

"One huge disadvantage SF has compared to peer cities is that far fewer young people decide to have children here, even if they remain in the Bay Area. Notably, SF's under-18 population (~13%) is about half that of peer cities. What will you do to make SF a better place to raise a family?"

London Breed

San Francisco is a place where we nurture diverse communities, help families thrive across generations, and a place where children can grow up joyously and set up for life-long success. But there are significant barriers in place that make San Francisco a difficult place to live for families that we must continue to work to address.

First and foremost is the cost and availability of housing. As families grow in San Francisco, they find it hard to find affordable homes to live in, often having to move out of the City to have the space necessary to accommodate children. This is one of the core reasons why we must be bold in our policies to build more housing in neighborhoods all across our city, and why we must continue our work to eliminate barriers to new housing. By being aggressive in meeting our goals of building 82,000 new homes over 8 years, we can make housing more affordable for all. We also must continue targeted programs to support low-income families. For example, I worked with the community to move hundreds of families living in Chinatown single-room occupancy hotels into larger apartments, leading to the largest decrease in the number of families living in SRO settings in over 20 years.

Second, childcare is among the most significant expenses that impacts the cost of living for families in San Francisco. One of the most pivotal ways to make this city more affordable for families is to make child care more affordable, accessible, and inclusive. I am proud of the recognition that San Francisco has received nationally for my administration's efforts to pioneer cutting-edge early childhood strategies. Since 2018, we have doubled the number of families who are receiving financial assistance for childcare – and we aren't stopping there. With my most recent budget, we expanded child care by allocating an additional \$120 million so that moderate-income families earning up to 150% AMI, or families of four earning up to \$224,800, can receive subsidized early childcare and education for their children under six years old. Currently under my administration, over 25,000 families with infants, toddlers, and preschoolers are eligible for financial support for early care and education. In partnership with the community and providers, I am committed to building on this progress to grow the childcare capacity within San Francisco, reduce barriers to access, and invest in the early education workforce.

Third, we need a well-functioning school system. Right now, our public school system is in crisis under a very difficult budget situation with the potential for a state takeover looming. Losing local control would be a disaster for local families and our schools. It will remove the abilities of families to shape their childrens' schools and educational experiences, and it will create a damaging long-term financial situation for the District that will take years to get out from under. That's why I sent a School Stabilization Team of city leaders and subject matter experts in to support the School District to prevent the loss of local control. Difficult budget choices must be

made, but for the long-term health and success of this District we must make sure it does not end up in state receivership.

Fourth, we need vibrant public spaces and safe streets. I've been a champion for expanding public spaces in San Francisco, including creating JFK Promenade and transforming waterfront parks that support families. We have the best park system in the country. We've created more accessible bike lanes and pedestrian spaces, which create safer streets for families and children. And we are working to create more joyful public spaces all across our city. Families need places to visit in their neighborhood and to meet and gather with friends and others.

Daniel Lurie

It is critically important that San Francisco create more affordable housing for low-and middle-income residents, especially families. I hear from parents all the time. They are some of the most engaged citizens we have in this city. They are concerned about affordability, education, safe streets, and quality of life. Many families choose to live in San Francisco despite significant challenges. As mayor, I will do everything I can to support them in making that choice a successful and fulfilling one. San Francisco needs families. They drive our economy, bring traditions that enrich our cultural fabric, and strengthen our communities. Their presence makes our city vibrant and dynamic. With the benefit of my experience, here are highlights of the steps I will take to make San Francisco the most family-friendly city in the country.

- **Increase Affordable Housing Units:** Increase the number of affordable housing units, particularly those suitable for families, through incentives, innovative financing tools, and a streamlined approval processes.
- **Increase Affordable Childcare:** Expand the availability of affordable, high-quality childcare options, particularly to close the gap in care for babies and toddlers, by leveraging city funds with state and federal programs, partnerships with neighborhood childcare providers, and piloting mobile centers and new flexible models.
- **Accountability for School Funding:** Require accountability and performance measurement of City funds sent to the school district. Advocate at the state and federal level to ensure SFUSD has the resources needed for small class sizes, updated technology, and well-maintained facilities.

Aaron Peskin

What families need to thrive in San Francisco are good-paying jobs, affordable homes, robust transit, vibrant welcoming neighborhoods and quality public schools. My campaign is about leveling the playing field so working San Franciscans can afford to live and raise families here. I am the only candidate with a plan to build middle-class housing at no cost to taxpayers and the only candidate to support expansion of rent control to keep homes more affordable.

As Mayor I will fight for all our neighborhoods, work to get our schools back on track, increase funding for Muni, and bolster City College and workforce programs that get youth into higher-paying jobs.

Mark Farrell

One of my top priorities as Mayor is to make San Francisco the best City in the world to raise a family. As a father of three, family is everything to me. I will do everything in my power to give our children and families the support and tools they need to thrive.

While San Francisco Unified School District deserves credit for refocusing on student outcomes in 2022 under their new Superintendent, they are not set to meet their own goals for student improvement. We need more leadership and commitment from the Mayor to help address this issue. I released a package of policies to help improve student outcomes, provide safe and clean learning environments, and help students access free and reliable public transportation.

Additionally, San Francisco families are grappling with an acute childcare crisis. On top of the rising cost of living, the average family will pay between \$22,000 and \$28,000 annually for infant care and about \$21,000 for preschool care. This is simply unacceptable. Starting on Day One as Mayor, I will advance my vision to deliver universal child care in San Francisco.

Our housing crisis and shortage is also holding our City back from being an affordable, welcoming place for families. My detailed housing platform will provide more middle-income and affordable homes for families while meeting our state-mandated requirements for new housing.