

Member, Board of Supervisors
District 6



City and County of San Francisco

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For Immediate Release

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Supervisor Kim and Broad Coalition Seize Progressive Moment
Housing Balance & \$15 Minimum Wage Seek To Create Equity in SF

San Francisco – As the City faces increasing pressure to address a nationally publicized housing crisis, accelerated gentrification and widespread displacement, a re-energized coalition of community organizations are seizing on solutions that voters will see on the November ballot. A recent poll confirmed that 64% of likely City voters want at least 30% of all new housing in San Francisco to be affordable, and that 59% don't feel that the City has done enough to address the crisis on the ground.

Supervisor Kim is a lead sponsor of two measures that voters have already overwhelmingly telegraphed support for: the Housing Balance Act and a \$15 minimum wage increase.

"The country is looking at San Francisco to set the stage for solutions to these issues," said Supervisor Jane Kim. "I represent a district where 22% of the population is living below the poverty line – in one of the wealthiest cities in one of the wealthiest countries in the world. As policy makers, we have a responsibility to our residents to ensure the City is affordable, safe and livable. The time is absolutely now for a comprehensive package to ensure living wage jobs and a diversity of affordable housing in San Francisco. We cannot afford to fail."

Both measures are on the agenda for the Rules Committee meeting today. The \$15 minimum wage increase negotiated by Supervisor Jane Kim, the Mayor's Office and the Campaign for a Fair Economy is the most robust and progressive minimum wage increase in the country. It would effectively provide every San Francisco worker, with few exceptions, with a net take-home of \$15/hour by 2018.

Gui Fang is a San Francisco worker who juggles three part-time service jobs. She struggles to pay her rent and other bills, even though she lives in a tiny, one-room SRO. "My rent is going up in July. With the cost of living rising, how can people afford to live in San Francisco?" she asks. "Who will clean your homes and bus your tables when no one can afford to live anywhere near San Francisco?"

The same recent poll revealed a desire by respondents to see the City take some accountability for a lack of affordable housing production and to create smart urban planning tools to help bring more balance to San Francisco's housing landscape. An overwhelming 59% of respondents stressed that the City should continue to build and welcome new residents, but only with minimum requirements for affordable housing in place.

"Of course we support more density and growth," said Angelica Cabande, Executive Director of the South of Market Community Action Network. "We want the City to build – but they have to build the right way. It is a bare minimum that the City should have a requirement that 30% of all new housing be affordable for 60% of our population. Housing Balance provides a long-term anti-gentrification tool for our community by prioritizing affordability in the city's Planning Code. We issue conditional use permits for everything from height to design – why not based on who it will house?"

The Minimum Wage Ordinance is sponsored by the Mayor and 10 members of the Board of Supervisors. Housing Balance is sponsored by Supervisors Jane Kim, John Avalos, David Campos, Eric Mar and Norman Yee.

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