

1 [Resolution endorsing AB 1391]

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**Resolution endorsing Assembly member Leno’s AB 1391 which would close reporting loopholes used by campaign committees that classify themselves as state or county committees to avoid more stringent city campaign finance disclosure requirements in local campaigns.**

WHEREAS, Currently a general purpose campaign committee may register as a state committee if it is involved in a state election, and as a state committee, it must follow state requirements and deadlines; and,

WHEREAS, If the state committee decides to heavily participate in a city county election, it does not need to follow city or disclosure regulations; and,

WHEREAS, There have been incidents of general purpose committees skirting local regulations by registering as a state committee, and as a result, there is less opportunity for campaign finance transparency on the local level; and,

WHEREAS, AB 1391 defines a state general purpose committee as such if 50 percent or more of its contributions are spent on an election. If a committee spends 50 percent or more of its contributions in a county election, then it is considered a county general purpose committee. If a committee spends 50 percent or more of its contributions in a city election, then it is considered a city general purpose committee; and,

WHEREAS, By setting out definitive contribution thresholds, AB 1391 clarifies the distinction between committees and prevents a state committee from funneling a majority of funds to a local committee without local disclosure; and,

1           WHEREAS, Because existing law defines the term "county," for the purposes of the  
2 PRA (Political Reform Act), to include a city and county, a general purpose committee that is  
3 involved primarily in supporting and opposing candidates and measures in San Francisco (a  
4 consolidated city and county) is considered a county general purpose committee; and,

5           WHEREAS, While county general purpose committees are required to file pre-election  
6 statements only in connection with state election dates, city general purpose committees are  
7 required to file pre-election in connection with elections held in that city; and,

8           WHEREAS, According to the FPPC (Fair Political Practices Commission), general  
9 purpose committees in San Francisco are not filing pre-election statements in connection with  
10 local San Francisco elections because, as county general purpose committees, these  
11 committees are only required to file pre-election statements for state elections; and,

12           WHEREAS, AB 1391 specifies that general purpose committees that are involved  
13 primarily in supporting and opposing candidates and in a consolidated city and county are  
14 considered city general purpose committees, thereby requiring such general committees to  
15 file pre-election statements in connection with local elections held in the consolidated city and  
16 county now, therefore, be it

17           RESOLVED, The Board of Supervisors reaffirms its commitment to full and accurate  
18 campaign finance disclosure; and, be it

19           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors finds that the interests of the  
20 City and County of San Francisco are best served when campaign committees that operate  
21 primarily in San Francisco are compelled to disclose activity in accordance with local law  
22 when the majority of their activity transpires in the City and County of San Francisco; and, be  
23 it

1           FURTHER RESOLVED, That The Board of Supervisors of San Francisco endorses AB  
2 1391, urges the Assembly and Senate of California to pass the measure and urges the  
3 Governor of California to sign AB 1391 into law.

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