

1 [Resolution exploring instituting voter preregistration system for high school students.]

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3 **Resolution calling for the City and County of San Francisco, in conjunction with the**
4 **San Francisco Unified School District, to investigate the logistics, both administrative**
5 **and legal, of establishing for the preregistration of high school students to vote in an**
6 **effort to create universal voter registration.**

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8 WHEREAS, our city and country's strength flows from its willingness to innovate and
9 improve upon the American experiment in democracy; and,

10 WHEREAS, recent elections underscore the importance of revamping the way we
11 register citizens to vote; and,

12 WHEREAS, huge numbers of Americans, approximately 60 million eligible adults,
13 remained unregistered to vote, a lower percentage than in Iraq; and,

14 WHEREAS, young adults are disproportionately among the 60 million unregistered
15 eligible voters; and,

16 WHEREAS, in San Francisco, like the rest of the United States, too many eligible adult
17 voters and too many eligible young adults are unregistered; and,

18 WHEREAS, universal voter registration is good public policy because it establishes
19 clean and complete voter rolls that preserve the integrity of our elections; and,

20 WHEREAS, universal voter registration, a practice used in most democratic nations,
21 establishes a goal of 100 percent voter registration by making registration a mutual
22 responsibility of citizens and their government; and,

23 WHEREAS, the United States is one of the few democracies where the government
24 does not take responsibility for registering its voters; and,

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1 WHEREAS, the international norm is an orderly process of automatic voter registration
2 of every citizen who reaches voting age, with the government taking a proactive, ongoing role,
3 and registration occurring on a steady, rolling basis, instead of in spurts tied to any specific
4 election; and,

5 WHEREAS, universal voter registration leads to much cleaner voter rolls and less voter
6 fraud because with comprehensive databases and full registration there is no longer a
7 question about who is or is not registered, since everyone is registered; and,

8 WHEREAS, San Francisco and United States needs a comprehensive, coherent
9 system that ensures all of us can vote, but none of us can vote more than once; and,

10 WHEREAS, San Francisco can take a major step toward universal voter registration by
11 proactively canvassing the city to register voters; and,

12 WHEREAS, San Francisco should have high schools pre-register to vote all their
13 students as they enter their junior year, so that once these pre-registrants turn 18, their
14 registrations automatically would become active; and,

15 WHEREAS, upon turning 18, these pre-registrants would receive a letter alerting them
16 about their eligibility to vote, the date of the next election and their responsibilities when
17 changing addresses; and,

18 WHEREAS, this policy would register far more young people in an orderly way and
19 generate more understanding of the value of 100 percent registration; and,

20 WHEREAS, it would provide a means to introduce more young people to the
21 importance of civic engagement, with a natural complement to this policy being a "voter's ed"
22 curriculum for high school students, just as many have "driver's ed" now; and,

23 WHEREAS, over time, as all 18-year-olds were registered to vote, San Francisco
24 would move far closer to 100 percent voter registration, Therefore be it
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1 RESOLVED, that the City and County of San Francisco, in conjunction with the San
2 Francisco Unified School District, should begin investigation into the logistics, both legal and
3 administrative, of establishing for the preregistration of high school students to vote in an
4 effort to create universal voter registration.
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City and County of San Francisco

City Hall
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San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

Tails
Resolution

File Number: 050563

Date Passed:

Resolution calling for the City and County of San Francisco, in conjunction with the San Francisco Unified School District, to investigate the logistics, both administrative and legal, of establishing for the preregistration of high school students to vote in an effort to create universal voter registration.

April 5, 2005 Board of Supervisors — ADOPTED

Ayes: 10 - Alioto-Pier, Daly, Dufty, Elsbernd, Ma, Maxwell, McGoldrick, Mirkarimi, Peskin, Sandoval
Absent: 1 - Ammiano

File No. 050563

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on April 5, 2005 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

[Signature]
Gloria L. Young
Clerk of the Board

APR 15 2005

Date Approved

[Signature]
Mayor Gavin Newsom

Date: April 15, 2005

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution, not being signed by the Mayor within the time limit as set forth in Section 3.103 of the Charter, became effective without his approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter.

[Signature]
Clerk of the Board

File No.
050563