

City and County of
San Francisco



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President, Board of
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Board of Supervisors President Aaron Peskin Announces Anti-Corruption Ballot Measure for November 2024 Election

Will empower an Inspector General, the gold standard public integrity officer used by most other major U.S. cities.

San Francisco – Today, Board of Supervisors President Aaron Peskin introduced a ballot measure to tackle corruption with an Inspector General (IG) to investigate fraud, waste, abuse, and misconduct within city government and those who do business with the city. The “Strong IG” model is considered the gold standard in municipal public integrity agencies, and used effectively in New York City, Philadelphia, Atlanta, Washington D.C., Chicago, New Orleans, Baltimore, Miami-Dade County, and more. The charter amendment will be before voters this November if advanced by a vote of six members of the Board of Supervisors.

“San Francisco is the *only* major city in America without an Inspector General and perhaps the American city most in need of one,” said **Board of Supervisors President Aaron Peskin**. “A climate of corruption and pay-to-play politics has been allowed to permeate our city agencies ancillary contract dealings for too long. It’s time we stop relying on the FBI to uncover systemic corruption and take action to tend our own house. This proposal harnesses the best aspects of the national ‘Strong IG’ model recommended by leading public integrity experts: an elevated and focused mandate, public accountability, expanded powers, and independence. My proposal puts this critical role within the Controller’s Audit Division in order to focus their best practices and streamline them with existing functions, at no additional cost to taxpayers and without creating a new elected office.”

The Controller is already charged with evaluating the efficiency and effectiveness of city programs but does not have the full investigative powers or elevated mandate to proactively go after public corruption. The measure will imbue the Inspector General in the Controller’s office with expanded subpoena and search warrant power, which is made possible specifically for Controller investigators by [California Penal Code 830.13](#).

Additionally, the Inspector General will have a clear mandate to:

- Initiate, lead, and coordinate investigations regarding potential violations of laws or policies involving fraud, waste, abuse, or misconduct, including with city contractors.
- Centralize complaints from the City’s Whistleblower Program and publicly report on public integrity investigations twice a year to the Mayor and Board of Supervisors.

The Inspector General position will not raise taxes or require an election to fill the position, and will be funded with budgetary independence through the existing City Services Auditor set-aside.

The measure was crafted in consultation with the Controller's Office, the City Attorney's Office, leading public integrity experts, and City Inspector Generals from across the country. The measure will sit for 30 days before appearing at the Rules Committee for a hearing.

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