BOARD of SUPERVISORS



City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
Room 244
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689
Tel. No. (415) 554-5184
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September 30, 2025

The Honorable Gavin Newsom Governor of the State of California 1021 O Street, Suite 9000 Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Board of Supervisors Resolution No. 436-25

Dear Governor Newsom:

On September 16, 2025, the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco adopted Resolution No. 436-25 (Urging Governor Newsom to Commute All Death Sentences in California), which was enacted on September 26, 2025.

The Board of Supervisors directs the Clerk of the Board to forward the following document to your attention:

• One copy of Resolution No. 436-25 (File No. 250935)

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact the Office of the Clerk of the Board at (415) 554-5184, or by e-mail: <u>board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org</u>.

Sincerely,

Clerk of the Board

Angela Calvillo

ll:ak:jw:ams

c. Members of the Board of Supervisors, Supervisors Jackie Fielder, Shamann Walton, Myrna Melgar Adam Thongsavat, Liaison to the Board of Supervisors, Mayor's Office Eileen F. Mariano, Manager of State and Federal Legislative Affairs, Mayor's Office Aly Bonde, Policy Director, Mayor's Office Paul Yoder, Karen Lange, Erica Smith, City Lobbyists - Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange

[Urging Governor Newsom to Commute All Death Sentences in California]

Resolution urging Governor Gavin Newsom to use his executive powers to commute the death sentences for all individuals currently sentenced to death in California.

WHEREAS, There are currently 565 individuals sentenced to death in California.

California has the largest death row in the nation and one of the largest death rows in the world; and

WHEREAS, San Francisco County has no individuals sentenced to death and the voters of San Francisco have twice voted to repeal the death penalty in 2012 and 2016; and

WHEREAS, The death penalty reflects a legacy of racial discrimination; Sixty-nine percent of the people under a sentence of death in California are people of color, and one-third are Black; and

WHEREAS, Death sentences are more likely to be imposed in California when the victims are white than when they are Black or Latino, while the majority of homicides with Black or Latino victims go unsolved; and

WHEREAS, The California Task Force to Study and Develop Reparation recommended abolishing the death penalty as a step to addressing the legacy of slavery in California; and

WHEREAS, Almost half of the people on California's death row are there for crimes they committed as youth under the age of 26, and approximately one in six were under 21 years old; and

WHEREAS, Recognizing that young people's brains are not fully developed until their mid 20s, California has enacted several reforms to address the diminished culpability of

youthful offenders and individuals on death row and those serving life without parole are excluded from these policies; and

WHEREAS, More than one third of people on death row in California have been diagnosed with a serious mental illness and dozens have been diagnosed with intellectual disabilities; and

WHEREAS, A study by the National Academy of Sciences estimates that at least four percent of people sentenced to death in the U.S. are innocent and California has already exonerated eight men from death row due to wrongful conviction, all of them people of color; and

WHEREAS, California's death penalty system has cost taxpayers \$5 billion since 1977, Meanwhile funding for vital victims services are being reduced in California due to Congress's drastic cuts to funding for the Victims of Crime Act; and

WHEREAS, Two-thirds of the individuals sentenced to death in California have been there for more than 20 years, and dozens of individuals have been on death row for more than 40 years with literally decades of delays caused by California's inability to provide lawyers to handle capital appeals; and

WHEREAS, The California Democratic Party Platform supports the full repeal of the death penalty and the Party has twice endorsed initiatives to repeal the death penalty; and

WHEREAS, Under the California Constitution, the Governor of California has the power to commute death sentences, with the review and concurrence of a majority of the California Supreme Court justices in certain cases; and

WHEREAS, The San Francisco Opera will present from September 14 to 28, 2025, Dead Man Walking, an opera commissioned by San Francisco Opera 25 years ago about Sister Helen Prejean's spiritual journey accompanying a man on death row that informed her fight to end the death penalty in the United States; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors for the City and County of San Francisco urges Governor Newsom to act now to commute all death sentences; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Board is hereby directed to transmit a copy of this Resolution to Governor Gavin Newsom.



City and County of San Francisco Tails

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

Resolution

File Number:	250935	Date Passed:	September 16, 2025
Resolution urging Governor Gavin Newsom to use his executive powers to commute the death sentences for all individuals currently sentenced to death in California.			
September 16, 2025 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED			
	Ayes: 10 - Chan, Chen, Engardio, Fielder, Mahmood, Mandelman, Melgar, Sauter, Sherrill and Walton Excused: 1 - Dorsey		
File No. 250935		I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 9/16/2025 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.	
			a Calvillo the Board
	Unsigned	09/2	26/2025
	Daniel Lurie Date Approved Mayor		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 Date
Clerk of the Board