

BOARD of SUPERVISORS



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## MEMORANDUM

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Date: December 3, 2024  
To: Tom Paulino, Liaison to the Board of Supervisors, Mayor's Office  
From: *ACC* Angela Calvillo, Clerk of the Board, Board of Supervisors  
Subject: Supporting California State Proposition 6 on November 2024 Ballot  
(File No. 241026)

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On October 22, 2024, the Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution No. 526-24 sponsored by Supervisor Dean Preston (File No. 241026, Supporting California State Proposition 6 on November 2024 Ballot); enacted on November 1, 2024.

Please find the attached courtesy copy of the Resolution for your office's information and consideration.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Office of the Clerk of the Board at (415) 554-5184, or by email: [board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org](mailto:board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org).

c: Members of the Board of Supervisor; Supervisors Dean Preston,  
Shamann Walton, Hillary Ronen, Connie Chan, Ahsha Safai, Matt Dorsey,  
Rafael Mandelman  
Eileen F. Mariano, Manager, State and Federal Legislative Affairs  
Andres Power, Mayor's Policy Director

1 [Supporting California State Proposition 6 on November 2024 Ballot]

2  
3 **Resolution supporting Proposition 6 to amend Article 1, Section 6, of the California**  
4 **Constitution to remove the exception clause permitting involuntary servitude as**  
5 **punishment for a crime, effectively ending all legal vestiges of slavery in the state.**  
6

7 WHEREAS, Article 1, Section 6 of the California Constitution currently states that  
8 "slavery is prohibited" with the exception that "involuntary servitude as a punishment for  
9 crime" may still be practiced; and

10 WHEREAS, The exception clause permits the continued exploitation of labor from  
11 incarcerated individuals, which disproportionately impacts people of color, particularly Black  
12 and Indigenous communities, and perpetuates systemic racial inequalities; and

13 WHEREAS, Forced labor under the guise of punishment for crime is a vestige of  
14 slavery, a system that the United States Constitution's 13th Amendment sought to abolish, yet  
15 left this harmful exception intact, effectively allowing slavery by another name; and

16 WHEREAS, California is currently one of only 16 states that still retains this exception  
17 in its constitution, perpetuating a practice that should have been eradicated with the abolition  
18 of slavery; and

19 WHEREAS, Proposition 6 seeks to amend Article 1, Section 6 of the California  
20 Constitution to remove the exception clause, fully prohibiting slavery and involuntary servitude  
21 under any circumstances, thereby reaffirming California's commitment to human rights and  
22 dignity; and

23 WHEREAS, The passage of Proposition 6 aligns with the principles of justice and  
24 fairness, ensuring that no individual, regardless of their legal status, can be subjected to  
25 involuntary servitude as a means of punishment; and

1           WHEREAS, Ending this exception would set a national example, showing that  
2 California stands firmly against all forms of slavery and upholds the fundamental belief in  
3 equality and freedom for all; and

4           WHEREAS, Proposition 6 will enable incarcerated people to prioritize their  
5 rehabilitation so they can work jobs and shifts that enable them to access education,  
6 counseling, and other rehabilitative programs, including Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics  
7 Anonymous, that facilitate growth and make people less likely to re-offend upon their release;  
8 and

9           WHEREAS, Evidence shows that the more people are rehabilitated, the less likely they  
10 are to suffer from homelessness and re-offend, avoiding costs for re-incarceration; these  
11 savings can be reallocated to community programs, investments in mental health programs,  
12 education, and other public services, improving the well-being of all Californians while saving  
13 taxpayers money; and

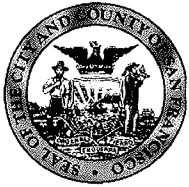
14           WHEREAS, A broad coalition of civil rights organizations, faith leaders, labor unions,  
15 legal experts, and formerly incarcerated individuals have voiced their strong support for  
16 Proposition 6 and the removal of the slavery exception from California's Constitution; and

17           WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors recognizes the importance of historical  
18 accountability and the responsibility to dismantle the legacies of systemic injustice embedded  
19 in our state and nation's legal framework; now, therefore, be it

20           RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors hereby declares its support  
21 for Proposition 6, which amends Article 1, Section 6 of the California Constitution to remove  
22 the exception clause permitting involuntary servitude as punishment for a crime, effectively  
23 ending all legal vestiges of slavery in the state; and, be it

24           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors directs the Clerk to send copies  
25 of this Resolution to the Governor of California, the Speaker of the California Assembly, the

1 President pro Tempore of the California State Senate, and other appropriate state and local  
2 officials to advocate for the passage of Proposition 6.  
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City and County of San Francisco

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

Tails
Resolution

File Number: 241026

Date Passed: October 22, 2024

Resolution supporting Proposition 6 to amend Article 1, Section 6, of the California Constitution to remove the exception clause permitting involuntary servitude as punishment for a crime, effectively ending all legal vestiges of slavery in the state.

October 22, 2024 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED

Ayes: 11 - Chan, Dorsey, Engardio, Mandelman, Melgar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Safai, Stefani and Walton

File No. 241026

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 10/22/2024 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

[Handwritten signature of Angela Calvillo]
Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

Unsigned

11/01/2024

London N. Breed
Mayor

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 her approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter or Board Rule 2.14.2.

[Handwritten signature of Angela Calvillo]
Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

11/01/2024

Date