

1 [Twenty-First Century Voting]  
2 URGING THE MAYOR'S BUDGET OFFICE TO ALLOCATE SUFFICIENT FUNDS TO  
3 REPLACE SAN FRANCISCO'S ANTIQUATED VOTOMATIC VOTING SYSTEM WITH A HIGH-  
4 TECHNOLOGY SYSTEM CAPABLE OF FAST AND ACCURATE RESULTS IN TIME FOR THE  
5 NOVEMBER 2000 ELECTION.

6 WHEREAS, Despite San Francisco's proximity to the Silicon Valley, the City and County  
7 continues to use a decades old, cumbersome punch-card system of voting, requiring hundreds of  
8 volunteers counting ballots round the clock for days to reach a final result in any given election; and,

9 WHEREAS, This system contains huge potential for human error because once the vote is cast,  
10 the ballot is handled by several people, many of whom are conscripted volunteers; and,

11 WHEREAS, High technology, which can produce almost instantaneous ballot results, is being  
12 used by a significant portion of counties in California; and,

13 WHEREAS, At least two types of high-tech systems are available: an optical scan system which  
14 has voters darken dots in a form used for standardized testing, including a way to indicate a write-in  
15 candidate, which is then placed into an optical scanning machine where votes are tallied by computer  
16 chip; and a touch screen system where voters make their choices by touching a box on a computer  
17 screen next to the name of each candidate or calling for a keyboard to vote for a write-in candidate by  
18 typing the name, votes are stored on each machine's memory cartridge and brought to a central  
19 counting office to be quickly tabulated by computer; and,

20 WHEREAS, Riverside and Alameda counties have successfully tried the touch screen voting  
21 method; Alameda, Monterey and Marin counties intend to use touch screens next year for early voting;  
22 and,

23 WHEREAS, At least 11 of California's 58 counties use optical scanners, including San Mateo  
24 county, which had the results of its most recent election by 10:30 p.m. after the polls closed; and,

25

\*\*GAVIN NEWSOM\*\*, *Teng*, BECERRIL, BIERMAN, YAKI  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

1           WHEREAS, In a 1998 survey, 1200 persons out of 2700 surveyed thought optical scanning was  
2 easier, 660 thought systems were the same in level of difficulty; and,

3           WHEREAS, The San Francisco public had an opportunity to test high technology voting  
4 systems at a vendor display approximately two years ago, with optical scanners likely to be the final  
5 choice; and,

6           WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco's Department of Elections hopes to have a  
7 new system in place by the November election, but lack guaranteed funding; and,

8           WHEREAS, Start-up costs are steep, running as high as \$3 million or more, but is predicted to  
9 save money and time in the long-run; now, therefore, be it

10          RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors does hereby urge the Mayor's  
11 Budget Office to allocate sufficient funds to replace San Francisco's antiquated votomatic voting  
12 system with a high-technology system capable of fast and accurate results in time for the November  
13 2000 election; and, be it

14          FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors does hereby ask a copy  
15 of this resolution to be transmitted to the Mayor's Budget Office.



# City and County of San Francisco

City Hall  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

## Tails

### Resolution

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**File Number:** 992083

**Date Passed:**

Resolution urging the Mayor's Budget Office to allocate sufficient funds to replace San Francisco's antiquated votomatic voting system with a high-technology system capable of fast and accurate results in time for the November 2000 election.

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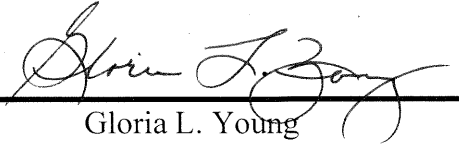
November 15, 1999 Board of Supervisors — ADOPTED

Ayes: 10 - Ammiano, Becerril, Bierman, Brown, Katz, Kaufman, Leno, Teng,  
Yaki, Yee

Absent: 1 - Newsom

File No. 992083

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on November 15, 1999 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.



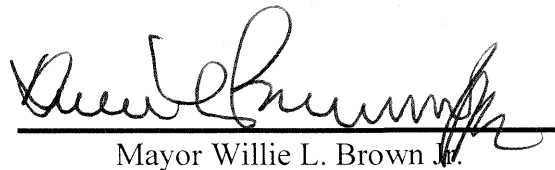
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Gloria L. Young  
Clerk of the Board

NOV 24 1999

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Date Approved



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Mayor Willie L. Brown Jr.