

1 [Voting Systems Task Force.]

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3 **Ordinance amending the Administrative Code by adding Sections 5.400-410 to**
4 **establish a Voting Systems Task Force comprised of individuals with backgrounds in**
5 **good government, computer science or the computer industry, election administration,**
6 **and accommodations of persons with disabilities, to make recommendations to the**
7 **Board of Supervisors about voting system standards, design and development.**

8 Note: Additions are *single-underline italics Times New Roman*;
9 deletions are *strikethrough italics Times New Roman*.
10 Board amendment additions are double underlined.
Board amendment deletions are ~~strikethrough normal~~.

11 Be it ordained by the People of the City and County of San Francisco:

12 Section 1. Findings. The Board of Supervisors finds and declares as follows:

13 (a) The City and County of San Francisco holds it in the interest of its citizens to
14 conduct efficient and accurate elections in a manner which promotes public trust in the
15 integrity of the conduct of the election, the results and every aspect of the elections process.

16 (b) Transparency in the recording, collection, transmission, aggregation and tally of
17 votes promotes public confidence in the integrity of elections.

18 (c) A growing number of government leaders, good government groups, citizens,
19 and press accounts have questioned the value and integrity of the existing, limited choices of
20 voting systems certified for use in conducting elections.

21 (d) A limited number of vendors dominate the voting systems marketplace, and their
22 refusal to make public their voting system software and hardware designs conflicts with the
23 goal of election transparency.

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1 (e) Federal and State oversight of elections are proving inadequate and ineffective
2 in generating greater choice of newer, less expensive, more transparent voting system
3 alternatives.

4 (f) The City and County of San Francisco recently acquired a voting system after
5 2.5 years of deliberation, which was due in part to public opposition and questions about the
6 integrity of the system, the system vendor, and the level of dependence on the vendor for the
7 conduct of elections.

8 Section 2. The San Francisco Administrative Code is hereby amended by adding
9 Sections 5.400-410, to read as follows:

10 **Section 5.400. Establishment and Organization of the Voting Systems Task**
11 **Force.**

12 (a) The Board of Supervisors hereby establishes a Voting Systems Task Force
13 ("Task Force") consisting of nine voting members appointed by the Board of Supervisors, and
14 including two individuals representing good government groups, four individuals with
15 substantial background in computer science or the software or computer industry, two
16 individuals with a background in or knowledge of election administration, and one individual
17 with a background working in accommodation of persons with disabilities. The Task Force
18 shall also include as an ex-officio non-voting member a representative of the San Francisco
19 Elections Commission who is also a member of that Commission at the time of appointment.

20 (b) The voting members of the Task Force shall serve at the pleasure of the Board
21 of Supervisors for a term of two years from the date that all nine members have been
22 appointed. The Board of Supervisors shall fill any vacancies occurring in the voting
23 membership of the Task Force.

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1 (c) The Office of the City Administrator shall provide administrative support to the
2 Task Force.

3 (d) The Task Force shall schedule regular meetings once a month.

4 **Section 5.405. Powers and Duties of the Voting Systems Task Force.**

5 (a) The Task Force shall have the authority to hold hearings and take testimony
6 regarding voting systems and related matters.

7 (b) The Task Force shall provide the City with recommendations on:

8 (1) Standards and guidelines to gauge the adequacy, accuracy and trustworthiness
9 of any voting system to be developed or acquired and the adequacy of any vendor or other
10 entity which might develop and deliver such a system;

11 (2) Methods for generating or acquiring designs for a voting system which meets
12 applicable Federal, State, County and City laws, regulations and other requirements and all
13 other goals for the voting system while minimizing system life-cycle costs;

14 (3) Models for development of a voting system including proprietary, disclosed and
15 open source software and hardware approaches and which address aforementioned voting
16 systems requirements and assure a cost effective, highly reliable, maintainable system;

17 (4) Business models, including the City and County of San Francisco acting as its
18 own vendor, which promote the transparency of all aspects of design, development,
19 production and the business relationship of all parties associated with production, delivery,
20 implementation and use of the voting system;

21 (5) Any other considerations related to voting systems which will promote public
22 trust in the conduct and results of elections.

23 (c) During each year of its operation the Task Force shall submit to the Board of
24 Supervisors an annual report summarizing its recommendations.

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Section 5.410. Sunset Provision.

The Voting Systems Task Force shall terminate by operation of law on December 31, 2010, and after that date the City Attorney shall cause this Article to be removed from the Administrative Code.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
DENNIS J. HERRERA, City Attorney

By: _____
Mollie Lee
Deputy City Attorney