



UNITED EDUCATORS OF SAN FRANCISCO

AFT/CFT #61, AFL-CIO, NEA/CTA

Why UESF Opposes the Special Election to Recall Three School Board Commissioners

The United Educators of San Francisco's opposition to the recall of three San Francisco school board members is fundamentally about **the right of San Francisco educators parents and our communities to have a democratic voice in choosing who should sit on the Board of Education to make decisions about our communities' schools and students' education.**

The school board should be independent of City Hall. If the recall effort succeeds, the mayor will appoint a near-majority of the board, limiting the board's independence from City Hall. This independence will be critical in the months and years to come as our schools face steep budget cuts. As educators and parents understand, an independent school district will be better able to advocate for students.

What is Mayoral Control?

Mayoral control of a school district gives decision-making power to city hall and mayoral appointees, not to a democratically elected board. **It's a structural shift removing the voices of voters and the community.** Mayoral control means budget cuts with no accountability. It means reduced negotiating power in the interests of our students and schools.

Mayoral control is a governance decision—not one that will enable the creation of an actual road map for school improvement with significant, long-lasting consequences. Mayoral control means the expansion of charters & privatization.

Research Makes Our Case

Deborah Land, in the *Review of Educational Research*, said **there is "not yet convincing evidence that the appointment of school board members produces greater academic achievement."**

Rutgers University's Institute on Education Law and Policy said it was **"unable to establish conclusively that the change in governance had any causal relationship to improved performance or that the cities had greater improvements than anywhere else."**

In fact, **mayoral control is not what is best for our students. In fact, it bucks the trend**, with cities like Chicago recently reinstating an elected school board.

Waste of Millions of Dollars

The recall election of three San Francisco Board of Education commissioners **is a waste of up of millions that could otherwise be spent on improving our schools.** California just went through a colossal waste of \$300 million in the attempted recall of Gov. Gavin Newsom; again, this was money that could have gone to supporting our schools and communities.

Our schools need to have a laserlike focus on meeting the needs of our students and providing them with the programs and services they need to excel. **This recall effort will divert precious resources away from investing in what our kids and teachers need.**

UESF members can help with the campaign to oppose the recall and a mayoral takeover of the school district.

Let's fight for what we need to ensure our schools are places where students thrive and teachers want to teach.