

1 [Acquisition of a new voting system.]

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3 **Resolution encouraging the Department of Elections to issue a Request For Proposals**
4 **for touch screen voting equipment that will accommodate Ranked Choice Voting.**

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6 WHEREAS, In March 2002, the San Francisco voters amended the City Charter to
7 require the use of “Instant Runoff” or “Ranked Choice” Voting to elect most local officers; and,

8 WHEREAS, It is generally accepted that using a touch screen voting system is the best
9 approach to implement Ranked Choice Voting; and,

10 WHEREAS, The Department of Elections determined that there was not enough time
11 to acquire and put into practice a touch screen voting system that could accommodate
12 Ranked Choice Voting before the November 2003 election, so the Department of Elections
13 entered into a contract with the City’s current voting systems vendor to modify the City’s
14 optical scan voting equipment to accommodate Ranked Choice Voting for the November 2003
15 election; and,

16 WHEREAS, The City’s current voting systems vendor did not, as required by its
17 contract, provide the City with a modified optical scan system to accommodate Ranked
18 Choice Voting for the November 2003 election; and,

19 WHEREAS, The City’s current voting systems vendor has not even completed its
20 application to the Secretary of State for approval of the modified optical scan system; and,

21 WHEREAS, It was impossible, due to circumstances beyond its control, for the City to
22 implement Ranked Choice Voting for the November 2003 election; and,

23 WHEREAS, In an August 22, 2003 letter the Director of Elections outline3d a plan to
24 ensure that Ranked Choice Voting is implemented for the November 2004 election; and,

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1 WHEREAS, The Department of Elections has determined that if it starts immediately
2 there is enough time to acquire and put into practice a touch screen voting system that could
3 accommodate Ranked Choice Voting for the November 2004 election; and,

4 WHEREAS, The state will provide to the City through the sale of bonds authorized
5 Proposition 41 approximately 4.1 million of the estimated 15 million dollars necessary to
6 purchase touch screen voting equipment; and,

7 WHEREAS, The City may be able to either receive additional funding from the state
8 and federal governments to pay for the remaining costs of acquiring touch screen voting
9 equipment or be able to finance the remaining costs over several years; now, therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors encourages the Department of Elections to
11 issue a Request For Proposals as soon as possible for touch screen voting equipment that
12 will accommodate Ranked Choice Voting so that such equipment will be used in the
13 November 2004 election; and, be it

14 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors encourages the Department of
15 Elections to acquire all necessary authorizations for the use of its partial hand-count plan as a
16 back-up method to implement Ranked Choice Voting in November 2004, if for reasons
17 beyond the City's control it is not possible by November 2004 to implement Ranked Choice
18 Voting using a touch screen system.