

1 [Urging State Legislators to Allow Local Wealth and Progressive Income Taxes]

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3 **Resolution urging state legislators to champion legislation allowing cities and counties**
4 **to decide if they want to implement local wealth and progressive income taxes.**

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6 WHEREAS, Income inequality is an existential threat to society; and

7 WHEREAS, Income inequality has direct impacts on the most basic quality of life
8 issues including public health and educational outcomes, food and housing security, and
9 more; and

10 WHEREAS, Income inequality has existed in cities for generations, including in San
11 Francisco; and

12 WHEREAS, Income inequality has grown more rampant and pervasive as anti-worker,
13 anti-union, anti-small business corporations and billionaires have spent millions of dollars to
14 advocate for policies that increase income inequality at the expense of working San
15 Franciscans; and

16 WHEREAS, Income inequality was exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, with the
17 combination of shelter-in-place policies and business closures disproportionately impacting
18 working and immigrant communities; and

19 WHEREAS, Concurrently, Congress is negotiating a budget that would give extreme
20 tax breaks to the wealthiest while increasing taxes on the lowest income households; and

21 WHEREAS, The federal minimum wage in the United States has remained at \$7.25
22 since 2009 despite inflation increasing by roughly 41%; and

23 WHEREAS, While San Francisco has a much higher minimum wage at \$18.67,
24 however, according to the United States (U.S.) Census Bureau, the median household
25 income in 2023 was \$141,446 - the equivalent of \$68 per hour over a 40 hour week; and

1 WHEREAS, According to a Forbes article published in 2024, San Francisco is home to
2 50 billionaires with a total net worth of \$185 billion; and

3 WHEREAS, Other cities, including New York and Philadelphia, tax the income of the
4 most wealthy residents to help fund public services that all residents benefit from; and

5 WHEREAS, New York and Philadelphia impose local income taxes on their wealthiest
6 residents, and many billionaires continue to choose to pay their fair share instead of move to
7 areas without the tax; and

8 WHEREAS, California does not currently allow cities or counties to enact local taxes on
9 income or wealth; and

10 WHEREAS, Income taxes on the wealthiest residents would give counties like San
11 Francisco opportunities to fund vital public services without relying solely on regressive sales
12 taxes and fee hikes that disproportionately and negatively impact the poor, the working class,
13 and small businesses; and

14 WHEREAS, San Francisco is facing a nearly billion-dollar deficit to close over the next
15 two fiscal years in addition to bracing for further budget cuts at the state and federal levels;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, In an attempt to close the deficit, the City is debating whether to cut
18 essential direct services that make up the social safety net that have long staved off the
19 effects of income inequality; and

20 WHEREAS, At the same time, there have been calls from the public for large
21 corporations including Airbnb and Uber to pay their fair share of taxes so as to not balance
22 our budget deficit on the backs of working people; and

23 WHEREAS, San Francisco residents have a long and demonstrated history of
24 supporting taxes for the common good including to fund service for our most vulnerable
25 populations; now, therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco urges the state legislators
2 State Senator Scott Wiener, Assembly Member Matt Haney, and Assembly Member
3 Catherine Stefani to champion legislation allowing counties to implement local wealth and
4 progressive income taxes if they choose; and, be it

5 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors hereby directs the Clerk of the
6 Board to transmit a copy of this Resolution to State Senator Scott Wiener, Assembly Member
7 Matt Haney, and Assembly Member Catherine Stefani.