

**From:** [A. Colichidas](#)  
**To:** [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** PUBLIC COMMENT: Limiting Teleconferencing and Remote Public Comment at Meetings of the Board of Supervisors and its Committees]  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 28, 2023 11:03:57 AM

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## OPPOSE [Limiting Teleconferencing and Remote Public Comment at Meetings of the Board of Supervisors and its Committees]

Dear SF Supervisors,

Teleconferencing and remote access are long overdue features of any public meeting. Limiting remote public comment amounts to a disenfranchisement by the BOS of the most vulnerable members of our community. For that matter, it omits anybody who has to work for wages, has a commute, is caring for an aging family member or a sick child. The above categories represent a large segment of those living in SF. With remote access, these voices can all part of the public discussion that informs decision-making.

Please establish teleconferencing and remote public comment as standard procedure for all meetings of public officials and agencies.

Nothing about us without us.

Sincerely,  
Ann Colichidas  
94110

**From:** [mlyon01](#)  
**To:** [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** NO on measure to restrict public comment at Supervisors' meetings  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 28, 2023 10:14:02 AM  
**Importance:** High

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## Re [Limiting Teleconferencing and Remote Public Comment at Meetings of the Board of Supervisors and its Committees]

This proposal stifles the voices not only of seniors, people with disabilities, and the immunocompromised, who can't make it to live meetings. It also stifles the voices of workers and stay-at-home parents, who do not have the time to attend live meetings. Furthermore, this isn't just about remote access, it's also about restricting comments by people attending live meetings.

If the Supervisors are tired of listening to hours of public comment, they should stop engaging with wildly unpopular and authoritarian proposals, such as this one. It's so transparently part of the Breed-Mandelman-Weiner agenda to open San Francisco to more exploitation by housing developers and other capitalists.

**From:** [Art Persyko](#)  
**To:** [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)  
**Cc:** [StefaniStaff\\_ \(BOS\)](#); [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** SF BOS PUBLIC COMMENT SUBMISSION FOR TODAY'S (2/28/23) SF BOS MEETING: PLEASE VOTE NO ON AGENDA ITEM #30; DO NOT ELIMINATE REMOTE PUBLIC COMMENT  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 28, 2023 7:25:57 AM

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**PUBLIC COMMENT SUBMISSION FOR TODAY'S (2/28/23) SF BOS MEETING: PLEASE VOTE NO ON AGENDA ITEM #30; PLEASE DO NOT ELIMINATE REMOTE PUBLIC COMMENT**

SF Board of Supervisors and Supervisor Catherine Stefani:

My name is Art Persyko and I am an SF Gray Panther Board member and resident of District 2.

I want to register my strong opposition to the elimination of remote public comment (per agenda item #30).

Please vote no on SF BOS Agenda item #30 today.

See below for my reasoning in my public comment (for the record and) for your consideration before you vote on Agenda item #30 today.

Thank you!

-Art Persyko

**MY NAME IS ART PERSYKO, SF Gray Panthers BOARD MEMBER and D2 Resident.**

**Supervisors:**

**Please vote NO on the proposal in your agenda item #30 to discontinue remote public comment for SF Board of Supervisors meetings and committees of the SF Board of Supervisors. The exception for disability is inadequate. Your own SF BOS Rules committee did not come to a consensus on this at their meeting yesterday. This is an unresolved issue for them; and it should be unresolved for you, so please do not vote "yes" on this unresolved**

**and important issue. What is at stake is this:**

**San Francisco (like any government) can BENEFIT from the feedback it gets from its residents, if it listens. Shouldn't we do every thing we can to optimize that?**

**SF residents who for various legitimate reasons cannot appear in person at SF Board of Supervisors and committee meetings (or who would find it very difficult to do so) should not have FEWER rights than other San Franciscans who are more affluent, privileged and/or well-connected when it comes to providing good ideas and helpful feedback to our city government.**

**San Franciscans should not have limits on our ability to keep you, our leaders accountable to us, the public.**

**The pandemic has given us new insights on long standing problems, and in this case it has given us the wonderful civic opportunity to IMPROVE public access to our leaders and allow our government the opportunity to be even more open and responsive to the broadest possible spectrum of individuals and constituencies in San Francisco.**

**Remote public access is an innovation that came out of the pandemic that should be preserved.**

**You and the rest of the SF Board of Supervisors should act in the best interests of the public, writ large.**

**You should not allow well-connected insiders to compound the advantages they have over average San Franciscans who face circumstances that limit their ability to come to City Hall in person.**

**You who represent the public, should not give in to pressure to spend less time listening to members of the public because it may be time consuming or burdensome. Its your job if you do it well, to listen to a spectrum of views in San Francisco.**

**You should not make it harder for public engagement with City Hall for those of**

**us who already are less privileged than others.**

**Don't take steps to reduce public accountability.**

**Stand up for democracy. Stand up for the public interest. Stand up for the best San Francisco possible.**

**Vote NO on this proposal to discontinue remote public comment.**

**I also endorse the letter below from a Coaliton of San Francisco constituencies.**

**Thank you.**

**-Art Persyko, 2190 Washington Street, SF/CA/94109 (650-228-4188),  
<[artpersyko@gmail.com](mailto:artpersyko@gmail.com)>**

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February 27, 2023

Dear President Peskin and Members of the Board of Supervisors,

We are a coalition of disabled people, seniors, poor and working-class people, parents, teachers, child care providers, Black, Indigenous, people of color, and other people who want to ensure that our communities have a voice in local decision-making. We write to urge you to OPPOSE the ordinance introduced by Supervisor Mandelman to end remote public comment and NOT to set a limit on the number of people who can call in to give comments.

Historically, our communities have been missing from the table for government decision-making, due to issues with access, child care, work, racism, and more. During the COVID pandemic, with requirements to shelter in place, the world learned to communicate effectively via the internet and phone. Lack of internet access and digital technologies continues to exclude many people, but video conferencing has allowed many to participate in Board of Supervisors hearings, commission meetings, and other public events -- some for the first time. All city agencies learned how to hold virtual meetings and allow people to listen and share input remotely. As a result, countless seniors, people with disabilities, parents, and others have been able to share their experiences, insights, and knowledge on issues that affect our lives: affordable housing and land use, health care, technology, and much more.

It is vital that the City and County of San Francisco commit to continuing an UNLIMITED

telephone and video option for all public meetings, complete with ASL, captioning, and interpretation. Many working people can't take time off from day jobs, when most meetings are held, but can call in and speak for a couple of minutes when their turn comes. Many disabled and immuno-compromised people and their family members and caregivers cannot risk coming in person and getting COVID, or transportation and other barriers prevent in-person attendance. Parents, educators, and caregivers for young children cannot take a break to come to a meeting but can call in while with children. Continuing to offer a remote participation option for public meetings will only serve to elevate the diverse voices of our community and create stronger and better decision-making. Dedicated city staff have proven that remote meetings are possible, and we are grateful.

Remote participation should be allowed for all, without a separate and *segregated* "reasonable accommodation" process. Requiring people to identify as disabled adds a barrier that makes it less likely for people to participate, and nondisabled people also have valid reasons to participate remotely. While some meetings have gone extremely long due to callers, there is scant evidence that more than a couple meetings have had callers from outside the Bay Area. Increased public engagement should be celebrated rather than prevented. There is little to be gained and much to be lost by eliminating remote public comment.

San Francisco has always valued rich community discussion. Let's preserve and expand participation from seniors, people with disabilities, working people, parents, and everyone. We know now that remote participation is possible. Every public meeting **MUST** continue to have an option for ALL members of the public to view and make comments from any location. Please vote no on legislation limiting or ending remote participation options.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

3rd Street Youth Center & Clinic

ABD/Skywatchers

African American Early Childhood Educators of San Francisco

Affordable Housing Alliance

AfroSolo Theatre Company

AIDS Legal Referral Panel

All of Us or None

Black Women Revolt Against Domestic Violence

C Counsel

CADA, Community Alliance of Disability Advocates

CAIR San Francisco Bay Area

Calle 24 Latino Cultural District

Caminante Cultural Foundation

Captured Moments By Elisha Rochell LLC  
Causa Justa :: Just Cause  
Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice  
Children & Youth Fund Service Providers Working Group  
Children's Council of San Francisco  
Chinatown Community Development Center  
Chinese Culture Center of San Francisco  
Chinese Progressive Association  
Coalition on Homelessness San Francisco  
Coalition to End Biased Stops  
Coleman Advocates  
Community Awareness Resource Entity (C.A.R.E.)  
Community Living Campaign  
Compass Family Services  
Cooperative Restraining Order Clinic (CROC)  
CARE CLT  
D4ward  
Drug Policy Alliance  
Edgewood Center  
Early Care Educators of San Francisco  
End Hep C SF  
Family Child Care Association of San Francisco  
GLIDE  
Gum Moon Residence Hall  
Heart of the City Farmers Market  
HIV Caucus of the Harvey Milk LGBTQ Democratic Club  
HomeRise  
Hospitality House  
Housing Rights Committee of San Francisco  
Independent Living Resource Center - San Francisco  
Larkin Street Youth Services  
League of Women Voters of San Francisco  
Legal Services for Prisoners with Children  
LYRIC (Lavender Youth Recreation & Information Center)  
MAGIC SF (BMAGIC & Mo'MAGIC)  
Marked By Covid  
Mission Graduates  
Mission Neighborhood Health Center  
Marty's Place Affordable Housing Corporation  
New Community Leadership Foundation  
NEXT Village SF

North East Medical Services (NEMS)  
OMI Cultural Participation Project  
Parent Voices SF  
Park View Heights BIPO  
Project Commotion  
Pulse Check 101  
Raphael House  
Rad Mission Neighbors  
San Francisco AIDS Foundation  
San Francisco Black Leadership Academy  
San Francisco Child Care Planning & Advisory Council  
San Francisco Early Care & Education Advocacy Coalition  
San Francisco Human Services Network  
San Francisco IHSS Public Authority  
San Francisco Latinx Democratic Club  
San Francisco Latino Task Force Street Needs Assessment Committee  
San Francisco Living Wage Coalition  
San Francisco-Marin Food Bank  
San Francisco Rebels  
San Francisco Rising  
Senior and Disability Action  
SF Parents For Equity  
SF SafeHouse  
SF Tenants Union  
SisterWeb San Francisco Community Doula Network  
SOMA Pilipinas  
Stand in Peace International  
STEM2Hearts Leadership Academy  
St James Infirmary  
Swords to Plowshares Veterans Rights Organization  
Tenderloin Neighborhood Development Corporation  
The Race & Equity in all Planning Coalition (REP-SF)  
Trinity Foster Family Services of the Bay Area  
Tenderloin People's Congress  
The Gubbio Project  
The Women's Building  
Transgender, Gender-Variant, and Intersex Justice Project  
Treatment on Demand Coalition  
United to Save the Mission  
Urban Ed Academy  
Wah Mei School



Walk SF  
Washington Coalition for Open Government  
Westside Community Coalition  
WISE Health SF  
W.O.M.A.N., Inc.  
Wright Enterprises, Community/PR & Media Relations  
Wu Yee Children's Services  
Young Community Developers  
Youth 1st

cc: Mayor London Breed

Angela Calvillo, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

Kelly Dearman, Department of Disability and Aging Services

Nicole Bohn, Mayor's Office on Disability

Linda Gerull, Department of Technology

**From:** [Charles Head](#)  
**To:** [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Fw: Please support Remote Access for All  
**Date:** Monday, February 27, 2023 7:57:54 PM

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This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

**From: Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods**

**Subject: Please support Remote Access for All**

**Date:** February 27, 2023 at 2:43:52 PM PST

**To:** [Connie.Chan@sfgov.org](mailto:Connie.Chan@sfgov.org), Peskin Aaron <[Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org](mailto:Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org)>, Stefani Catherine <[catherine.stefani@sfgov.org](mailto:catherine.stefani@sfgov.org)>, Engardio Joel <[jengardio@gmail.com](mailto:jengardio@gmail.com)>, Dean Preston <[deanpreston7@gmail.com](mailto:deanpreston7@gmail.com)>, [DorseyStaff@sfgov.org](mailto:DorseyStaff@sfgov.org), Myrna Melgar <[myrna.melgar@sfgov.org](mailto:myrna.melgar@sfgov.org)>, Mandelman Rafael <[MandelmanStaff@sfgov.org](mailto:MandelmanStaff@sfgov.org)>, Shamann Walton <[Shamann.Walton@sfgov.org](mailto:Shamann.Walton@sfgov.org)>, Safai Ahsha <[Ahsha.Safai@sfgov.org](mailto:Ahsha.Safai@sfgov.org)>, Ronen Hillary <[hillary.ronen@sfgov.org](mailto:hillary.ronen@sfgov.org)>

February 27, 2023

Dear Board of Supervisors:

Re: Please support Remote Access for All.

Mayor Breed please support Remote Access for All and Supervisors please reject the proposition to eliminate Remote Equal Access for San Franciscan voters and taxpayers, which will come before the BOS tomorrow. The Rules Comm. is sending it to the Board without recommendation. The public voice is being cut off too much already in many regards and this is a vital step that allows some comments to break through.

Most polls around the country show a tremendous drop in public trust in government. Backward moves such as this and the threat to voting by mail are a major concern. How can your support equal voting rights and not support the right to speak remotely for everyone? It took a while for some of us to figure out how to use the new technology and now it is a very popular among the voting public. Are you considering removing our right to speak after hearing our voices?

We are in the midst of a huge changes in our lives, lifestyle, work, economy, and our social interactions. No government entity can predict what will happen and the best way to protect the public is to keep an open dialogue with the citizens in order to understand of how the

changes are effecting the community. The only way you will have a clear picture of the actions on the street is to encourage more public discourse.

We need to keep remote access options for all the people who are unable to attend in-person meetings. Our time is more precious than ever. Please do us the respect of listening to our voices and as we share our thoughts and concerns with the government and the public who are listening.

The online public meetings and recordings are a new form of social media that is not politicized or censored. We need this discourse between our government and among ourselves.

Please vote to preserve Remote EQUAL Access for all San Franciscans.

Charles Head  
President  
CSFN

**From:** [Patricia Arack](#)  
**To:** [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Reject the cancelation of Remote Access  
**Date:** Monday, February 27, 2023 7:44:36 PM

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This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear supervisors : Please reject Sup. Mandelman's proposal to cancel remote access. Civil rights laws and ADA laws mandate equal access to government meetings. You cannot limit public comment just to people who are physically able and who have the time and money to go to meetings in person. Also, requiring disabled people to sign up 72 hours in advance of a meeting is not equal access and it's an invasion of privacy a disabled person to have to reveal their condition. I am disabled and a senior and I don't mind telling people I'm disabled that many people who are younger and still working might have very good reasons to keep any disability private. Parents with small children cannot attend meetings in person. Working people cannot attend meetings in person. Seniors who are frail but not disabled cannot attend meetings in person.

Do not throw the baby out with the bathwater. Allow people to continue making public comment but devise a process where only residents of San Francisco and / or people who work in San Francisco are able to comment. The bike coalition, which by the way is supported by our tax dollars, sends out form letters to thousands of people all over the western United States and they have people calling in from Seattle and LA and all points in between. Go after the abusers of the public remote comment; don't demand that nobody be able to call in just because certain nonprofits abuse the process. Please continue to provide equal access to public comment for all San Francisco.

Mandelman complains that it is a waste of resources and his valuable time to sit through 8 hours of comments. At the February 6th discussion of this issue he said that the supervisors never change their vote anyway because of remote access comments. I dearly hope that his comments were limited just to himself and not to the entire Board of Supervisors. You are public servants, and you serve at the discretion of the voters. As the former supervisor of District 4 unfortunately learned recently, you ignore your constituents at your own peril. Please listen to the unanimous comments from voters and taxpayers from the entire spectrum of the political landscape in San Francisco who are telling you to keep remote equal access for public comment.

Patricia Arack, Leader  
Concerned Residents of the Sunset

**From:** [Edward Mason](#)  
**To:** [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Item 30 Teleconference and Remote Public Comment  
**Date:** Monday, February 27, 2023 3:24:22 PM

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Strongly recommend Teleconference and Remote Public Comment be retained. Available technology saves considerable travel time to the meeting location.

Edward Mason