

1 [Amending the California Constitution to restore majority rule to all budgetary and revenue
2 issues]

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4 **Resolution urging San Francisco’s California State legislative delegation to draft an**
5 **amendment to the California Constitution restoring majority rule to all budgetary and**
6 **revenue issues decided in the State of California.**

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9 WHEREAS, In 1933, Proposition 1 specified that a two-thirds majority vote of the
10 legislature be required to pass the California state budget if it increased spending by 5% or
11 more; and,

12 WHEREAS, In 1962, Proposition 16 deleted the 5% increase spending provision thus
13 requiring a two-thirds majority vote of the legislature to pass the state budget, regardless of
14 any increase or decrease in state spending; and,

15 WHEREAS, In 1978 Proposition 13 specified that a two-thirds majority vote of the
16 legislature be required to pass any new tax measures; and,

17 WHEREAS, California is the only state in the nation that requires a two-thirds majority
18 vote to pass both the state budget and tax measures; and,

19 WHEREAS, These two-thirds vote requirements have led to an extreme minority of
20 state legislators effectively having veto power over the state budget and any new revenue
21 measures; and,

22 WHEREAS, A group of small-government Republicans have consistently blocked any
23 new revenue measures, which has led to regular structural budget deficits; and,

1 WHEREAS, The structural budget deficit has been exasperated by the current
2 economic recession to create a catastrophic budget deficit that is leading to the gutting of
3 essential services; and,

4 WHEREAS, Restoring majority rule of state budget and revenue measures would
5 reduce gridlock in the legislature and empower the majority to decide the state’s business
6 instead of a radical minority; now, therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
8 urges our representatives in the California State Senate and Assembly to submit to the
9 people of California an amendment to the California Constitution restoring majority rule to all
10 budgetary and revenue issues affecting the State of California.

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