

File No. 190737

Committee Item No. 3

Board Item No. _____

COMMITTEE/BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

AGENDA PACKET CONTENTS LIST

Committee: Rules Committee

Date July 22, 2019

Board of Supervisors Meeting

Date _____

Cmte Board

- Motion
- Resolution
- Ordinance
- Legislative Digest
- Budget and Legislative Analyst Report
- Youth Commission Report
- Introduction Form
- Department/Agency Cover Letter and/or Report
- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
- Grant Information Form
- Grant Budget
- Subcontract Budget
- Contract/Agreement
- Form 126 - Ethics Commission
- Award Letter
- Application
- Form 700
- Vacancy Notice
- Information Sheet
- Public Correspondence

OTHER (Use back side if additional space is needed)

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____ Charter Amendment _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
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Completed by: Victor Young Date July 18, 2019
 Completed by: Victor Young Date _____

1 [Supporting Assembly Constitutional Amendment No. 6 (McCarty et al.) - Free the Vote Act]

2
3 **Resolution supporting Assembly Constitutional Amendment No. 6, introduced by**
4 **Assembly Members Kevin McCarty, Rob Bonta, Wendy Carillo, Mike Gipson, Lorena**
5 **Gonzalez, Ash Kalra, Sydney Kamlager-Dove, Kevin Mullin, Mark Stone, and Shirley**
6 **Weber, and co-authored by Senator Scott Wiener, to allow automatic restoration of**
7 **voting rights to those on parole upon completion of a state or federal prison term.**

8
9 WHEREAS, The right to vote is a fundamental right that should be protected,
10 promoted, and practiced in the United States; and

11 WHEREAS, California law permits an individual who is 1) a United States citizen, 2) a
12 resident of California, and 3) at least 18 years of age at the time of the next election, to
13 register to vote; and

14 WHEREAS, The exception to this law is that those imprisoned in state or federal prison
15 or on parole for a felony are expressly prohibited from voting; and

16 WHEREAS, Of the estimated six million Americans unable to vote because of felony
17 disenfranchisement laws nationwide, nearly 50,000 Californians on parole are currently
18 unable to vote in state, federal, or local elections, as a result of felony disenfranchisement
19 inscribed in California's constitution since 1849; and

20 WHEREAS, Assembly Constitutional Amendment No. 6 ("Free the Vote Act")
21 introduced by Assembly Members McCarty, Bonta, Carillo, Gipson, Gonzalez, Kalra,
22 Kamlager-Dove, Mullin, Stone, and Weber, and co-authored by Senator Scott Wiener, will
23 allow California voters the opportunity to re-enfranchise and restore the right to vote to people
24 on parole on the 2020 ballot; and

1 WHEREAS, The Free the Vote Act would amend Sections 2 and 4 of Article II in the
2 state constitution, which will: 1) delete a provision of law that requires the Legislature to
3 provide for the disqualification of electors while on parole for the conviction of a felony; 2)
4 provide that an elector disqualified from voting while serving a state or federal prison term
5 shall have their right to vote restored upon the completion of their prison term; and 3) make
6 other technical and conforming changes to ensure restoration; and

7 WHEREAS, AB 646 is the implementing legislation for the Free the Vote Act, which
8 enacts corresponding changes to California's Elections Code and was approved by the
9 California Assembly Elections and Redistricting Committee on April 10, 2019, by a 5-1 vote,
10 and is currently pending in the Assembly Appropriations Committee; and

11 WHEREAS, Our nation's history is marked by struggles to expand voting rights and
12 correct voting injustices to those previously barred due to race, class, or gender; and

13 WHEREAS, Felony disenfranchisement has an extensive discriminatory history in the
14 United States and functions as a form of voter suppression that is rooted in racially
15 discriminatory laws which have disproportionately impacted Black and Brown communities;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, Suppression of the Black vote has existed for over a century and a half—
18 tracing back to the 1870s with the implementation of Jim Crow laws and California's rejection
19 to ratify the 15th Amendment, which prohibits voting restrictions based on race, until 1962,
20 both of which have repercussions to the current day; and

21 WHEREAS, According to the Public Policy Institute of California, African Americans are
22 overly represented in the parole population— African Americans make up only 6% of
23 California's adult population, yet account for 26% of the parole population; and
24
25

1 WHEREAS, The Free the Vote Act introduced by Assembly Members McCarty et al.
2 would be a major step forward in addressing the racial discrimination of California’s felony
3 disenfranchisement laws, expanding voting rights, and correcting voter injustice; and

4 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Justice grants parole when the release
5 of an individual would not jeopardize the public welfare; and

6 WHEREAS, 50,000 Californians on parole are working, paying taxes, and positively
7 contributing to their communities, yet are unable to vote; and

8 WHEREAS, Research published in UC Berkeley’s La Raza Law Journal suggests that
9 felony disenfranchisement results in alienation, isolation, and a sense of disconnection from
10 community, which only serves to increase further incidences of criminal activity; and

11 WHEREAS, A survey conducted by Initiate Justice in 2018 of more than 1,000 people
12 in prison and on parole in California found that more than 76% of respondents on parole
13 believed that voting would help them feel more connected to their communities and would
14 help reduce recidivism; and

15 WHEREAS, This bill would fully realize the goals of parole by restoring a fundamental
16 civil right, allowing the formerly incarcerated full participation in our country’s democracy; and

17 WHEREAS, California is currently behind 14 other states and Washington D.C., which
18 have all either restored voting rights upon release from prison or have no felony
19 disenfranchisement laws in place; and

20 WHEREAS, National momentum is growing to restore voting and civil rights to people
21 with convictions, including California’s AB 1008 “Ban the Box” legislation and San Francisco’s
22 “Ban the Box” ordinance codified in Administrative Code, Article 49, both of which prohibit
23 employers from considering any criminal conviction, expunged or not, prior to making a
24 conditional job offer; and

1 WHEREAS, This legislation introduced by Assembly Members McCarty et al. will
2 reflect the United States' shift towards ending felony disenfranchisement; and

3 WHEREAS, By eliminating an arbitrary barrier to voting, this bill will align California with
4 the goals of securing and expanding voting rights to the marginalized and disenfranchised as
5 well as correct historically racially discriminatory laws; now, therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
7 hereby urges the California State Legislature and Governor Newsom to support and pass
8 Assembly Constitutional Amendment No. 6; and, be it

9 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco Board of
10 Supervisors hereby directs the Clerk of the Board to send a copy of the resolution to the
11 California State Legislature and Governor Gavin Newsom.

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 12, 2019

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2019–20 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Constitutional Amendment

No. 6

**Introduced by Assembly Members McCarty, Bonta, Carrillo,
Gipson, Gonzalez, Kalra, Kamlager-Dove, Mullin, Mark Stone,
and Weber**

(Principal coauthor: Senator Wiener)

January 28, 2019

Assembly Constitutional Amendment No. 6—A resolution to propose to the people of the State of California an amendment to the Constitution of the State, by amending ~~Section 4~~ *Sections 2 and 4* of Article II thereof, relating to elections.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACA 6, as amended, McCarty. Elections: disqualification of electors.

The California Constitution requires the Legislature to provide for the disqualification of electors while mentally incompetent or imprisoned or on parole for the conviction of a felony. Existing statutory law, for purposes of determining who is entitled to register to vote, defines imprisoned as currently serving a state or federal prison sentence.

This measure would instead direct the Legislature to provide for the disqualification of electors who are serving a state or federal prison sentence for the conviction of a felony. This measure would also delete the requirement that the Legislature provide for the disqualification of electors while on parole for the conviction of a felony. *The measure would provide for the restoration of voting rights upon completion of the prison term.*

Vote: $\frac{2}{3}$. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

1 *Resolved by the Assembly, the Senate concurring,* That the
2 Legislature of the State of California at its 2019–20 Regular
3 Session commencing on the third day of December 2018,
4 two-thirds of the membership of each house concurring, hereby
5 proposes to the people of the State of California, that the
6 Constitution of the State be amended as follows:

7 *First—That Section 2 of Article II thereof is amended to read:*

8 SEC. 2. (a) A United States citizen 18 years of age and
9 resident in this State may vote.

10 (b) *An elector disqualified from voting while serving a state or*
11 *federal prison term, as described in Section 4, shall have their*
12 *right to vote restored upon the completion of their prison term.*

13 *Second—That Section 4 of Article II thereof is amended to read:*

14 SEC. 4. The Legislature shall prohibit improper practices that
15 affect elections and shall provide for the disqualification of electors
16 while mentally incompetent or serving a state or federal prison
17 sentence *term* for the conviction of a felony.

BOARD of SUPERVISORS



City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244
San Francisco 94102-4689
Tel. No. 554-5184
Fax No. 554-5163
TDD/TTY No. 554-5227

MEMORANDUM

TO: John Arntz, Director, Department of Elections
Karen L. Fletcher, Adult Chief Probation Officer

FROM: Victor Young, Assistant Clerk
Rules Committee

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Victor Young".

DATE: July 5, 2019

SUBJECT: LEGISLATION INTRODUCED

The Board of Supervisors' Rules Committee received the following proposed legislation on June 25, 2019:

File No. 190737

Resolution supporting Assembly Constitutional Amendment No. 6, introduced by Assembly Members Kevin McCarty, Rob Bonta, Wendy Carillo, Mike Gipson, Lorena Gonzalez, Ash Kalra, Sydney Kamlager-Dove, Kevin Mullin, Mark Stone, and Shirley Weber, and co-authored by Senator Scott Wiener, to allow automatic restoration of voting rights to those on parole upon completion of a state or federal prison term.

If you have comments or reports to be included with the file, please forward them to me at the Board of Supervisors, City Hall, Room 244, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, San Francisco, CA 94102 or by email at: victor.young@sfgov.org.

c: Lashaun Williams, Adult Probation Department

Print Form

Introduction Form

By a Member of the Board of Supervisors or Mayor

RECEIVED
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SAN FRANCISCO

2019 JUN 25 PM 2:44

Time stamp
or meeting date

BY *RZ*

I hereby submit the following item for introduction (select only one):

- 1. For reference to Committee. (An Ordinance, Resolution, Motion or Charter Amendment). *RULES*
- 2. Request for next printed agenda Without Reference to Committee.
- 3. Request for hearing on a subject matter at Committee.
- 4. Request for letter beginning : "Supervisor [] inquiries"
- 5. City Attorney Request.
- 6. Call File No. [] from Committee.
- 7. Budget Analyst request (attached written motion).
- 8. Substitute Legislation File No. []
- 9. Reactivate File No. []
- 10. Topic submitted for Mayoral Appearance before the BOS on []

Please check the appropriate boxes. The proposed legislation should be forwarded to the following:

- Small Business Commission
- Youth Commission
- Ethics Commission
- Planning Commission
- Building Inspection Commission

Note: For the Imperative Agenda (a resolution not on the printed agenda), use the Imperative Form.

Sponsor(s):

Haney, Walton, Mar, Brown, Mandelman, Ronen, Fewer

Subject:

Resolution in support of Assembly Constitutional Amendment No. 6 (McCarty et al.) - Free the Vote Act.

The text is listed:

Resolution supporting Assembly Constitutional Amendment No. 6 (ACA 6, Free the Vote Act), introduced by Assembly Members McCarty, Bonta, Carillo, Gipson, Gonzalez, Kalra, Kamlager-Dove, Mullin, Stone, and Weber, and co-authored by Senator Scott Wiener, to allow automatic restoration of voting rights to those on parole upon completion of a state or federal prison term.

Signature of Sponsoring Supervisor:

[Handwritten Signature]

For Clerk's Use Only

[Handwritten Signature]

