

TOGETHER // SF
ACTION



Rewriting SF's Future

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WHO IS TOGETHERSF ACTION?

CHANGE IS POSSIBLE IN SAN FRANCISCO. It might not seem possible today, when city officials seem unable to solve long-term problems like homelessness, the drug crisis, and property crime. San Francisco's political lines are well drawn, however arbitrary they might seem to outsiders. Still, much more unites San Franciscans than separates us. We believe in San Francisco as a place of opportunity, innovation, and compassion, despite the current condition of the city.

TogetherSF Action is the largest, most engaged political group in San Francisco. We've grown quickly by giving a voice to the majority of San Franciscans who want a safe, functional city to live in, to grow in, and to raise their families in. We make it easy for San Franciscans to connect with each other, and hold City Hall accountable for making the changes we need to see in this city.

Led by former City Hall insiders who share the same frustrations as 70 percent of voters who share the opinion that the city is on the wrong track, our team blends political, private sector, and community organizing experience. This unique mix gives TogetherSF Action the expertise to identify policies that will have the biggest impact and make a difference in San Francisco.

AREN'T THERE A BUNCH OF GROUPS TRYING TO MAKE SF BETTER?

RIGHT NOW, SAN FRANCISCO HAS A LOT OF PROBLEMS, and a lot of organizations trying to solve those problems. But the city's problems can't be blamed on one elected official, or even one city department. Issues are systemic and interconnected, and city officials use that to their advantage, blaming other departments for their inability to solve problems.

TogetherSF Action understands that systemic problems can only be solved by fixing the root causes. We focus on four key areas that are necessary to rebuilding a thriving San Francisco.

Governance: City Hall just doesn't work anymore. Building a functional and accountable City Hall is key to solving citywide issues.

Street Conditions: Allowing people to deteriorate on the street is not compassionate. We advocate for solutions to homelessness, mental health, and the drug crisis that work.

Public Safety: Every San Franciscan deserves to feel safe in their home and on the street. SFPD needs to be a modern, accountable police force.

Economic Recovery: The city services and programs that people rely on depend on a robust city budget. We need an effective City Hall, safe streets, and a welcoming climate to make sure San Francisco's economy thrives.

OUR THEORY OF CHANGE

SAN FRANCISCANS ARE DOERS. This city has a unique energy—native San Franciscans grow up wanting to change the world, and people move here to start new businesses, join a band, or live in a city where they can be themselves for the first time in their lives.

But San Francisco makes it hard for people to make change. People see problems, try to fix them, and run into a wall of obstruction at City Hall. Something as simple as getting a public toilet in a park turns into a million dollar debacle. Ballots and elections are needlessly confusing—people vote for one thing, only to find out later it delivered the opposite result of what they wanted.

That disconnect leads to a lot of committed people either giving up and accepting the status quo, or moving out of the city. That doesn't work. San Francisco needs more committed people, not less. At TogetherSF Action, it's in our name—we make it easy to take action.

TogetherSF Action educates San Franciscans on the underlying problems with city government, arming them with simple, actionable ways to hold elected officials accountable.

OUR THEORY OF CHANGE CONT.

Identification: Our researchers and political experts study San Francisco's long-term problems, finding evidence-back solutions other places use to solve similar issues.

Education: Problems need to be understood before they can be fixed. Our events, house parties, website, blog, and social media give San Franciscans the background and solutions to the problems they see every day.

Action: When City Hall hears the same thing from thousands of people at once, they're forced to take action. Like our That's Fentalife! campaign in 2023—posters and billboards across San Francisco made it easy for San Franciscans to tell City Hall to fund more drug treatment and enforcement in the budget. City Hall heard the same message from thousands of people at the same time, and it worked—all of our priorities were funded in San Francisco's budget.

THAT SOUNDS EXPENSIVE. WHO'S FUNDING THIS?

TOGETHERSF ACTION HAS A SMALL (BUT MIGHTY) TEAM that allows us to punch above our weight. We're powered by individual grassroots donors and some of San Francisco's most dedicated philanthropists who fund lots of Democratic initiatives from anti-Trump campaigns nationwide to political action groups in all shades of blue right here in San Francisco. Together, this allows us to do the work to focus on the city we love.

POLITICS IS TOXIC. WE'RE OVER IT.

SAN FRANCISCANS AND OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS broadly have the same values, and likely agree on 90 percent of the issues. Where we differ is on the approach to solve those issues, and that's the 10 percent elected officials spend all of their time fighting over. That adherence to absolutes created the San Francisco we see today, where 70 percent of San Franciscans believe the city is on the wrong track.

Compromise has become a dirty word in politics, but that's how things get done. If no one compromises, we get gridlock, and nothing changes in San Francisco. That's where City Hall is now, and what TogetherSF Action is working to change.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE RADICALLY PRACTICAL?

BECAUSE EXTREME IDEOLOGY HAS BECOME THE NORM in San Francisco politics, it feels radical to declare that you just want politicians to...make policy that works. Too often, politicians care more about their public image, re-election, or election to higher office than to delivering truly effective results for the people they represent. When a city like San Francisco has a cultural reputation to uphold, it can get even worse.

How do you change a political culture? It starts with the people. That's why we're rallying our movement around the idea of being radically practical.

Radically practical means delivering results, not political performance. TogetherSF Action advocates for evidence-based policies that actually work to create a livable San Francisco.

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