

[Supporting California State Assembly Bill No. 611 (Lee) - The Keep News Independent Act]

Resolution supporting California State Assembly Bill No. 611, The Keep News Independent Act, introduced by Assembly Member Alex Lee, to promote transparent ownership and protect local journalism in the City and County of San Francisco and across the State of California.

WHEREAS, Local journalism is essential to inform civic participation, public accountability, and community connection in the City and County of San Francisco; and

WHEREAS, Across California, legacy local newspapers are being quietly purchased by hedge funds and large corporate chains that often reduce newsroom staffing, cut back on local reporting, and centralize editorial decision-making far from the communities being served; and

WHEREAS, Since 2004, California has lost 25% of its newspapers, and more than 50% of total newspaper circulation in the U.S. is now controlled by investment firms; and

WHEREAS, The consolidation of California's newspapers threatens access to trusted, locally rooted information about public safety, elections, schools, housing, transportation, arts, and culture; and

WHEREAS, California State Assembly Bill No. 611 (AB 611), introduced by Assemblymember Alex Lee and sponsored by California Common Cause, would require legacy local news outlets to provide 120 days' notice before finalizing a sale to a non-independent buyer such as a hedge fund or corporate chain; and

WHEREAS, San Francisco residents and organizations - including small publishers, nonprofit journalism projects, and labor unions representing journalists - have a vested interest in policies that support the survival and independence of local newsrooms; and

1 WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors recognizes the critical role of independent
2 journalism in maintaining transparency and public trust in government; now, therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors supports AB 611 - The Keep News
4 Independent Act; and, be it

5 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors will explore local efforts to
6 promote independent and community-owned media and encourage collaboration between
7 policymakers, funders, journalists, and the public to strengthen local journalism; and, be it

8 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the California State
9 Legislature and Governor to enact AB 611 as a necessary step to protect community access
10 to diverse and independent sources of local news; and, be it

11 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Board shall send a copy of this
12 Resolution to Governor Gavin Newsom, President pro-Tempore Mike McGuire, Speaker of
13 the State Assembly Robert Rivas, Chair of the Assembly Labor and Employment Committee
14 Liz Ortega, and Chair of the Assembly Committee on Judiciary Ash Kalra.



City and County of San Francisco
Tails
Resolution

City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

File Number: 250400

Date Passed: April 22, 2025

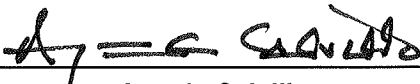
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April 22, 2025 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED

Ayes: 11 - Chan, Chen, Dorsey, Engardio, Fielder, Mahmood, Mandelman, Melgar, Sauter, Sherrill and Walton

File No. 250400

**I hereby certify that the foregoing
Resolution was ADOPTED on 4/22/2025 by
the Board of Supervisors of the City and
County of San Francisco.**



Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

Unsigned

Daniel Lurie
Mayor

05/02/2025

Date Approved

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution, not being signed by the Mayor within the time limit as set forth in Section 3.103 of the Charter, or time waived pursuant to Board Rule 2.14.2, became effective without his approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter or Board Rule 2.14.2.



Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

05/02/2025

Date