

December 3, 2003

Letters Editor
San Francisco Chronicle
901 Mission Street
San Francisco, CA 94103

Dear Sir/Madam:

The significance of San Francisco's upcoming mayoral election to local commerce is immense, with the outcome determining the course chosen to deal with a \$347 million budget deficit.

Mayoral Candidate Matt Gonzalez's stratagems for finding new sources of revenue and/or reallocating existing revenue streams can be defined more accurately as putting the additional squeeze on local employers by increasing the business community's share of the tax burden. Specifically, he will make every effort to put into action his oft-stated (and previously attempted) desire to increase the real estate transfer tax and to impose new taxes on gross receipts and payroll expenses, which, conveniently, frees him and his fellow members of the Board of Supervisors from making the politically unpopular decision to trim City services and jobs.

Quite the reverse, in Candidate Gavin Newsom, local employers have someone with whom it can work to find ways to stimulate private-sector growth (rather than hinder it).

San Francisco's budget grew by 70 percent between 1995 and 2003 – three times faster than the rate of inflation – and a key contributor is a bloated City workforce, with existing City employee policies continuing to drive up the cost of local government. Rather than raise taxes on private-sector employers and property owners – those who provide jobs, create revenue and fund City programs – Mr. Newsom can be counted on to curtail unnecessary spending and reduce City service redundancies.

For this and many other reasons, the Building Owners and Managers Association of San Francisco endorses Gavin Newsom for mayor.

Sincerely,

Steve Colvin
President, Building Owners and Managers
Association of San Francisco