

**CHARTER FOR THE CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN
FRANCISCO, PREPARED AND PROPOSED BY
THE BOARD OF FREEHOLDERS, ELECTED
NOVEMBER 6, 1894, IN PURSUANCE OF THE
PROVISIONS OF SECTION
8, ARTICLE XI, OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

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Charter for the City and County of San Francisco, Prepared and Proposed by the Board of Freeholders, Elected November 6, 1894, in Pursuance of the Provisions of Section 8, Article XI, of the Constitution of the State of California by Joseph Britton

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JOSEPH BRITTON

**CHARTER FOR THE CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN
FRANCISCO, PREPARED AND PROPOSED BY
THE BOARD OF FREEHOLDERS, ELECTED
NOVEMBER 6, 1894, IN PURSUANCE OF THE
PROVISIONS OF SECTION
8, ARTICLE XI, OF THE
CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

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JOSEPH BRITTON.

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13. **Civil Service and Salaries**
McCarthy, Clement and Gutte.
14. **Miscellaneous and Schedule.**
Nightingale, Taylor and Comte.
15. **Revision.**
Thompson, Taylor, O'Connor, Cridge and Anderson.

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CHARTER

Prepared and Proposed for the City and County of

SAN FRANCISCO

BY THE

BOARD OF FREEHOLDERS

Elected December 27, 1897, in pursuance of the provisions of Section 8,
Article XI, of the Constitution of the State of California.

ARTICLE I.

Boundaries, Rights and Liabilities.

SECTION 1. The municipal corporation known as the City and County of San Francisco shall remain and continue a body politic and corporate, in name and in fact, by the name of the City and County of San Francisco, and by that name shall have perpetual succession; may sue and defend in all courts and places and in all matters and proceedings; may have and use a common seal and alter the same at pleasure; may purchase, receive, hold and enjoy real and personal property; receive bequests, gifts and donations of all kinds of property, in fee simple, or in trust for charitable and other purposes, and do all acts necessary to carry out the purposes of such gifts, bequests and donations, with power to manage, sell, lease or otherwise dispose of the same in accordance with the terms of the gift, bequest or trust.

SEC. 2. The boundaries of the City and County of San Francisco are hereby declared to be those set forth in Section Thirty-Nine Hundred and Fifty of the Political Code of California.

SEC. 3. The City and County of San Francisco shall continue, under this Charter, to have, hold and enjoy all property, rights of property, rights of action of every nature and description of the existing municipality and is hereby declared to be the successor of the same.

SEC. 4. Suits, actions and proceedings may be brought in the name of the City and County for the recovery of any property, money or thing belonging thereto, in law or equity, or dedicated to public use therein, or for the enforcement of any rights of, or contracts with, the City and County, whether made or arising or accruing before or after the adoption of this Charter. All existing suits, actions and proceedings in the courts or elsewhere, to which the City and County is a party, shall continue to be carried on by or against the City and County.

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SEC. 5. No recourse shall be had against the City and County for damage or loss to person or property suffered or sustained by reason of the defective condition of any sidewalk, street, avenue, lane, alley, court or place, or by reason of the defective condition of any sewer, or by reason of any defective drainage, whether any of said defects originally existed, or whether they were occasioned by construction, excavation or embankment; nor shall there be any recourse against the City and County for want of repair of any sidewalk, street, avenue, lane, alley, court or place, or by want of repair of any sewer; nor shall there be any recourse against the City and County for damage to person or property suffered or sustained by reason of accident on any sidewalk, street, avenue, lane, alley, court or place, or by falling from any embankment thereon or into any excavation therein; but in any such case the person or persons on whom the law may have imposed the obligation to repair such defect in the sidewalk, street or public highway, or in the sewer, and also the officer or officers through whose official negligence such defect remains unrepaired shall be jointly and severally liable to the party injured for the damage sustained.

ARTICLE II.
LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT.
CHAPTER I.

The Board of Supervisors.

SECTION 1. The legislative power of the City and County of San Francisco shall be vested in a legislative body, which shall be designated the Board of Supervisors. Such body is also designated in this Charter, the Supervisors.

SEC. 2. The Board of Supervisors shall consist of eighteen members, all of whom shall hold office for two years and be elected from the City and County at large. Each one must be at the time of his election an elector of the City and County, and must have been such for at least five years next preceding his election. Each Supervisor shall receive an annual salary of twelve hundred dollars.

Every person who has served as Mayor of the City and County, so long as he remains a resident thereof, shall be entitled to a seat in the Board of Supervisors and to participate in its debates, but shall not be entitled to a vote nor to any compensation.

SEC. 3. A majority of all the members of the Board shall constitute a quorum, but a less number may adjourn from day to day and compel the attendance of absent members in such manner and under such penalties as the Board may prescribe.

Sec. 4. The Board shall:

1. Appoint a clerk, sergeant-at-arms and, when authorized to do so by ordinance, such additional clerks and other assistants as may be deemed necessary.

2. Establish rules for its proceedings.

3. Keep a journal of its proceedings, and allow the same to be published. The ayes and noes shall on demand of any member be taken and entered therein.

4. Have authority to punish its members for disorderly or contemptuous behavior in its presence.

Sec. 5. The Mayor shall be the presiding officer of the Board of Supervisors. In the absence of the Mayor the Board shall appoint a presiding officer pro tempore from its own members, who shall have the same right to vote as other members.

Sec. 6. The Board shall meet on Monday of each week, or if that day be a legal holiday, then on the next day. The Board shall not adjourn to any other place than to its regular place of meeting, except in case of great necessity or emergency. The meetings of the Board shall be public.

Sec. 7. The clerk of the Board, when requested to do so, shall administer oaths and affirmations, without charge, in all matters pertaining to the affairs of his office, and shall perform such services as may be prescribed by the Board. He shall have the custody of the seal, and of all leases, grants and other documents, records and papers of the City and County. His signature shall be necessary to all leases, grants and conveyances of the City and County.

Sec. 8. Every legislative act of the City and County shall be by ordinance. The enacting clause of every ordinance shall be in these words: "Be it ordained by the People of the City and County of San Francisco as follows." No ordinance shall be passed except by bill, and no bill shall be so amended as to change its original purpose.

Sec. 9. No bill shall become an ordinance, nor resolution be adopted, unless finally passed by a majority of all the members of the Board and the vote be taken by ayes and noes and the names of the members voting for and against the same be entered in the Journal.

Sec. 10. No ordinance shall be revised, re-enacted or amended by reference to its title; but the ordinance to be revised or re-enacted, or the section thereof amended, shall be re-enacted at length as revised and amended.

Sec. 11. An ordinance shall embrace but one subject, which subject shall be expressed in its title. If any subject be embraced in an ordinance and not expressed in its title, such ordinance shall be void only as to so much thereof as is not expressed in its title.

Sec. 12. When a bill is put upon its final passage in the