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## State's first partner faces FBI probe

Governor: Investigation is another effort by Trump to attack his political rivals

By Sophia Bollag and Joe Garofoli  
STAFF WRITERS

SACRAMENTO — Gov. Gavin Newsom said Monday that the FBI is investigating his wife in what the Democratic governor called another effort by President Donald Trump to use the federal government to attack his political rivals.

Newsom has been one of the most prominent critics of the Republican president during Trump's second term in office, relentlessly mocking Trump on

social media.

"He's coming after me because I am considering running for president," Newsom said in a video posted to social media Monday morning. "If they can't intimidate me, they'll go after the mother of our children. Donald Trump picked the wrong target. We have nothing to hide."

Newsom said the FBI has knocked on the doors of family friends and former employees while appearing to target first partner Jennifer Siebel Newsom.

The White House declined to answer questions about Newsom's statements and deferred to the Department of Justice, which also declined to comment. A source familiar with the matter, who was not authorized to speak on the record, said federal authorities are involved in multiple investigations, one relating to Siebel Newsom's taxes and another relating to Dana Williamson, Newsom's former chief of staff who pleaded guilty to three federal charges last month.

The investigations are run by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of California, which is based in Sacramento, *Newsom continues on A7*



Stephen Lam/S.F. Chronicle

First partner Jennifer Siebel Newsom, shown in 2025, is facing a federal investigation linked to her taxes.

## Contract deal in permit overhaul criticized

By Michael Barba and J.D. Morris  
STAFF WRITERS

Mayor Daniel Lurie sacrificed transparency and risked paying a higher price when he chose not to let companies compete to reform San Francisco's broken permitting system, instead awarding a lucrative, no-bid agreement to a tech firm with financial ties to his former nonprofit, according to a new report.

The report, released Monday by the Board of Supervisors' Budget and Legislative Analyst's Office, scrutinized the decision last fall to award a \$5.9 million contract to OpenGov that could soon balloon by nearly \$30 million. The report found no evidence of wrongdoing, but said Lurie's administration strayed from best practices meant to encourage openness, save money and protect against favoritism.

"Given the size and scope of the contract, city practice suggests that the contract should have been competitively procured," the 40-page report reads. "While we did not find any evidence of impropriety in the process, the absence of objective standardized evaluation criteria and a process governed by a set of rules aimed at eliminating conflicts of interest can create the appearance of impropriety and can damage public trust in procurement."

OpenGov is a centerpiece of Lurie's signature effort to overhaul and modernize the city's notoriously slow and outdated permit approval processes, *Lurie continues on A8*

## Patriotic paint job gives some the blues



Santiago Mejia/S.F. Chronicle

The South San Francisco hillside sign has been repainted red, white and blue for the nation's semiquincentennial.

Letters hard to see after South San Francisco's Sign Hill makeover

By Anna Bauman  
STAFF WRITER

South San Francisco has temporarily repainted its iconic Sign Hill letters in red, white and blue to commemorate the nation's upcoming 250th anniversary.

The hillside concrete letters, which spell out "SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO THE INDUSTRI-

AL CITY," were repainted in early June with support from the biotech company Genentech, according to South San Francisco officials.

But some Bay Area residents said the patriotic paint job has obscured most of the words.

The darker shades of blue and red blend into the landscape, according to social media com-

menters, leaving only the white letters of "THE INDUSTRIAL CITY" clearly visible.

"Cute idea, but the blue paint is unfortunately unreadable from the road," one person wrote on Instagram. Others chimed in with similar reactions on Reddit.

In an Instagram comment, the *Sign continues on A7*

## S.F. supe eyes fund to ease food insecurity

Board to decide if Mamdani-inspired bills will be on ballot

By Alyce McFadden  
STAFF WRITER

Amid rising grocery prices and supermarket closures, Supervisor Bilal Mahmood on Tuesday unveiled a package of bills designed to tackle some causes of food insecurity in San Francisco.

The "Affordable Groceries Act," as the District 5 supervisor is calling the bundle of legislation, would create a city-run fund that could be used to convert convenience stores into markets stocked with fresh produce and pantry staples at affordable prices.



Justin Sullivan/Getty Images

Fresh tomatoes are displayed at Bob's Market in Santa Monica. Amid higher fuel and fertilizer costs tied to the Iran war and supply chain disruptions, tomato prices have surged sharply.

The legislation would also seek to discourage major national chains from closing stores by taxing their vacant buildings.

More than 48,150 San Franciscans struggled to afford food in 2024, according to a report from the San Francisco Food Security Taskforce, and Trump administration cuts to SNAP have made matters worse for some 21,000 low-income city residents at risk of losing the benefit by the end of next year.

"Food prices are unaffordable for everyone," Mahmood said. "Tomatoes, milk, everything is just rising in cost."

The Board of Supervisors will vote on the measures in the coming months. If a majority approves, the tax and the fund will go before voters in November as *Food continues on A8*

