

1 [Urging State Legislators to Allow Local Communities the Right to Vote on Autonomous
2 Vehicle Operation in Their Counties]

3 **Resolution urging the California State Legislature and the Governor of California to**
4 **allow local communities the right to vote on whether autonomous vehicles can operate**
5 **in their counties.**

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7 WHEREAS, The proliferation of autonomous vehicles in San Francisco has raised
8 significant privacy, workforce, environmental, traffic, and public transportation concerns; and

9 WHEREAS, On October 27, 2025, the co-CEO of Waymo publicly stated that she
10 believes that society will accept a death caused by a robotaxi, such as an autonomous
11 vehicle; and

12 WHEREAS, Waymo recalled more than 1,200 vehicles on May 12, 2025, and Zoox
13 issued a voluntary software recall on May 23, 2025, both over collision concerns; and

14 WHEREAS, Transportation Network Companies (TNC) accounted for approximately
15 50% of the rise in congestion in San Francisco between 2010 and 2016, as indicated by three
16 congestion measures: vehicle hours of delay, vehicle miles traveled, and average speeds;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, Experts expect autonomous vehicles to contribute to the trend of TNCs
19 increasing traffic congestion; and

20 WHEREAS, Autonomous vehicles contribute more vehicles on the road, where
21 sufficiently funded public transportation could instead reduce traffic congestion; and

22 WHEREAS, The proliferation of autonomous vehicles disincentivizes elected leaders
23 from investing adequately in public transit; and

24 WHEREAS, As part of testimony submitted at a House Energy and Commerce
25 Committee, the nonprofit Securing America's Future Energy (SAFE), reported that "58 percent

1 of autonomous, light-duty vehicle retrofits and models are built over an electric powertrain,
2 while a further 21 percent utilize a hybrid powertrain”; and

3 WHEREAS, Many of the metals and minerals needed to manufacture electric vehicles
4 – from copper to lithium and nickel – are sourced from the Global South, using extractive
5 models that have harmed the environment, local communities, and Indigenous rights; and

6 WHEREAS, Autonomous vehicles have demonstrated operational challenges in San
7 Francisco, including incidents where they have delayed emergency responders, blocked
8 traffic, and created safety hazards for pedestrians and other vehicles; and

9 WHEREAS, In 2012, Governor Jerry Brown signed Senate Bill 1298 into law, which
10 authorized the operation of autonomous vehicles on public roads; and

11 WHEREAS, California’s local governments do not have authority over the deployment
12 of autonomous vehicles in their jurisdictions; and

13 WHEREAS, In 2024, the California State Legislature considered Senate Bill (SB) 915,
14 which would have granted local governments some regulatory control over autonomous
15 vehicles; and

16 WHEREAS, SB 915 failed to pass in the state legislature in 2024, partially over
17 concerns about a lack of continuous, cross-jurisdictional autonomous vehicle operation; and

18 WHEREAS, Granting counties, rather than cities, the ability to put the issue of
19 autonomous vehicle deployment on the ballot could resolve concerns around continuous,
20 cross-jurisdictional autonomous vehicle operation; now, therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
22 hereby urges the California State Legislature and the Governor to allow local communities the
23 right to vote on whether or not autonomous vehicles can operate in their counties; and, be it

24 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San
25 Francisco hereby directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a copy of this Resolution upon

1 passage to the San Francisco's state legislative delegation, the Governor of California, the
2 State Assembly Speaker, the State Assembly Majority and Minority Leaders, the State Senate
3 President pro Tempore, the State Senate Majority and Minority Leaders, and the San
4 Francisco City Lobbyist.