**San Francisco voters give clear mandate:**

**Reinvest in Education, Increase Wages, and Stop Displacement!**

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**Results of San Francisco Rising’s Spring 2014 Civic Engagement Program**

**Who is SF Rising?**

SF Rising ([www.sfrising.org](http://www.sfrising.org)) is a movement-building and civic engagement alliance of nine membership-based community organizations rooted in San Francisco’s working class communities of color.

SF Rising serves as the local anchor organization of California Calls([www.cacalls.org](http://www.cacalls.org)), a grassroots electoral coalition with a long-term strategy for progressive statewide tax and fiscal policy reform through organizing new and occasional voters – especially young people, people of color and immigrants.

Each year, SF Rising and California Calls conduct civic engagement programs, mobilizing thousands of voters in support of timely measures with direct benefits for working class communities (the California Calls Action Fund’s 400,000 strong voter base proved to be the margin of victory of the major 2012 statewide tax measure Proposition 30) and educating voters about tax and fiscal issues related to systemic, structural change.

**May 2014: SF Voters Support Immediate State Investment in Education & Social Services -- Not Rainy Day Savings and Debt Repayment**

Last month, SF Rising conducted a 14-day civic engagement program, contacting voters through both a high-volume predictive dialer and traditional door-to-door canvassing. We targeted voters in 50 precincts, largely in San Francisco’s southeast neighborhoods where our member organizations do grassroots organizing each day.

All told, SF Rising had conversations with 4,619 voters and found that an overwhelming 80% of them (3,719 voters) would prefer state policy makers to immediately invest $5 billion in education and social services, funds which under the Governor’s proposed budget are currently slated to go towards the state’s Rainy Day Fund, debt service repayment, and private prison expansion.

**SF Voters Strongly Support Increasing Minimum Wage to $15 per Hour and**

**Increasing Taxes on Housing Speculation**

In addition to discussing state budget issues with voters, SF Rising also addressed the crisis of affordability and displacement facing San Francisco’s working class communities of color.

Currently, SF Rising is working with the Campaign for a Fair Economy, a coalition of labor and community allies, to raise the SF minimum wage to $15 per hour. Over the course of our outreach program last month, we discovered 2,833 voters agree that raising the minimum wage to $15 per hour will help keep working people in San Francisco. Last week, the Campaign for a Fair Economy reached a compromise agreement with business groups, the Mayor and the entire Board of Supervisors to bring forward a single measure for the November ballot that would raise San Francisco’s minimum wage to $15 per hour by 2018 – the strongest minimum wage law in the country!

As part of the San Francisco Anti-Displacement Coalition, an alliance of groups from the tenant and housing rights movement ([www.sfadc.blogspot.com](http://www.sfadc.blogspot.com)), SF Rising is also working to create policies to stop the massive displacement of working people from San Francisco. In order to discourage the evictions that frequently result from speculators buying and selling apartment buildings in quick succession (also known as “flipping” apartments), SF Rising supports a policy that would substantially increase the tax on the sales of apartments if bought and resold within five years. During our voter outreach in May, SF Rising found that 2,677 voters agree that raising taxes on housing speculators will help keep working people in San Francisco.

**Onward to the November 2014 Ballot!**

SF Rising looks forward to working with our allies to address the needs of working class communities of color through the ballot box in November 2014 – including by taxing housing speculators and raising the minimum wage.

Please [donate today to ensure we are successful on Election Day this fall!](https://cj.ourpowerbase.net/civicrm/contribute/transact?reset=1&id=8)