



Law and Government

San Francisco is governed by a mayor, Gavin Newsom, who runs the executive branch of the city and a Board of Supervisors, which comprises the executive branch. In 2000, the eleven-member board switched from *at large* to *district* representation.

While most California cities are *General Law Cities*, approximately twenty-five percent, including San Francisco, are *Charter Cities*. *Charter Cities* are governed by a city charter, which acts like a constitution for the city and allows the voters to have control over governmental organization and policies. It also allows for San Francisco to have control over some areas located beyond the city boundaries, such as the San Francisco International Airport and the Hetch Hetchy water and power system.

For more information about San Francisco government offices and operations, please visit www.sfgov.org.

Demographics

According to the 2005 US Census report, the racial makeup of The City is as follows: 56.6% White, 7.3% African American, 32.9% Asian, 13.70% Hispanic or Latino of any race, 0.4% Native American, 0.4% Pacific Islander, .5% Indians and Alaska Natives, and 2.3% from two or more races. San Francisco has the largest Chinese population in the United States, and the largest Asian population outside of Hawaii. The City also has the highest percentage of gay families of any American county or large city, but according to a San Francisco Chronicle article in May 2005, the city had a 14.5% proportion of children, which is lower than any other large U.S. city. San Francisco's population is also comprised of 14.8% under the age of 18, and who are 65 years old or older. The population of females is 49.3%, and the median age is 36.5 years old.