

BOMA San Francisco's Political Action Committee (1987 – 2007)

The BOMA San Francisco Political Action Committee was first created in 1987 under the leadership of **Tom Gille** and **Jerry Cahill**. It began humbly as an effort to give commercial property owners and managers a voice in the local political process, and to help protect the value of the investments made by our members. It has become a very important and successful part of BOMA San Francisco's advocacy efforts, and provides a vital service to its members. The chronology below documents the most important issues and candidate campaigns in which the BOMA SF PAC has participated. It is by no means the only stories of our previous involvement nor will it be the end of our story. The BOMA SF PAC will go on into the future protecting the rights of commercial property owners and making sure their voices are heard in the halls of government so long as its mission and record of accomplishments continues to be supported by the BOMA membership.

BOMA SF PAC - A Short History - A Long List of Accomplishments

1987 - BOMA SF PAC was formed and created its first mail piece in support of local candidates. The large postcard endorsed John Molinari for Mayor, Arlo Smith for District Attorney, Mike Hennessey for Sheriff, and urged voters to oppose Proposition P, which would have created district elections, and to support Proposition W, which would allow the Giants to build a new stadium on the waterfront at China Basin.

1988 - BOMA Bus Sign Campaign created. This was BOMA's first attempt at independently assisting persons running for local office. Our first ads promoted the election of Jim Gonzalez, Tom Hsieh, Carol Ruth Silver, Mark Buell, Bruce Lilienthal, and Jane Winslow for the Board of Supervisors.

1990 - BOMA SF PAC supports Bill Maher, John Figone, and Jim Lazarus for the Board of Supervisors with a bus sign campaign.

1991 - BOMA SF PAC endorses Frank Jordan for Mayor, and promotes his election with a bus sign campaign.

1992 - BOMA SF PAC supports Tom Hsieh, Barbara Kaufman, Willie Kennedy, and Manny Rosales for the Board of Supervisors with a bus sign campaign.

1993 - BOMA SF PAC supports Kevin Shelley and Susan Leal for Board of Supervisors, Louise Renne for re-election as City Attorney, and the continuation of a 1/2 cent local sales tax for transportation.

1994 - Proposition O - This initiative would have created a downtown transit assessment district, and taxed property owners in a small portion of the City at the rate of \$1.00 per square foot per year, in addition to the property taxes and other fees they were already paying. This excessive and unfair tax was defeated at the ballot box but the BOMA SF PAC had to raise and spend over \$800,000 to effectively get the "No on O" message out to the city's voters. It was, and remains to this day, our most expensive involvement in the local political process of San Francisco.

1998 - BOMA Bus Sign Campaign - This effort to help elect business-friendly candidates to the Board of Supervisors was resurrected, and we endorsed and supported Mark Leno, Gavin Newsom, and Mabel Teng that year. All three won their seats, and two moved on to higher offices.

1999 - BOMA SF PAC endorses and supports Willie L. Brown, Jr. for re-election as Mayor, and contributes to a San Franciscans for Sensible Government mailing promoting Brown's accomplishments. The PAC also endorsed and contributed to Kevin Shelley and Carole Migden for their state legislative races.

2000 - BOMA SF PAC endorsed the following slate of candidates. It was the first time for district elections since their repeal in 1978. BOMA SF PAC did not support the return to district elections, but generally supported the candidates endorsed by Mayor Brown.

District 1: Michael Yaki (Incumbent)
District 2: Gavin Newsom (Incumbent)
District 3: Meagan Levitan (Democratic Party Leader)
District 4: Tom Hsieh, Jr. (Small Businessman)
District 5: Juanita Owens (Educator)
District 6: Chris Dittenhafer (Small Business Leader)
District 7: Mabel Teng (Incumbent)
District 8: Mark Leno (Incumbent)
District 9: No endorsement (Tom Ammiano's district)
District 10: Linda Richardson (Computer Engineer)
District 11: Amos Brown (Incumbent)

2001 - BOMA SF PAC opposes the anti-PG & E Municipal Utility District proposition. It goes down in defeat. The PAC holds its first annual PAC at the Park outdoor barbeque fundraiser prior to the Giant's opening night game. That event raises \$6,000.

2002 - BOMA SF PAC issued its first "Voter Guide" for the November 5, 2002 general election. BOMA SF PAC also led the fight against the doubling of the property transfer tax for properties valued at \$1 million or more. That measure, Proposition L, required the PAC to raise and spend \$750,000 to educate voters on the wrongness of this tax increase. Proposition L was defeated 55% - 45%. The defeat of Proposition L saved San Francisco property owners an estimated \$25 - 30 million annually in additional taxes. In addition to fighting Proposition L, the BOMA SF PAC endorsed Bevan Dufty for Supervisor in District 8 and Fiona Ma for Supervisor in District 4. BOMA SF PAC opposed Proposition D, which was another public power initiative, supported Proposition A, which was the important first set of bonds to rebuild the Hetch Hetchy water system, supported Care Not Cash (Prop N), a measure to change the way in which the City dealt with homelessness, and the HOPE initiative (Prop R), which would have allowed renters to purchase their units within certain guidelines that would also protect renters.

2003 - BOMA SF PAC supports an initiative to ban aggressive panhandling in the city, and another extension of the 1/2 cent sales tax for local transportation projects. The PAC also endorsed and strongly supported Gavin Newsom for Mayor against Matt Gonzalez, a Green Party member of the Board of Supervisors. Held fundraising luncheon for CA Assembly Member Leland Yee that brought in over \$15,000 to his campaign.

2004 - BOMA SF PAC endorsed and supported Lillian Sing, David Heller and Leanna Dawydiak as "smart choices" in an independent expenditure bus shelter campaign for District 1 Supervisor. The PAC also endorsed and supported Andrew Sullivan in District 5, and Sean Elsbernd in District 7. The PAC strongly supported passage of Proposition I, which would establish an Office of Economic Analysis within the Controller's Office to review all city legislation for its economic impact on jobs and business before action could be taken by the Board of Supervisors. That measure passed. The PAC, for the first time, also became involved in San Francisco School Board races, and supported four candidates running for four contested seats. Our endorsements went to: Heather Hiles, Coach Larry Kane, David Weiner, and Jill Wynns. Only Wynns won re-election. The PAC sponsored four fundraisers. They were for: Lillian Sing, Myrna Lim (for District 10 Supervisor), Sean Elsbernd, and Michela Alioto-Pier (for District 2 Supervisor).

2005 - BOMA SF PAC supported Michela Alioto-Pier and Sean Elsbernd for re-election to their supervisor seats. The PAC supported Fiona Ma for the CA Assembly and Leland Yee for State Senate (for a primary to be held in the spring of 2006). The PAC endorsed and supported Jose Cisneros for City Treasurer, and Dennis Herrera for re-election as City Attorney. The PAC sponsors another fundraising luncheon for Leland Yee, candidate for State Senate.

2006 - BOMA SF PAC supported the BOMA California PAC for the first time with a special golf scramble held at the Peninsula Golf and Country Club. This event netted over \$20,000 for the state association's political action committee. The PAC strongly opposed passage of Proposition C, a measure to diminish mayoral power over the Transbay Terminal rebuild project, and Proposition D, which would have used the city's planning code to make medical decisions at Laguna Honda hospital, in the June primary election. The PAC re-affirmed its support for Leland Yee for State Senate, and Fiona Ma for the CA Assembly. The PAC has endorsed Michela Alioto-Pier for re-election as District 2 Supervisor (she won), endorsed Doug Chan for election to District 4 Supervisor (he lost to Ed Jew), Rob Black for District 6 Supervisor (he lost to Chris Daly), and the re-election of Bevan Dufty as District 8 Supervisor (he won). The PAC opposes Proposition E, which would raise the parking tax by 40%. It is defeated.

2007 – BOMA SF PAC supported Proposition C, which passed, and will now require the any legislation placed on the city's ballot by the Board of Supervisors or the Mayor must first be subjected to a public hearing. The PAC also supported the successful passage of Proposition I, which will establish a Small Business Assistance Center. The PAC also made an early endorsement of Jerry Hill for California Assembly, and endorsed Gavin Newsom for re-election as Mayor and Michael Hennessey for re-election as County Sheriff.

The BOMA-SF-PAC has put your contributions to good use defending your property owner rights for the past 20 years. Help us continue that fight for the next two decades by pledging your support today!