

Newsom remains San Fran's mayor

by UPI

SAN FRANCISCO -- Gavin Newsom had no trouble keeping his grip on San Francisco mayor's office Tuesday with early returns showing the Democratic incumbent clearly in charge. With only nominal opposition standing in the way of a second term, Newsom was polling 77 percent of the vote with just over 48,000 ballots counted, the San Francisco Chronicle reported. That was enough for Newsom to declare victory to about 300 campaign volunteers and others gathered for a post-election celebration. "To my critics, this is an opportunity, and in some ways a reconciliation," he said. "I commit to working with you for the next four years, and I commit to resolving those areas where you still believe we can do better." With new state rules in effect for counting ballots, it could be days or weeks before official final results are known even though turnout was light, the newspaper said. Newsom generated 11 challengers but none were able to pose a serious threat despite a widely reported sex and alcohol scandal this year. He didn't directly confront that situation Tuesday night, though he thanked his girl friend for "sticking by me in this very challenging year."

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