

1 [Supporting Elimination of the Senate Filibuster]

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3 **Resolution urging support of eliminating the United States Senate filibuster.**

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5 WHEREAS, The Senate filibuster was not a part of the original design of the U.S.
6 Senate and was created unintentionally in 1806 after Senators removed the “previous
7 question” motion in from the Senate rules; and

8 WHEREAS, The use of the Senate filibuster was rare throughout much of the 19th
9 century, and when employed it was generally used to delay and influence but not obstruct
10 legislation, with most filibustered legislation eventually passing; and

11 WHEREAS, The Senate filibuster began to be used successfully to preserve slavery
12 prior to the Civil War and the block voting rights for Black citizens during Reconstruction; and

13 WHEREAS, The Senate filibuster was employed to actively stop Civil Rights legislation
14 including 200 bills outlawing lynching, bills ending poll taxes and employment discrimination,
15 and the Civil Rights Acts of 1957 and 1964; and

16 WHEREAS, The Senate rules were changed in the 1970s to reduce the cloture vote to
17 60, to institute a “tracking system” and the “silent filibuster” that allows other legislation to
18 proceed while a bill is being filibustered, and to allow a Senator to filibuster without even
19 needing to be present; and

20 WHEREAS, The Senate filibuster rule has created a de facto supermajority
21 requirement to pass any legislation; and

22 WHEREAS, The Senate filibuster has been weaponized to a greater extent than ever
23 before to become a tool of anti-democratic obstruction in order to block the will of the people
24 and prevent legislation for the betterment of our residents from passing, including landmark
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1 pieces of legislation that would improve the civil rights, workers' rights, and health and safety
2 of all people in the United States; and

3 WHEREAS, Ending the filibuster is a necessary first step toward enacting a
4 comprehensive economic recovery plan following COVID-19; and

5 WHEREAS, Article I, Section 5, Clause 2 of the United States Constitution allows each
6 House Congress to determine the Rules of its Proceedings; now, therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, The San Francisco Board of Supervisors supports the elimination of the
8 Senate filibuster; and, be it;

9 FURTHER RESOLVED, The San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges the California
10 Senate Delegation, Senators Dianne Feinstein and Alex Padilla, and President Joe Biden to
11 support the elimination of the Senate filibuster.

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