

# Who Belongs? Housing Justice in the Bay Area

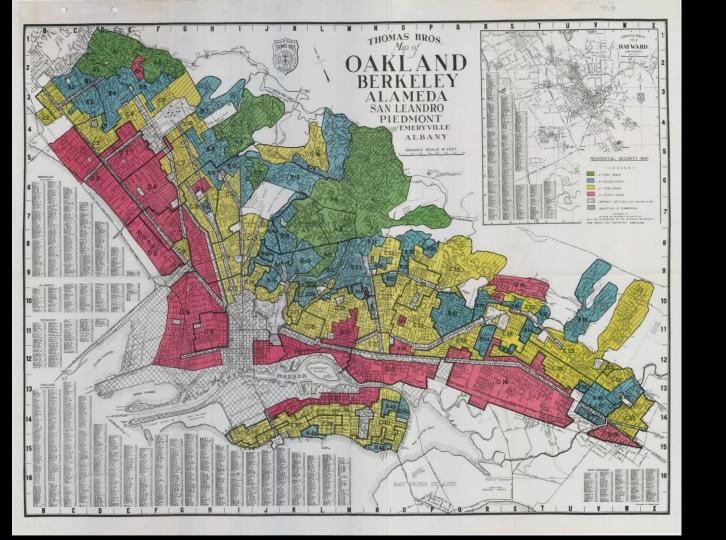
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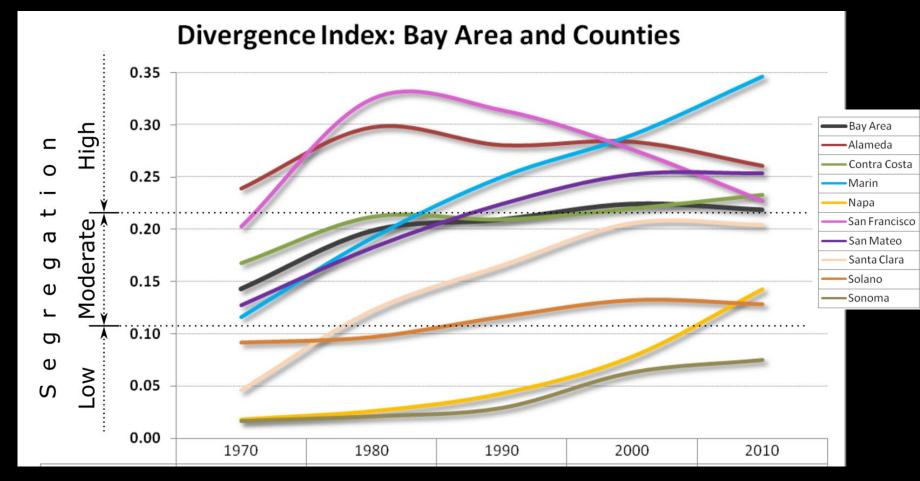
April 28, 2023

**PRESENTER** 

Eli Moore Program Director **AUTHORIAL SUPPORT** 

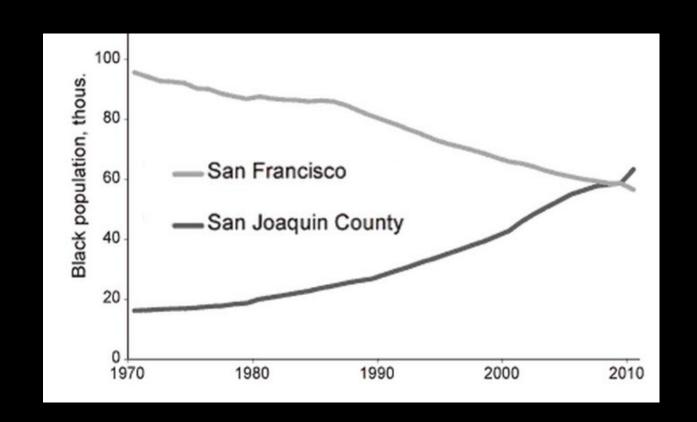
Othering & Belonging Institute





Source: Othering and Belonging Institute

### Displacement of Black residents to the margins of the region



create the structures that serve them.

Belonging means being part of a world and communities that are

vibrant, healthy, and interconnected in which everyone, no matter

who they are, holds the agency, responsibility, and power to co-



### The Right to Vote-

### **GUARD IT!**

HERE ARE THE FACTS ON
PROPOSITION 10—WHAT IT PROVIDES
— WHY IT IS NECESSARY—HOW IT
AFFECTS YOU AND YOUR COMMUNITY

Proposition 10 is undoubtedly the most clear-cut, easily understood measure ever to appear on the California ballot.

It adds a vitally necessary section to the State Constitution: the Public Housing Project Law.

It provides, simply, that any permanent public housing project proposed to be undertaken in whole or in part by the Federal Government or a State public body, must first be approved at an election by a majority of the voters of the city, town or county in which such a project is contemplated.

Proposition 10, naturally, will not in any way interfere with the Federal Government's needed power, in time or war or disaster, to construct temporary emergency housing facilities.

Proposition 10 will give the people in local communities the right to decide for themselves if permanent, subsidized housing projects are necessary or desirable for their community.

Proposition 10 is the very essence of American democracy!



### Housing Is A Community Concern

In California, there are approximately two million homeowners, a great many of whom are veterans, making real sacrifices for the enjoyment and responsibilities of home ownership. Hundreds of thousands more are planning to become homeowners in the future.

These people must subsidize, through taxes on their homes, the huge expense of civic services provided public housing projects, which are exempt from taxes. Manifestly, it is only just and right that they, along with other citizens, be allowed the right of decision when a project's construction is contemplated.



### The People Can Be Trusted!

Under Proposition 10, these facts are indisputable: if a housing project is not needed and not wanted, it will be turned down by a vote of the people; if a housing project is needed and is wanted, it will be approved by a vote of the people.

Given democratic opportunity, the people can be depended on to make the right decision in any given case. It is an affront to the citizenry of California to argue otherwise—to contend, as opponents of Proposition 10 have done, that it would be "dangerous" to allow the people of California to vote!

Every true believer in democracy will agree that the right to vote is not a danger—but a cherished blessing!

1950 pamphlet from the Northern California Committee for Home Protection campaign for Proposition 10, framing its opposition to public housing as a matter of democracy.

Source: Liam Dillon, Los Angeles Times

"Wealth—what you own minus what you owe—is the key to economic security. It is what enables families to build a better future. It provides economic stability during lean times. It opens doors to improving quality of life. It is a dam against the floodwaters of economic catastrophes. It provides access to political power and it allows us to live and retire with dignity".

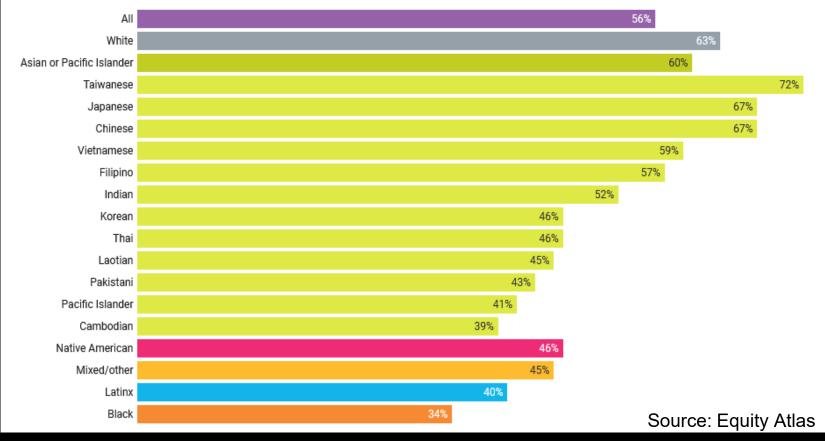
- California Task Force on Reparations for African Americans, 2022

## "Mama don't own a house so she can't post bail."

- Mistah F.A.B.

#### Large Inequities Exist in Homeownership Rates Across Race and Ethnicity

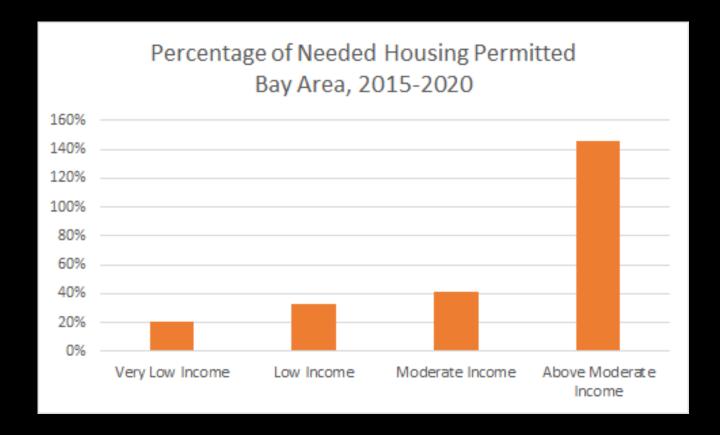
Homeownership Rates by Race/Ethnicity and API Ancestry: Bay Area, 2019



### Gap in Median Home Equity in Formerly Greenlined and Formerly Redlined Neighborhoods, 2019

Metro Area	Median Home Equity in Formerly Greenlined Neighborhoods (\$)	Median Home Equity in Formerly Redlined Neighborhoods (\$)	Gap (% difference)
Fresno	282,000	158,000	78
Los Angeles	1,111,000	587,000	89
Oakland	1,300,000	752,000	73
Sacramento	778,000	522,000	49
San Diego	1,058,000	471,000	125
San Jose	1,329,000	854,000	56

Source: Dana Anderson, Redfin, 2020



New housing falls far short of meeting the needs of moderate, low and very low income residents

Source: ABAG Regional Housing Needs Allocation

### **Household Wealth Inequality**

Santa Clara & San Mateo Counties, 2022



50% of the people hold 0.8% of the wealth

1% hold \$263 billion

Source: Joint Venture Silicon Valley

### Five Priorities

Break up exclusionary zoning and other policies that prevent affordable housing from being built in high income areas.

Raise needed revenue and reign in wealth inequality through progressive taxation.

Reinvest in affordable housing, smarter this time with targeted strategies to make sure communities' particular needs are met and past racialized harm is repaired.

Ensure tenants have rights and the power to enforce protections from eviction and unfair rent increases.

Expand the range of housing choices to include new forms of ownership that prevent speculative investment and expand homeownership, such as community land trusts and social housing.

### Advance Belonging

From the kitchen table to the block to the neighborhood to the city to the region and beyond