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# San Francisco Chronicle

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Juliana Yamada/Special to the Chronicle

Mayor London Breed campaigns last Friday on Castro Street. Breed visited various small businesses in the Castro to drum up support for her reelection in November, when she faces four major challengers.

## Breed telling a new story about city

Mayor, facing difficult reelection fight, touts S.F.'s progress

By J.D. Morris

More than two years after Mayor London Breed famously bemoaned that San Francisco needed to become "less tolerant of all the bulls— that has destroyed our city," she's pitching a very different take.

Amid a fierce reelection fight, Breed has turned away from painting an ominous image of a city struggling with drug overdoses and lawlessness, instead arguing that some of San Francisco's most entrenched issues, such as homelessness and property crime, are improving on her watch. At the same time, she's tried to embrace the more lighthearted side of San Francisco that she sees

*"This is about lifting San Francisco up and celebrating joy in some extraordinary ways."*

Mayor London Breed

as pivotal to its economic and reputational recovery.

"I want people to see how amazing San Francisco is," Breed told the Chronicle during an exuberant swing through the Castro last week. "This is about us trying to stop other people from trying to take us down. ... This is about lifting San Francisco up and celebrating joy in some ex-

traordinary ways."

Breed's opponents, though, say the mayor's strategy of focusing on what's working is a marked contrast to the years she spent raising alarms about the city's problems and pointing fingers at other people for contributing to them. Board of Supervisors President Aaron Peskin, who is running against Breed, described her change in tone as a "kind of a Doctor Jekyll-Mister Hyde scenario."

"It's fascinating that she has done a complete 180 and has gone from doom and gloom and the politics of blame to an overnight transformation to being the happy warrior and  
*Breed continues on A10*

## BART pins survival on '26 tax measure

Agency has 'no backup plan' if voters reject funding, leaders say

By Ricardo Cano

BART could enter a transit death spiral in less than 24 months, once the Bay Area transit agency runs out of emergency pandemic aid, and officials are pinning all their hopes for survival on voters' approval of a 2026 tax measure.

BART officials say the tax measure is their only way forward — there is no plan B.

The regional rail agency expects to run out of the \$1.9 billion in federal and state assistance by around April 2026, at which point BART projects a \$35 million deficit for the 2026 fiscal year.

By fiscal 2027, the agency expects to face a \$385 million deficit — about one-third of BART's operating costs — with projected shortfalls of \$377 million following in fiscal 2028 and \$355 million in fiscal 2029.

Those latest budget projections, which BART's Board of Directors planned to discuss Thursday, represent a noticeable increase from figures the agency released in late March. The rising deficits are partly due to expected declining sales tax revenues and a slower-than-anticipated ridership recovery.

BART plans to use \$328 million in federal and state subsidies to balance its budget for fiscal 2025, which starts in July. The agency expects to exhaust its remaining \$294 million in subsidies that state lawmakers approved last year to shrink a \$329 million shortfall to \$35 million in fiscal 2026, which begins in July 2025.

BART officials plan to defer allocations to its priority capital program that funds high-priority capital  
*BART continues on A8*

## S.F. tower sale may reset market for top buildings

By Laura Waxmann

In recent years, San Francisco's office market has been in a state of free fall, with demand, property values and morale seemingly plummeting in tandem.

Buildings that were once magnets for global investment are trading at half or less of their pre-pandemic values. Millions of square feet of office space — which was once expensive and hard to come by in the downtown core — have become somewhat obsolete as a result of remote work, leaving the city's skyscrapers sitting largely empty.

But a building is hitting the market that appears to buck recent trends. It could reset expectations around pricing for a small crop of San Francisco's most desirable office buildings in the post-pandemic era, real estate market observers say.

Just six years after the 19-story tower at 350 Bush St. in the Financial District premiered on the city's skyline, the new, shiny glass tower is up for grabs.  
*Building continues on A9*

## Half Moon Bay homes delay irks Newsom

By Sophia Bollag

SACRAMENTO — Gov. Gavin Newsom on Thursday threatened potential legal action against Half Moon Bay after officials stalled a project to build farmworker housing in the aftermath of a mass shooting that exposed poor living condi-

tions at local farms.

Photos taken by a San Mateo County supervisor after the 2023 shooting depicted uninsulated, one-room storage sheds with no running water where workers were apparently living. County officials soon found that neither mushroom farm where workers were shot had

proper registration to house laborers on their premises.

In response, two non-profits proposed a five-story, 40-unit building to house senior farmworkers in downtown Half Moon Bay. The city's planning commissioners discussed the project at two public meetings last month, but

each time put off voting. Although most members of the public who spoke at the meetings said they supported the project, commissioners raised concerns that the building would be too tall, increase traffic and parking competition and look out of place.  
*Housing continues on A8*

## Sacramento State agrees to revise investment rules

University appears to meet student protesters' demands

By Nanette Asimov

Sacramento State has become the first public university in California to align its investment policy with demands from pro-Palestinian student protesters, with a revision on its website saying that as of this month, the school will refrain from investing in companies that "profit from genocide, ethnic cleansing, and activities that violate fundamental human rights."

Campus officials did not respond to a request for comment Wednesday. But student protesters who have established tent encampments on nearly 150 campuses across the country have made disinvestment from Israel a key demand for halting protests over Israel's war in Gaza, where health officials say more than 34,000 Palestinians have been killed.

Sacramento State's revised investment policy does not mention Israel.

"We will pursue a human rights-based approach to investments," the policy says, noting that none of the school's five auxiliary enterprises, which handle finances and philanthropy, now has "direct investments" in those areas. Indirect investments — index funds and mutual funds, for example — will also be covered, the policy says.

As the humanitarian crisis in Gaza worsens, more U.S. universities — including  
*College continues on A9*



Lea Suzuki/The Chronicle

San Francisco State University students rally for Palestinians last month. More U.S. colleges have been appearing open to pacts with students over Gaza.

