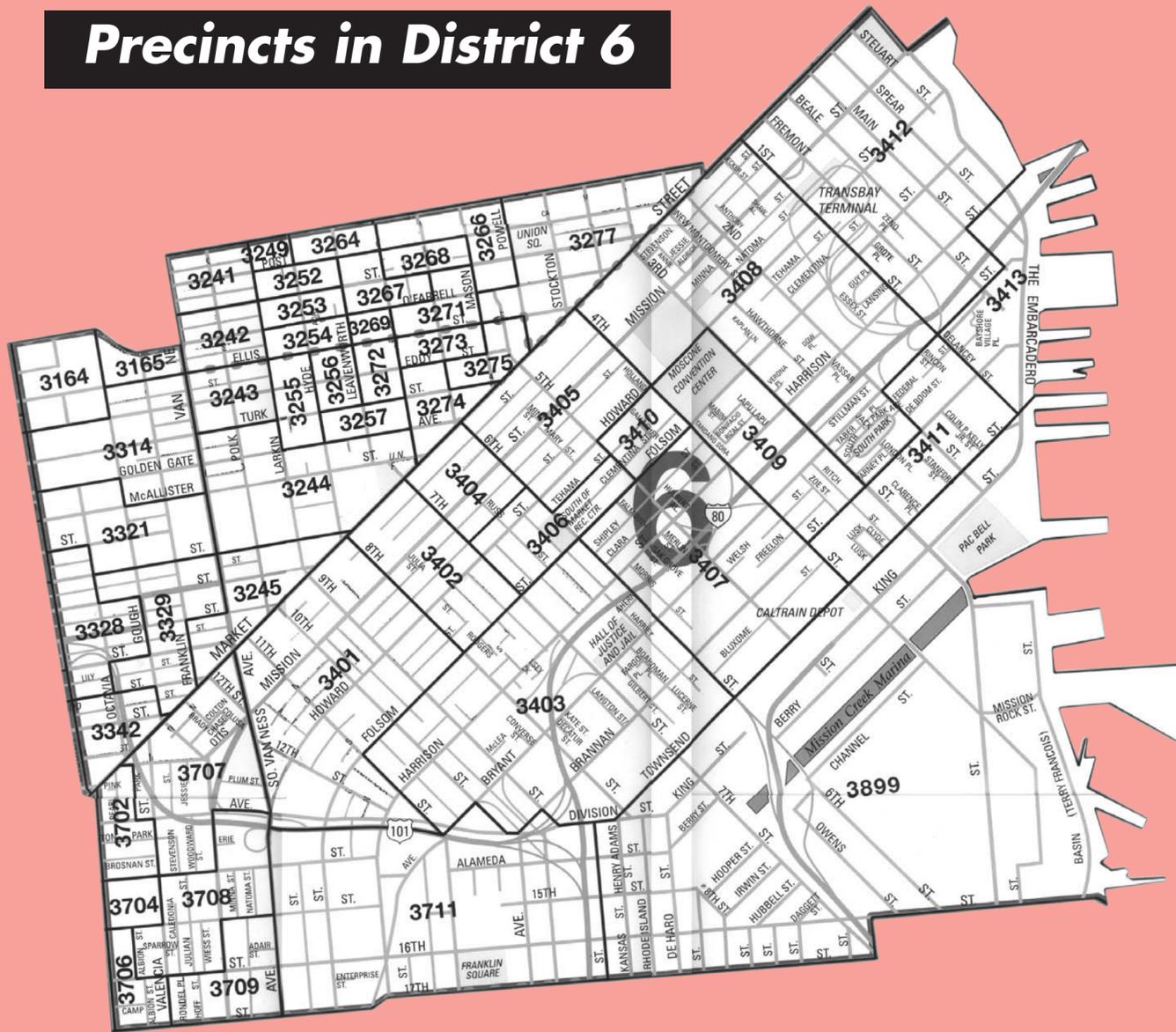
This election is almost certain to be a turning point for the Tenderloin. As the population in the growth-hungry South of Market climbs, the number of registered voters there likely will outpace the saturated TL.

And voters mean clout at City Hall.

So a lot depends on voter turnout in this election.

The last day to register is Oct. 10.

Precincts in District 6



SOURCE: S.F. Department of Elections, April 2000

Tenderloin

District 6 Elections Tenderloin

3/07/00 Primary

Precinct	Number of Registered Voters	Number of Voters	Percent of Voters	Number of Absentee Ballots	Percent of Absentee Ballots	Total Voters	Total Percentage
3241	822	209	25.4	41	5.0	250	30.4
3242	722	167	23.1	56	7.8	223	30.9
3243	727	236	32.4	67	9.2	303	41.7
3244	957	248	25.9	99	10.3	347	36.3
3245	820	292	35.6	63	7.7	355	43.3
3249	443	132	29.7	36	8.1	168	37.9
3252	671	189	28.1	54	8.0	243	36.2
3253	785	232	29.5	37	4.7	269	34.3
3254	902	212	23.5	94	10.4	306	33.9
3255	886	225	25.3	69	7.8	294	33.2
3256	998	235	23.5	69	6.9	304	30.5
3257	711	175	24.6	56	7.9	231	32.5
3264	754	224	29.7	60	8.0	284	37.7
3267	990	251	25.3	70	7.1	321	32.4
3266/68	920	218	23.6	72	7.8	290	31.5
3269	559	103	18.4	38	6.8	141	25.2
3271	665	135	20.3	54	8.1	189	28.4
3272	1,064	228	21.4	92	8.6	320	30.1
3273/75	1,040	225	21.6	72	6.9	297	28.6
3274	999	177	17.7	64	6.4	241	24.1
3277/78	874	164	18.7	81	9.3	245	28.0

Total/Average: 17,309 | 4,277 | 24.9 | 1,344 | 7.8 | 5,621 | 32.7

Hayes Valley

District 6 Elections Hayes Valley

3/07/00 Primary

Precinct	Number of Registered Voters	Number of Voters	Percent of Voters	Number of Absentee Ballots	Percent of Absentee Ballots	Total Voters	Total Percentage
3164	810	265	32.7	162	20.0	427	52.7
3165	473	177	37.4	83	17.5	260	55.0
3314	919	325	35.3	112	12.2	437	47.6
3321	953	265	27.8	94	9.9	359	37.7
3328	996	313	31.3	121	12.1	434	43.6
3329	1,007	325	32.3	84	8.3	409	40.6
3342	846	315	37.2	52	6.1	367	43.4

Total/Average: 6,004 | 1,985 | 33.43 | 708 | 12.319 | 2,693 | 45.78

South of Market

District 6 Elections South of Market

3/07/00 Primary

Precinct	Number of Registered Voters	Number of Voters	Percent of Voters	Number of Absentee Ballots	Percent of Absentee Ballots	Total Voters	Total Percentage
3401	1108	177	15.9	71	6.4	248	22.4
3402	993	268	26.9	90	9.1	358	36.1
3403	898	249	27.7	66	7.3	315	35.1
3404	878	165	18.7	48	5.5	213	24.3
3405	763	118	15.4	35	4.6	153	20.1
3406	981	196	19.9	64	6.5	260	26.5
3407	912	271	29.7	76	8.3	347	38.0
3408	844	222	26.3	58	6.9	280	33.2
3409	890	299	33.5	116	13.0	415	46.6
3410	714	188	26.3	99	13.9	287	40.2
3411	899	296	32.9	43	4.8	339	37.7
3412	766	206	26.8	76	9.9	282	36.8
3413	802	190	23.6	54	6.7	244	30.4
3414	324	40	12.3	49	15.1	89	27.5
3702	1171	431	36.8	72	6.1	503	43.0
3704	251	57	22.7	9	3.6	66	26.3
3706	856	276	32.2	58	6.8	334	39.0
3707	948	321	33.8	74	7.8	395	41.7
3708	1022	277	27.1	54	5.3	331	32.4
3709	892	269	30.1	62	7.0	331	37.1
3711	850	268	31.5	54	6.4	322	37.9
3899	359	2	0.6	138	38.4	140	39.0

Total/Average: 18,121 | 4,786 | 26.3 | 1,466 | 9.1 | 6,252 | 34.1

ELECTION TABLES BY RITA LUKATSKY

TOO CLOUDY FOR FORECAST

The number of registered voters won't be known until after Oct. 10, the last day to register to vote in the Nov. 7 election, so no official forecasts can be made.

But Christiane Hayashi, Department of Elections communications manager, said that California's secretary of state has set a goal of 80% turnout statewide. She doubts San Francisco will be that high, but recalls turnouts of 70%-75% city-wide.

However, over the last three elections the highest citywide turnout was 55.8% in November 1998, which, like this one, was also a general election.

HOMELESS PEOPLE CAN VOTE, TOO

The number of registered voters in this election won't be known until after Oct. 10, the last day to register.

Any U.S. citizen over 18 who is not in prison or on parole following conviction on a felony charge and who is a resident of San Francisco can register to vote.

And you don't have to live inside a house, apartment or hotel to have an address to register to vote. Homeless people can vote.

Homeless people can say they live "under a tree in Golden Gate Park," said Christiane Hayashi, communications manager for the Department of Elections, or the corner of Market and 7th streets. The location is used to assign a district and a polling place.

The registration form also asks for a mailing address, Hayashi said, but it "can be a P.O. box or your mother in Idaho" — just somewhere to send ballot and polling information.

Hayashi had no estimate of the number of homeless voters.

DISTRICT ELECTIONS

HOW WE GOT HERE

San Francisco flirted with district elections from 1976 when they were approved until 1980, when they were voted out.

But the interest in district elections didn't die then, it remained bubbling under the political surface until 1994 when voters approved an Elections Task Force to explore alternatives to the election of citywide representatives.

The Board of Supervisors selected two of the task force's recommendations to include on the November 1996 ballot:

- Proposition G recommended a return to district elections and established district boundaries.

- Proposition H recommended a system of "preference voting," a complex method in which voters rank their choices for supervisor. So if three seats are open, voters would rank the candidates they select 1, 2 and 3. The Department of Elections would then apply a formula to analyze the rankings in order to determine the winners.

Prop. G passed with 57% of the vote and the date of the next district election of supervisors was set for the November general election of 2000.

Prop. H was defeated by a solid 56% of the voters.

In 1998, an amendment was approved that added Treasure Island and Yerba Buena Island to District 6 and clarified the District 11 boundaries.

The 2000 census results might lead to the redrawing of some district boundaries.