

1 [Supporting Senate Bill 1140 Regarding Allowing Voters to Register and Vote Up to and  
2 Including Election Day]

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4 **Resolution supporting Senate Bill 1140 to delete the arbitrary timelines which prevent**  
5 **eligible citizens from voting in elections by allowing voters to register and vote up to**  
6 **and including election day.**

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8 WHEREAS, Every citizen has a right to vote and should have access to our polls on  
9 Election Day; and

10 WHEREAS, The voter registration process in the United States is too often a barrier to  
11 voter participation; and

12 WHEREAS, In 2006, only 76 percent of the voting-age population was registered to  
13 vote; and,

14 WHEREAS, California is 41<sup>st</sup> out of 50 states in voter turnout; and,

15 WHEREAS, Research has shown that election-day registration can boost voter turnout  
16 considerably – up to 7 percentage points; and,

17 WHEREAS, Eight other states allow citizens to vote without pre-registration. Six states  
18 – Idaho, Maine, Minnesota, New Hampshire, Wisconsin, and Wyoming – have successfully  
19 used election-day registration for years and have increased their voter turnout even as the  
20 national average continues to fall. In North Carolina, citizens can register and vote at any  
21 polling site during the early voting period. North Dakota requires no registration; and,

22 WHEREAS, Under existing law, California citizens must register at least 15 days prior  
23 to an election in order to vote; and

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1           WHEREAS, Senate Bill 1140 (Yee) will delete the arbitrary timelines which prevent  
2 eligible citizens from voting in elections by allowing voters to register and vote up to and  
3 including on Election Day; and

4           WHEREAS, The new standard would be phased-in in coordination with the  
5 introduction of VoteCal, a statewide online database of all registered voters; now, therefore,  
6 be it

7           RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors supports SB 1140, urges  
8 the California Legislature to pass SB 1140, and urges Governor Schwarzenegger to sign SB  
9 1140 into law.

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