

1 [Rectification of shortcomings in the Electoral Process]

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3 **Resolution directing the Department of Elections to rectify shortcomings in the**
4 **Electoral Process made evident in the March 5 Primary Elections, and to report its**
5 **plans and timetable for rectification of these shortcomings to the Board of**
6 **Supervisors.**

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8 WHEREAS, The electoral process of March 5, 2002, was marred by the virtual
9 disenfranchisement of a significant number of "decline-to-state" voters who were refused a
10 party ballot at polling stations even when such ballot was requested; and,

11 WHEREAS, That disenfranchisement appeared to be a consequence particularly of
12 two factors: insufficient training of election officers and lack of clear communication between
13 election officers and voters due to language barriers; and,

14 WHEREAS, It is the obligation of the Department of Elections to ensure that the voting
15 process is properly carried out and that all voters are given their full voting rights and
16 opportunities; and,

17 WHEREAS, The factors responsible for the disenfranchisement of some "decline-to-
18 state" voters can be addressed through, for example, more thorough training of election
19 officers; fliers distributed to voters at polling stations in all major languages used in San
20 Francisco informing "decline-to-state" voters of their choices in relation to voting for
21 candidates of specific political parties; fliers distributed to voters at polling stations in all major
22 languages used in San Francisco informing voters of the Department of Elections election-
23 day hotline (staffed by speakers of all the major languages) for immediate response to
24 queries and complaints; and phone access at all precinct polling places, to ensure that such
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1 communication between election officials and voters can be carried out immediately; now,
2 therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, That the Department of Elections act to rectify the shortcomings of the
4 March 5 elections so that these issues are resolved prior to the forthcoming elections in
5 November, 2002; and, be it

6 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Department of Elections report back to the Board of
7 Supervisors within ten days of the passage of this resolution regarding the Department's
8 proposed plans and timetable for the rectification of the election shortcomings noted herein.

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City and County of San Francisco

City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
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Tails
Resolution

File Number: 020427

Date Passed:

Resolution directing the Department of Elections to rectify shortcomings in the Electoral Process made evident in the March 5 Primary Elections, and to report its plans and timetable for rectification of these shortcomings to the Board of Supervisors.

March 18, 2002 Board of Supervisors — ADOPTED

Ayes: 11 - Ammiano, Daly, Gonzalez, Hall, Leno, Maxwell, McGoldrick, Newsom, Peskin, Sandoval, Yee

File No. 020427

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on March 18, 2002 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Gloria L. Young
Clerk of the Board

MAR 29 2002

Date Approved

Mayor Willie L. Brown Jr.