

More About Joel Engardio

Saginaw native and Arthur Hill High School alumnus Joel Engardio was elected as a city supervisor of San Francisco in November 2022. His four-year term begins January 8, 2023.

Engardio was born in Saginaw and graduated from Arthur Hill High School in 1990. He was among the first students enrolled in Handley Elementary School's Program for the Creative and Academically Talented when it debuted in the 1981-82 school year. Engardio attended the Center for the Arts and Sciences (now known as SASA) from 7th to 9th grade, while also attending South Intermediate.

"I was fortunate to be part of Saginaw's innovative and pioneering public school programs when they started in the 1980s," Engardio said. "I'm still in contact with teachers, now retired, who influenced me greatly."

Engardio served as the editor of award-winning school newspapers at South and Arthur Hill. He was also a member of Arthur Hill's championship swim team throughout high school.

Engardio was in Saginaw last summer for his 30th high school reunion (delayed two years because of the pandemic). He took a few days off from campaigning for the San Francisco supervisor seat to attend the reunion.

"Every experience I had growing up in Saginaw influenced who I am today. Every success can be attributed to someone in Saginaw who made an impact on my life — especially my teachers at Handley," Engardio said. "I can't emphasize enough how invaluable and transformative Handley was. It set a foundation I still rely on today."

Engardio's first job at age 12 was delivering newspapers for the Saginaw News. In high school, he worked at the McDonald's at State and Center and Ponderosa Steak House on Bay (now closed). Engardio also wrote freelance stories for the Saginaw News as a high school senior and worked nights on the sports desk.

Engardio won [many journalism awards](#) during a career of more than 20 years. In San Francisco, he often held City Hall accountable as a journalist.

"Now I've decided to try to effect change from within City Hall," Engardio said. "I will always have a journalism mindset of getting to the root of problems. I also plan to continue using reporting and storytelling skills as I work to fix things in San Francisco in my new role."

Engardio will serve as one of 11 city supervisors in San Francisco who oversee a \$14 billion budget and draft laws as the legislative branch of the city government.

Engardio's election made history twice. He was the first candidate to oust an elected incumbent supervisor in more than 20 years. Engardio is also the first openly gay supervisor ever elected in San Francisco's western neighborhoods, an historically conservative area of the city.

Read Engardio's [blog post about how he won](#).

Learn more about [Engardio's background](#).

Engardio will represent District 4, which includes the Sunset, Parkside, and Lakeshore neighborhoods south of Golden Gate Park and on the western edge of San Francisco at \ the ocean.

Local media characterized Engardio's election as part of the "moderate revolt" among San Francisco voters who recalled the school board and district attorney in 2022.

Engardio helped lead the historic school board recall (San Francisco's first successful recall in a century), which was supported by 80 percent of voters in Engardio's district and more than 70 percent citywide. Engardio also backed the equally historic district attorney recall, which was supported by nearly 70 percent of voters in his district and 55 percent citywide.

Engardio ran against an incumbent who did not support either recall.

Engardio on why he helped lead the school board recall: "Our parents and kids were suffering. They needed schools reopened, not renamed."

Engardio on why he supported the district attorney recall: "I support criminal justice reform. For it to succeed, people must feel safe and victims cannot be ignored. My in-laws are afraid to visit San Francisco. It shouldn't have to be that way. I believe we need a reform-minded district attorney who will prosecute crime and put victims first."

Engardio is a lifelong Democrat who served on the boards of two of San Francisco's largest Democratic clubs, the Alice B. Toklas LGBTQ Democratic Club and the United Democratic Club.

"I'm a forward-thinking and practical Democrat. That means I embrace innovation. I'm focused on results and common-sense solutions," Engardio said. "I still believe in San Francisco. I know there's a lot to fix and it can feel daunting. But the city we love can realize its full potential — if we are willing to address today's problems with equal doses of innovation and common sense."

Engardio was endorsed by the San Francisco Chronicle, Equality California, the Victory Fund, State Senator Scott Wiener, TogetherSF, GrowSF, the United Democratic Club, the Chinese American Democratic Club, and the Alice B. Toklas LGBTQ Democratic Club.

Engardio on his priorities as supervisor: "We deserve to live in a city that works. That means we must get the basics right: safer streets, better schools, more housing, and vibrant small businesses. It's time to create our best San Francisco."

Local news articles about Engardio's election:

SF GATE: [San Francisco's moderate revolt continues with Joel Engardio victory](#)

San Francisco Examiner: [How Engardio defeated Mar in rare ousting of an incumbent](#)

San Francisco Examiner: [Gay men celebrate victories, representation in S.F. election](#)

San Francisco Chronicle: [Moderate Joel Engardio just won an S.F. supervisor's seat after three failed bids. What changed this time?](#)

San Francisco Standard: [Will Joel Engardio Change the Balance of Power in SF Politics?](#)