

File #250120

Dear Supervisors Walton, Sherrill, and Mandelman—

It's my pleasure to recommend that you appoint Cynthia Dai to the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force. Like her, I have worked in both the private sector and public service. After retiring from a career at Xerox, Kodak, and General Motors, I founded Market Insight, home of myproductadvisor.com. I also had the privilege of serving as Director of the U.S. Census Bureau under Presidents Nixon, Ford, and Carter.

In 2010, I applied to be on the California Citizens Redistricting Commission, where I first met Cynthia. I was one of the Republicans and she one of the Democrats among the eight initially seated (with the task of rounding out the Commission with two each of the remaining vetted Republicans, Democrats, and Independents). She was elected to be Vice Chair, but I got an early sense of her collaborative approach. Shortly after the full Commission was seated, she proposed that we share leadership, a rotation that I and most other Commissioners joined, assuaging any concerns from the public that this body would be dominated by one party.

During our time as Commissioners, I got to know her well, especially as the two of us were nominated by our colleagues to draft the report required by the California constitution. We spent many days together discussing the issues that surfaced during the development of the maps from 22,000 public comments we received in person and electronically. Though we and our attorneys drafted key sections summarizing our work, she insisted on engaging all 14 Commissioners. Each one wrote up our justification for a portion of the 177 districts we drew in a standard format, ensuring we capitalized on everyone's expertise and shared the effort.

I found her to be a trusted colleague who was willing to participate in the difficult discussions with sincerity and care. Her contribution was not limited to the insight she brought regarding the development of the process, but in the manner in which she engaged in discussions with individuals with competing points of view. On several occasions when it looked like we hit a roadblock, Cynthia got the Commissioners with differing points of view to the table to come up with an acceptable solution to the issue. There is no question in my mind that Cynthia played a very critical role in keeping the commission on track to eventually deliver a plan that met constitutional requirements, surpassed the necessary votes, and eventually prevailed despite legal scrutiny. The Sunshine Ordinance Task Force would greatly benefit from her ability to navigate contentious situations, as well as her direct experience in conducting open meetings and abiding by the laws governing public access.



Vincent Barabba

Subject: Recommend Cynthia Dai for SOTF, File #250120

Rules Committee Supervisors—

I strongly recommend you appoint Cynthia Dai to the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force. I've known Cynthia since 2010 when we were both selected as California Citizens Redistricting Commissioners. As one of the youngest Commissioners and an Independent, I appreciated the rotating leadership structure she proposed that we adopted, which gave me an opportunity to Chair the meeting where we announced our final maps at the State Capitol. I also got to know her well since I lived in Oakland, and we often carpooled to Sacramento.

In addition to being extremely impartial (a requirement for which all of us were vetted), Cynthia is an empathetic listener. She was truly curious about the different perspectives that we as Commissioners brought to the work, given our legal mandate to include gender, race/ethnicity, location, socioeconomic status and multi-partisan representation. At one of our first meetings, she suggested that we develop a unifying tagline, an exercise she assigned in her leadership and teamwork course for students at UC Berkeley. "Fair Representation—Democracy at Work!" was the first of many consensus decisions we made, thanks to Cynthia.

She also cared about efficient processes, writing up a "cheat sheet" for new Chairs and Vice Chairs rotating in, which included tips to draw out more reticent Commissioners while managing repetitive comments from others. Cynthia organized "enforced socializing" at group dinners after meetings that built trust among 14 strangers who had to execute their task under extreme time pressure. Already an experienced executive and board member, she suggested standing committees and ad hoc teams to divide the incredible workload and accelerate decision-making. As a colleague, I found her skilled at designing effective group processes and attentive to building and maintaining productive working relationships with each individual commissioner and staff person.

Her experience as a Skoll Foundation executive and years consulting to community-based organizations and mentoring social enterprises provided valuable insights to the Commission for our public outreach efforts. On a personal level, I also appreciated her counsel as I transitioned from a nonprofit into philanthropy. Her cross-sector experience and networks served us well and would be invaluable in San Francisco.

Due to our strict transparency rules, Cynthia's experience on the Commission is highly relevant for the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force. She would be a highly ethical Task Force member who would certainly increase the body's efficiency and impact. Based on the current membership, she would add much-needed representation and skills. I enthusiastically reiterate my recommendation of Cynthia Dai for the Task Force.

*Connie Archbold Robinson*

Connie Archbold Robinson (formerly Galambos Malloy)

**From:** Paul Gardiner  
**To:** [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#); [Sherrill, Stephen \(BOS\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#); [SherrillStaff](#); [Burch, Percy \(BOS\)](#); [DeRuff, Henry \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Cynthia Dai for Sunshine Ordinance Task Force, File #250120  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 18, 2025 10:11:26 PM

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Dear Rules Committee Members:

I have been a resident of San Francisco for over 25 years, and of Noe Valley (District 8) for the last 11. I spent the largest part of my career as head of product management at a San Francisco-based financial software company called Calypso Technology (now [Nasdaq Financial Technology](#)). For the last few years, my main focus has been as the author of [SFEDup](#), a substack devoted to data about education in San Francisco.

I am writing to express my support of Cynthia Dai's application, File #250120, to join the San Francisco Sunshine Ordinance Task Force. I have known Cyn for over 30 years. We were students together at the Stanford Graduate School of Business and have stayed in touch through the years as we both made our homes, and built our careers, in the city we love.

I have been witness to her longstanding commitment to volunteering her time to help others. As a member, and then a leader, of multiple [Alumni Consulting Teams](#), she helped local nonprofits with their strategic thinking. As a member of the first statewide redistricting task force, she helped reduce gerrymandering statewide. As a member of the elections commission, she attempted to ensure the fairest possible elections in San Francisco.

We don't always agree politically. I'm confident we didn't vote for the same mayoral candidate and I remember being shocked to learn a few years ago that we had similar opinions about the merits of Gavin Newsom and Kamala Harris. But I've never doubted her honesty, her zeal, and her passion for what she does.

You probably recall the infamous 2021 school board meeting when a candidate for a volunteer position on a parent advisory committee was forced to wait silently while the board members debated endlessly [the appropriateness of putting a gay white male on the committee](#) even though there were multiple open slots on the committee and no other candidates. It was one of the events that fueled the recall. And here we are again with an eminently qualified person wanting to volunteer her time on a committee that has had an open slot for a year. This should not be a debate. Put Cyn

on the Sunshine Task Force.

Sincerely,

Paul Gardiner

**From:** [Chris Keene](#)  
**To:** [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#); [Sherrill, Stephen \(BOS\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#); [SherrillStaff](#); [Burch, Percy \(BOS\)](#); [DeRuff, Henry \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Cynthia Dai for Sunshine Ordinance Task Force  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 19, 2025 10:53:29 AM

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

I believe Cynthia Dai will be an excellent member of the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force.

I am a retired software entrepreneur and longtime community leader. In Noe Valley I helped create the Noe Valley Town Square and the Friends of Slow Sanchez street.

More recently, I led an effort to bring renewed activity to downtown San Francisco. That effort focused around renovating Embarcadero Plaza, and recently received over \$30M in support from the city and private donors.

In my role as a software CEO, I worked with Cynthia for more than ten years across five different businesses. In each case, I hired her as a strategic consultant to assist with a business turnaround. These were invariably complex business problems with challenging political landscapes to navigate.

Cynthia is incredibly effective both in understanding process issues and in building relationships and trust in difficult environments. It is often much easier to identify a process problem than it is to create the organizational will to solve that problem. Cynthia is a great problem solver and bridge builder.

I feel the same skills that make Cynthia a strong business consultant would make her an excellent Sunshine Ordinance Task Force member.

Chris



453 S Spring Street, #401  
Los Angeles, CA 90013  
213.623.1216

[www.commoncause.org/ca](http://www.commoncause.org/ca)

San Francisco Board of Supervisors  
Rules Committee  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
San Francisco, CA 94102

February 19, 2025

Submitted via email

**Re: File #250120 – Application for Sunshine Ordinance Task Force - Cynthia Dai**

Dear Chair Walton, Vice Chair Sherrill, and President Mandelman,

We write in strong support of the application of Cynthia Dai to the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force (SOTF).

California Common Cause is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to fostering open and accountable government, protecting voter access, and ensuring transparency in public processes. We have worked closely with Ms. Dai for over a decade and can attest to her qualifications, character, and commitment to public service.

Ms. Dai has been a steadfast advocate for fair and transparent governance. She served as a commissioner on the California Citizens Redistricting Commission (CCRC), where she played a critical role in ensuring fair representation through a transparent, community-driven redistricting process. Her leadership was instrumental in navigating complex discussions, balancing diverse viewpoints, and upholding principles of democratic fairness. She has also contributed significantly to local government accountability as a commissioner on the San Francisco Elections Commission (SFEC), where she worked to strengthen public oversight and advocate for meaningful reform.

Her deep expertise, commitment to impartiality, and ability to build consensus make her an outstanding candidate for the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force. Cynthia has consistently demonstrated her ability to engage with diverse perspectives, find common ground, and ensure that public participation remains central to governance decisions.

San Francisco benefits from dedicated public servants like Cynthia Dai, who prioritize fairness, accountability, and civic engagement. We urge the Rules Committee to advance her application so she may continue advocating for open government and civic participation.

Thank you for your consideration. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pedro Hernandez".

Pedro Hernandez  
Legal and Policy Director  
California Common Cause  
[pfernandez@commoncause.org](mailto:pfernandez@commoncause.org)

**From:** [aharris399@me.com](mailto:aharris399@me.com)  
**To:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Endorsement of Candidate Cynthia Dai - Sunshine Ordinance Task Force (typo in SL corrected)  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 19, 2025 5:30:13 PM

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

Resend to email address (cut off)

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** aharris399@me.com  
**Subject: Re: Endorsement of Candidate Cynthia Dai - Sunshine Ordinance Task Force (typo in SL corrected)**  
**Date:** February 19, 2025 at 5:07:25 PM PST  
**To:** Supervisor Rafael Mandelman <MandelmanStaff@sfgov.org>, Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org  
**Cc:** henry.deruff@sfgov.org, victor.young@sfgov.org

On Feb 19, 2025, at 4:41 PM, aharris399@me.com wrote:

Tony Harris  
1546 Dolores Street  
San Francisco, CA 94110  
Resident, San Francisco Supervisorial District 8

To the Honorable Rafael Mandelman  
President, San Francisco County Board of Supervisors

Dear Rafael,

I am writing today to wholeheartedly recommend candidate Cynthia Dai to the City and County of San Francisco Sunshine Ordinance Task Force, File #250120. I have known Cynthia since 1991, when we were MBA students at Stanford Graduate School of Business. She and I were both involved in school activities together including when I was Co-Editor in Chief of The Reporter.

I understand the time investment and duties involved in volunteer efforts to keep our city great. It is critical to have committed and smart people in these volunteer positions. I am speaking in my personal capacity, but in addition to my other volunteer work, I

currently volunteer as a Board Member and Treasurer of the Upper Noe Neighbors association.

Cynthia and I have kept in touch through our Stanford GSB Pride (LGBT) Alumni organization over all these years.

Cynthia is a multi-talented and highly intelligent person and a committed resident of San Francisco. She has tremendous experience in governmental affairs, having served on the California Citizens Redistricting Commission. I know her to be trustworthy and fair and to put her best efforts into all that she does.

I understand there has been some controversy over her candidacy for this volunteer position. I am unfamiliar with the intricacies of San Francisco interests and politics, but I absolutely trust her to represent me and all San Francisco residents. I believe in her character and her ability to look out for our best interests in this vital work. Further, she will bring the right commitment to transparency and fairness on this Task Force.

Thank you for your consideration,

Tony Harris

Cc: Rules Clerk  
Cynthia Dai



**From:** [Kelly Wong](#)  
**To:** [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Sherrill, Stephen \(BOS\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Burch, Percy \(BOS\)](#); [DeRuff, Henry \(BOS\)](#); [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#); [SherrillStaff](#)  
**Subject:** I support Cynthia Dai for SOTF (Sunshine Ordinance Task Force) Re: File #250120  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 18, 2025 11:36:16 PM

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Dear Chair Walton, Vice Chair Sherrill, and President Mandelman –

I am writing to express my strong support for Cynthia Dai's application to join the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force. Over the past year, I have had the privilege of collaborating with Ms. Dai and have been consistently impressed by her dedication, expertise, and unwavering commitment to fostering transparent and effective governance.

Ms. Dai has played a pivotal role in enhancing election results reporting and addressing critical issues, such as safeguarding SF's open cast vote records. During my tenure on the SF Elections Commission, Ms. Dai was a supportive and collaborative colleague throughout my onboarding process. She has been instrumental in advancing initiatives to enhance non-citizen voting and improve language access for voters with limited English proficiency. As an immigrant Commissioner myself, I firmly believe that diverse perspectives, including those from Asian American, LGBTQ+, and other underrepresented communities, are crucial for fostering inclusive decision-making and ensuring a more equitable and transparent governance process. Ms. Dai's extensive experience in community leadership and social entrepreneurship could significantly contribute to this end, while maintaining transparency and equity in clean governance.

I am confident that Ms. Dai's contributions will benefit the Task Force, and I wholeheartedly support her application. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kelly Wong  
SF Elections Commissioner

**From:** [Renita Livolsi](#)  
**To:** [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Sherrill, Stephen \(BOS\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Burch, Percy \(BOS\)](#); [DeRuff, Henry \(BOS\)](#); [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#); [SherrillStaff](#)  
**Subject:** I support Cynthia Dai for SOTF (Sunshine Ordinance Task Force) Re: File #250120  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 18, 2025 1:17:35 PM

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Dear, Chair Walton, Vice Chair Sherrill, and President Mandelman—

I am writing to strongly support Cynthia Dai's candidacy for the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force. As San Francisco faces complex challenges and opportunities, the Task Force needs a leader who demonstrates an unwavering commitment to democratic principles and equity.

Having served alongside Ms. Dai on the San Francisco Elections Commission, I have witnessed firsthand her exceptional dedication to transparency in governance. Her leadership on our committee to develop recommendations to improve San Francisco's redistricting process (after 18 months of a public education process) exemplifies her vision for open communication with the public, making her ideally suited for the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force. Throughout her tenure on the Elections Commission, she consistently demonstrated that transparency is not just a buzzword—it is a fundamental principle that builds trust and enables effective governance.

Ms. Dai fundamentally understands that a thriving city requires active participation and representation from all community members. As Committee Chair, she demonstrated a remarkable ability to bring diverse voices to the table and ensured that everyone had a meaningful opportunity to participate in and provide feedback on San Francisco's redistricting process. Her inclusive leadership style created an environment where all participating stakeholders felt heard and valued. The Elections Commission voted unanimously to submit a 60+-page report detailing consensus recommendations to the Board of Supervisors in January 2024.

What particularly distinguishes Ms. Dai is her practical approach to implementing these values. She has developed concrete plans to strengthen our democratic institutions and create more inclusive decision-making processes that will positively impact all San Francisco residents. Her experience with both policy development and community engagement makes her uniquely qualified for this role.

I believe Cynthia Dai possesses the integrity, vision, and leadership qualities necessary to serve effectively as a member of the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force. Her appointment would represent a significant step forward in creating a more transparent, equitable, and

democratically engaged Task Force.

I strongly urge you to support Cynthia Dai's appointment to the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force. If you have any questions or would like to discuss her qualifications further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Renita LiVolsi  
Vice President - San Francisco Election Commission

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Renita LiVolsi  
[renita.livolsi@gmail.com](mailto:renita.livolsi@gmail.com)  
415-971-5385

**From:** [Corinne Herndon](#)  
**To:** [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#); [Sherrill, Stephen \(BOS\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#)  
**Cc:** [SherrillStaff](#); [Burch, Percy \(BOS\)](#); [DeRuff, Henry \(BOS\)](#); [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** I support Cynthia Dai for Sunshine Ordinance Task Force, File #250120  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 18, 2025 9:03:14 PM

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## **Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors Rules Committee,**

I am a lifelong resident of the Glen Park neighborhood in District 8 and a retired teacher from the San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD). Over my 30+ year career, I worked with underserved students and vulnerable populations in our local schools. I am also the daughter of James Herndon, an African American attorney and activist who fought for civil rights, equality and access and co-founded the San Francisco African-American Historical and Cultural Society in 1955. I am writing to express my strong support for Cynthia Dai's application, File #250120, to join the San Francisco Sunshine Ordinance Task Force.

I have known Cynthia Dai for many years through social connections in San Francisco. While I have not worked directly with her, our close mutual friends have consistently described her as intelligent, trustworthy, reliable, and hardworking. Ms. Dai has generously contributed her time and expertise to our city in numerous ways, and I have personally benefited from her thoughtful advice and insights when I needed guidance. Her dedication to public service and her commitment to transparency and accountability make her an exceptional candidate for this role.

San Francisco is fortunate to have someone of Ms. Dai's caliber willing to serve on the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force. I am confident that her skills, integrity, and passion for civic engagement will greatly benefit the Task Force and our community.

I strongly support Cynthia Dai's candidacy for the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force and urge you to approve her application.

**Sincerely,**

Corinne Vega Herndon  
Glen Park Resident and Voter  
San Francisco Native  
Retired Teacher SFUSD

**From:** [L M](#)  
**To:** [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#); [Sherrill, Stephen \(BOS\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#); [SherrillStaff](#); [Burch, Percy \(BOS\)](#); [DeRuff, Henry \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** I support Cynthia Dai for Sunshine Ordinance Task Force, File #250120  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 18, 2025 11:47:15 AM

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Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors Rules Committee:

I am a resident of the Mission in District #9 and work as a research consultant for nonprofits, businesses and universities. I also have years of experience working for local organizations such as Levi Strauss & CO., and Next 10, a nonprofit. I am writing to express my support of Cynthia Dai's application, File #250120, to join the San Francisco Sunshine Ordinance Task Force. I have known Cynthia Dai for decades, having attended both undergraduate school with her at UC Berkeley and later Stanford Graduate School of Business. We met when we were both student senators at UC Berkeley, where Ms. Dai--who majored in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science--represented the Science & Engineering Coalition of students.

Over the decades of our friendship, I have known Ms. Dai to be an excellent, trustworthy, hard-working professional, and to have a great deal of integrity. Ms. Dai also has the ability to think deeply about complex topics and to bring her strategic mindset to all of her endeavors.

I have worked on over ten professional consulting projects with Ms. Dai. She is one of the smartest people I have ever known with the ability to see the big picture and pull key insights out of masses of information. She also has a very strong commitment to excellence in her products, her process and her relationships with team members and the community. During Ms. Dai's tenure for the California Citizens Redistricting Commission, I observed her integrity and commitment to truly hearing community voices and reflecting their input in the final maps. Ms. Dai has deep respect for community voices and a deep commitment to good government. Our city is so fortunate to have someone like Ms. Dai willing to devote themselves to our Sunshine Ordinance Task Force.

I strongly support the candidacy of Cynthia Dai for the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force.

Sincerely,

Leticia C. Miranda

Principal Consultant  
Miranda Group Consulting

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/leticia-miranda1/>

**From:** [Jeff Hau](#)  
**To:** [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#); [Sherrill, Stephen \(BOS\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#); [SherrillStaff](#); [Burch, Percy \(BOS\)](#); [DeRuff, Henry \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** I support Cynthia Dai for Sunshine Ordinance Task Force, File #250120  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 19, 2025 2:36:52 PM

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Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors Rules Committee:

I am a resident of The Richmond in District 1, and I am writing to express my strong support for Ms. Cynthia Dai's application (File #250120) to join the San Francisco Sunshine Ordinance Task Force.

I have had the pleasure of knowing Ms. Dai through the Stanford Graduate School of Business (GSB) Asian Alumni Circle in 2022, where she served as one of the group's leaders. During that time, I found her to be highly organized, incredibly smart, and deeply dedicated to all the initiatives we undertook as a group. We also took a course together called The Art of Self-Coaching, which further demonstrated Ms. Dai's strong ethical values, excellent communication, and outstanding leadership skills.

Based on my direct experience, I can personally attest to Ms. Dai's competence, trustworthiness, and her thoughtful approach to problem-solving. She exhibits integrity in every aspect of her work and is skilled at navigating complex issues with a strategic mindset. I have no doubt that Ms. Dai will bring these qualities to bear on the important work of the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force.

I strongly support the candidacy of Ms. Dai for this position. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jeff Hau  
GSB '18  
First Generation Holdings, General Partner and Managing Member

**From:** [Carrie Portis](#)  
**To:** [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#); [Sherrill, Stephen \(BOS\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#); [SherrillStaff](#); [Burch, Percy \(BOS\)](#); [DeRuff, Henry \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** I support Cynthia Dai for Sunshine Ordinance Task Force, File #250120  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 19, 2025 10:49:37 AM

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Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors Rules Committee:

I am writing to express my support of Cynthia Dai's application, File #250120, to join the San Francisco Sunshine Ordinance Task Force. I have known Cynthia Dai for 10 years, we are both alumni of the Stanford Graduate School of Business, we do volunteer work together to support the LGBTQIQA+ community (of which we are both part) and also support each others' work to alleviate poverty through social impact locally and internationally. In my time knowing Cynthia she has also shared with me about what she and others have accomplished on the California Citizens Redistricting Commission, which I have found to be quite impressive and showing significant commitment to strengthening our civil society.

In my experience with Cynthia, I have found her to be intelligent, thoughtful, appropriately discrete, supportive of others and able to develop effective teamwork and collegiality. She is a seasoned professional with significant skills in strategic thinking and applying that thinking with integrity to the practicalities of reality and implementation.

I strongly support the candidacy of Cynthia Dai for the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Carrie Portis

Carrie Portis  
[crportis@gmail.com](mailto:crportis@gmail.com)  
510-504-7152



**From:** [Christianne Pang](#)  
**To:** [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#); [Sherrill, Stephen \(BOS\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#); [SherrillStaff](#); [Burch, Percy \(BOS\)](#); [DeRuff, Henry \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** I support Cynthia Dai for Sunshine Ordinance Task Force, File #250120  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 19, 2025 5:10:09 PM

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Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors Rules Committee:

I am a resident of San Francisco in District 3 and work/have worked as the head of product management for a patient-based market research company in diabetes for over a decade. I am writing to express my support of Cynthia Dai's application, File #250120, to join the San Francisco Sunshine Ordinance Task Force.

I have known Cyn for over 30 years, having attended school with her at the Stanford Graduate School of Business. I have also been in touch with Cyn through alumni activities over the years. I have admired her energy, integrity, no-nonsense attitude and zeal in her approach to professional work, personal life and commitment to non-profit and the community around her. As a member of the first statewide redistricting task force, she helped reduce gerrymandering statewide. She was tireless and enthusiastic in getting others to be involved as well.

It should be a no brainer that Cyn be put on the Sunshine Task Force. I strongly support her candidacy.

Sincerely,  
Christianne Pang



February 19, 2025

San Francisco Board of Supervisors  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: Support of Cynthia Dai for Sunshine Ordinance Task Force (SOTF), File #250120

Dear Supervisors,

This letter is to advise you that the Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of San Francisco supports Cynthia Dai's appointment to the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force.

The League of Women Voters of San Francisco is a nonpartisan political nonprofit that defends democracy. We provide education to encourage people to vote in elections and participate in government. We also engage in advocacy to influence public policy that benefits the community, such as fair elections and open government. Our nonpartisan commitment means that we don't support or oppose candidates for elected office or political parties.

LWVSF has a unique perspective on the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force, having long held an appointed seat for a League representative, currently Maxine Anderson. We understand the qualifications and skills necessary for a successful, independent member of the task force who can help ensure the public's right to access local government and promote transparency and accountability.

LWVSF has expertise in many government issues at the local, state, and national levels, including redistricting. It's for this reason that the Elections Commission invited us to share our observations about San Francisco's redistricting process and the League's research into independent redistricting best practices throughout California and around the U.S.. We were impressed by the entire Elections

**Empowering voters. Defending democracy.**

League of Women Voters of San Francisco

582 Market Street, Suite 615, San Francisco, CA 94104 • 415-989-8683 • [lwvsf@lwvsf.org](mailto:lwvsf@lwvsf.org) • [lwvsf.org](http://lwvsf.org)



Commission's deep inquiry into redistricting over 18 months, where, as a body, they came to consensus and made unanimous recommendations for truly independent redistricting reform to the Board of Supervisors.

During that time, we experienced Cynthia Dai's commitment to upholding our democracy through her ability to be objective and listen to public input. She has proven to be analytical and inquisitive, able to evaluate evidence and pursue facts, while also displaying an openness to feedback and new ideas. These are qualities that we need in our civil servants who seek to protect our fragile democracy. In addition to these qualifications, her service on the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force would make the body more reflective of the diversity of San Francisco.

We believe that Cynthia Dai's dedication to nonpartisanship and public service is exactly the kind of leadership we need now more than ever. We encourage you to appoint her to the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force.

If you have any questions, please reach out to me at [president@lwvsf.org](mailto:president@lwvsf.org).

In unity,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alison Goh". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Alison" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Goh".

Alison Goh

President, League of Women Voters of San Francisco

CC:

Supervisor Shamann Walton, Rules Committee Chair, [shamann.Walton@sfgov.org](mailto:shamann.Walton@sfgov.org)

Percy Burch, Aide to Supervisor Walton, [percy.burch@sfgov.org](mailto:percy.burch@sfgov.org)

Supervisor Stephen Sherrill, Rules Committee Vice Chair,  
[stephen.sherrill@sfgov.org](mailto:stephen.sherrill@sfgov.org)

Aides to Supervisor Sherrill, [SherrillStaff@sfgov.org](mailto:SherrillStaff@sfgov.org)

Supervisor Rafael Mandelman, President, Board of Supervisors,  
[rafael.mandelman@sfgov.org](mailto:rafael.mandelman@sfgov.org)

Henry DeRuff, Aide to Supervisor Mandelman, [henry.deruff@sfgov.org](mailto:henry.deruff@sfgov.org)

Victor Young, Rules Committee Clerk, [victor.young@sfgov.org](mailto:victor.young@sfgov.org)

**From:** [David M. Shanberg](#)  
**To:** [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#); [Sherrill, Stephen \(BOS\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#); [SherrillStaff](#); [Burch, Percy \(BOS\)](#); [DeRuff, Henry \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Letter of support for Cynthia Dai for Sunshine Ordinance Task Force, File #250120  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 19, 2025 3:34:07 PM

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Members of the Board of Supervisors Rules Committee –

I have been a homeowner and resident of Lower Pacific Heights in District 2 for the past 23 years. Also, I have owned and run Baker Pacific, Inc. (based in SF) for the past 20 years. I am writing to express my support of Cynthia Dai's application, File #250120, to join the San Francisco Sunshine Ordinance Task Force. I have known Cynthia Dai for over 30 years, having attended school with her at the Stanford Graduate School of Business. Ms. Dai and I have also communicated regarding our respective businesses over the years.

In my experience with Ms. Dai, I have known her to be a thoughtful, trustworthy, hard-working professional, and to have a great deal of integrity. Ms. Dai is able to think through and synthesize complex topics and to bring her strategic mindset to whatever the topic.

I strongly support the candidacy of Cynthia Dai for the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force.

Regards,

David Shanberg

**From:** [Buck Gee](#)  
**To:** [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#); [Sherrill, Stephen \(BOS\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#); [SherrillStaff](#); [Burch, Percy \(BOS\)](#); [DeRuff, Henry \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Recommendation for Cynthia Dai, Sunshine Ordinance Task Force, File #250120  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 18, 2025 4:28:31 PM

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I am writing to you to recommend Cynthia Dai for appointment to the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force.

As my personal background, I am a retired Cisco Systems General Manager and currently serve on the boards of San Francisco nonprofits Chinatown Media and Arts Collaborative (CMAC) and Asia Society/Northern California. Nationally, I also serve as a board member for the nonprofit APIAVote (DC) as well as the Committee of 100 (NYC), where I am NorCal regional chair.

I first met Cynthia over ten years ago at various meetings in the tech industry and with the Stanford alumni association. I got to know her work when she facilitated a 2021 workshop of San Francisco Chinatown community leaders to discuss ideas to help Chinatown recover from the Covid pandemic that had decimated the neighborhood, leaving 40% of storefronts on Grant Avenue vacant.

At that time, along with Chinatown Community Development Center (CCDC) co-chair Jane Chin and Chinese Historical Society of America (CHSA) board member David Lei, I had funded Chinatown Renaissance 2021 (CR21), a new initiative to cultivate new sources of philanthropic support for a place-based funding collaborative to support innovative projects. We hired Cynthia as our consultant for the project, as she had come highly recommended by various community nonprofit leaders across the Bay Area.

We asked Cynthia to interview key community leaders including former SF Supervisor Mabel Teng, then Police Commissioner Larry Yee, Chinese Chamber of Commerce President Eddie Au, and Nancy Yu Law from the Chinatown Merchants United Association. With their feedback, Cynthia designed a successful half-day structured workshop for a broad group of leaders and influencers with interests ranging from the arts and business to youth development and affordable housing.

Over time, Cynthia and I have had many long, wide-ranging conversations on social and political issues. And though we may not agree on everything, I have always found her to be respectful and thoughtful as a local leader working on pressing civic issues in San

Francisco and across California. She is a serious and consummate professional, dedicated to any cause or project to which she commits. I'm confident that she continues to represent her community well and her efforts would contribute to SOTF's mission of ensuring open government.

I know that both David and Jane also share my assessment.

Truly yours,

Buck Gee

File #250120

Appointment of Cynthia Dai to the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force

Attn: Rules Committee – Board of Supervisors for the City and County of San Francisco

Supervisors:

I am writing to offer my strong support for the appointment of Cynthia Dai to the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force for the City and County of San Francisco. I have known Cynthia since 2011 through our work with the California Citizens Redistricting Commission (CCRC) – both as commissioners during the CCRC's 2010-2020 term and as advocates for transparency and accountability during the CCRC's current term. I believe Cynthia possesses the requisite skill set to be an excellent member of the Task Force, and I believe she is highly dedicated to the Task Force's mission of maintaining open government in San Francisco and advising the Board of Supervisors and various agencies on implementation of the Sunshine Ordinance.

Until May of 2024, I was a longtime resident of San Francisco and worked in the Bay Area as a law professor at Santa Clara University and as a lawyer/legal consultant focusing on civil rights and voting rights law. I have extensive experience in the nonprofit and higher education sectors, working as a legal services attorney, an executive director, and a board member for various organizations. I also have experience in state government and in training local governmental bodies in voting rights law, redistricting, and open meeting requirements.

Cynthia and I were members of the inaugural 14-member California Citizens Redistricting Commission, and both of us served as rotational chair and rotational vice-chair several times during our term of office. As members of the first CCRC, we shared a strong dedication to public participation in the redistricting process, which included close adherence to the Bagley-Keene open meeting law (the state version of the Brown Act), as well as to the transparency and accountability provisions of the Voters FIRST Act, the law creating the CCRC. Cynthia shared an overriding commitment to ensuring that the work of the CCRC was fully transparent, provided multiple avenues for public participation, and closely reflected public input throughout the line-drawing process. Our dedication to these values continued into the CCRC's next cycle, as we advised the current commissioners in maintaining the commission's transparency and accountability.

As a fellow member of the CCRC, I was able to observe Cynthia's work in full commission meetings, in public hearings, and in various group settings, including committees and small teams. I have always been impressed with the breadth and depth of Cynthia's skill set, as well as her ability to draw on her extensive experience in the private sector as a consultant. She consistently demonstrated an exceptional ability to work with and to lead teams: she was able to advance organizational development goals (which were critical for a new and untested state commission); she effectively generated priorities and strategies

for commission staffing, communications, and other key commission activities; she produced innovative problem-solving strategies for public participation in the redistricting process; and she worked efficiently and cooperatively to implement the CCRC's core work, including co-authoring the CCRC's final report.

Notwithstanding the pressures of a highly condensed timeline – requiring the CCRC to produce several statewide districting maps within the space of 10 months – Cynthia always remained calm, professional, and cooperative, even in the face of lengthy and often boisterous public hearings, as well as challenging and contentious meetings of the commission itself. She has highly effective listening skills and can remain fair, impartial, and empathetic to public voices, even when dealing with controversial issues and debates. This is not to say that Cynthia has lacked strong opinions of her own, but she has always been open to hearing the opinions of others and has always been willing to work for the good of the team to implement a fair and open process and to reach effective outcomes.

Cynthia's positive demeanor, integrity, sound judgment, and teamwork skills should thus serve her and her cohorts well in any capacity, including in city government. Her dedication to open and accessible government is unbounded, and I strongly recommend her for appointment to the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force.

Angelo Ancheta



**From:** [Steven Hill](#)  
**To:** [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#); [Burch, Percy \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Shamann: please support Cynthia Dai for Sunshine Ordinance Task Force ( File #250120)  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 18, 2025 11:36:13 AM

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**To: Supervisor Shamann Walton**

**From: Steven Hill, [New Democracy Institute](#)**

**Re: support Cynthia Dai for Sunshine Ordinance Task Force (File #250120)**

Hello Shamann (cc Percy Burch and Victor Young), I hope all is well. First, I want to thank you for your years of public service and being a voice for the often-voiceless. When I led the efforts in San Francisco to pass ranked choice voting and public financing of campaigns, you were exactly the type of candidate, and the communities you represent, that I had hoped to empower. Thank you for your stalwart advocacy and effectiveness as a supervisor.

I am writing to you at this time to strongly recommend Cynthia Dai as the Board's appointee to the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force (File #250120). I know Ms. Dai through her important work on the SF Elections Commission over the last several years. As you know, I have been helping to fill vacancies on the elections commission for 20 years, and it's always a struggle to find good people. I have seen many elections commissioners come and go, and in my experience Ms. Dai was one of the best and most effective elections commissioners we have ever had.

Cynthia brought a great deal of commitment and integrity to her participation, as well as a keen desire to involve members of the public, such as myself, to participate in the work of the elections commission. She is committed to a vision of democracy that encourages diverse participation and agency among different communities. And with her deep knowledge of elections and elections processes, she was a great help to her fellow commissioners and a valuable and constructive member of the commission "team."

In recent years, Cynthia was at the core of pretty much everything good that came from the commission, including:

**\* Increased focus on voter registration and outreach.** Under Cynthia's leadership, the

elections commission made increasing voter registration and outreach a priority, and asked elections chief John Arntz to report on outreach activities each month so that there was a regular back-and-forth dialogue between the EC and the DOE that kept voter registration and outreach at the forefront of the mission.

\* **Improvement to the Elections website.** For Nov 2024, Director Arntz rolled out a new design that is much clearer and simpler for the voting public to understand, and Cynthia led the effort to advocate for and help create the new design. She solicited input from members of the public (such as myself), and worked closely with her fellow commissioners and Department of Elections staff to produce a terrific outcome.

\* **Public education on political reform.** Cynthia was the spark plug for creating a public series of workshops on redistricting and political reforms in SF, including having Gwenn Craig, former chair of the Electoral Task Force, myself and others as guest speakers to help educate the elections commissioners and the public about the history of redistricting and political reform in San Francisco. These forums were praised and appreciated as informative.

Serving on the elections commission is a volunteer position, as is the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force, and it can be difficult to find good commissioners who are willing to put in the time with a degree of commitment that helps make the oversight body function effectively. Cynthia's willingness and passion to serve was a tremendous asset to the elections commission, and I have no doubt that she will bring the same passion, commitment, respect for fellow commissioners and the public, as well as respect for the important mission of the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force, as she did for the elections commission.

For all of these reasons, I heartily recommend to you Cynthia Dai for appointment to the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force. If I can answer any questions about this appointment, please let me know. Thank you Shamann.

All the best,

Steven

New Democracy Institute

(415) 665-5044

**From:** [Sietse Goffard](#)  
**To:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#); [Sherrill, Stephen \(BOS\)](#); [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Burch, Percy \(BOS\)](#); [SherrillStaff](#); [DeRuff, Henry \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support letter for Cynthia Dai on the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 19, 2025 4:06:35 PM

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Dear Supervisors Walton, Sherrill, and Mandelman,

My name is Sietse Goffard, and I am a resident of Haight-Ashbury (District 5). I am writing this comment in support of Cynthia Dai and her application for a seat on the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force (SOTF). Although I got to know Cynthia professionally through my work in the civic engagement and elections space, I am writing this letter in my personal capacity and do not speak for my employer or anyone else.

Serving on the SOTF requires integrity, impartiality, dedication, and attention to detail, and I believe that Cynthia would bring all of these qualities to the table. I observed her service on the 2020 California Citizens Redistricting Commission and was very impressed by how she listened to everyone's testimony, balanced diverse points of view, and worked with her colleagues to draw fair and legally-compliant maps in a very transparent way.

More recently, Cynthia has shown admirable service to our city on the Elections Commission over the past several years. I admire her willingness to put in long hours to improve our city's elections and redistricting process, despite how politicized this topic can inherently be. She has always been extremely open and transparent, fully disclosing her communication with any external parties and recusing herself if any potential conflicts arose.

Cynthia is very experienced in this space and has a deep understanding of public service and ethics. She recently earned a scholarship to complete the "Senior Executives in State and Local Government" program at Harvard Kennedy School, my alma mater. She brings balanced and thoughtful viewpoints to the table, and she approaches her work with incredible integrity. Overall, I believe that San Francisco would be lucky to have her as a SOTF commissioner.

Thank you for considering my input!

Sietse Goffard, District 5 resident  
[sietsekiechengoffard@gmail.com](mailto:sietsekiechengoffard@gmail.com)