

1 [Voter Education Regarding Instant Runoff Voting]

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3 **Resolution urging the Department of Elections and Elections Commission**
4 **to immediately begin voter education and outreach regarding the use of instant runoff**
5 **voting for the November 2004 election.**

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7 WHEREAS, San Francisco voters passed Proposition A in March 2002 by a vote of
8 55% to 45% which enacted instant runoff voting to be used for electing all local offices; and

9 WHEREAS, San Francisco's first election using instant runoff voting will take place in
10 November 2004 for seven seats on the Board of Supervisors; and;

11 WHEREAS, Instant runoff voting allows voters to rank their ballots, marking a first
12 choice, a second choice, and a third choice; and

13 WHEREAS, The success of any change in the electoral process depends on adequate
14 voter education and outreach to help voters become aware of and accustomed to the new
15 method; and

16 WHEREAS, Community education and outreach is important to help voters become
17 familiar with the design of the ballot used for instant runoff voting and to help voters
18 understand how they will rank their ballots; and

19 WHEREAS, Community education and outreach is crucial to ensure that no voter or
20 group of voters is disproportionately impacted by the change; and

21 WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors already has allocated approximate \$500,000 for
22 community education and outreach, with an option for \$250,000 more; and

23 WHEREAS, The Department of Elections already has designed a community education
24 and outreach plan, and The Elections Commission has approved this plan; now, therefore be
25 it

1 RESOLVED, The San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges the Department of
2 Elections and The Elections Commission to immediately commence implementing their plan
3 for public education and outreach that will alert and educate the public about the use of instant
4 runoff voting this November 2004.

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