

1 [Absentee Ballots]
2 URGING THE REGISTRAR OF VOTERS AND THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTIONS TO USE
3 EVERY EFFORT TO PROTECT THE VOTING RIGHTS OF ALL SAN FRANCISCO VOTERS
4 AND THE CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS TO REVIEW THE
5 ACCESSIBILITY AND CUSTOMER SERVICE FOR ALL SAN FRANCISCO VOTERS AND
6 REQUESTING THE CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO PROVIDE A REPORT ON
7 INCREASING THE EFFICIENCY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTIONS TO THE BOARD
8 OF SUPERVISORS IN 60 DAYS.

9 WHEREAS, Over 93,000 absentee ballots have been requested for
10 the December 14 run-off election; and,

11 WHEREAS, Absentee ballots currently require a signature on the
12 pre-printed return envelope in order to be counted as a valid ballot;
13 and,

14 WHEREAS, The instructions on the return envelope requesting a
15 signature are only in English, and as such, may violate requirements
16 under the federal Voting Rights Act; and,

17 WHEREAS, San Francisco has the most diverse voting population in
18 the nation - where the next census estimates will include 11
19 different languages, among them, English, Chinese, Spanish,
20 Vietnamese, Russian, Tagalog, and Japanese; and

21 WHEREAS, The Department of Elections should make every effort to
22 protect the voting rights of all San Francisco voters, including both
23 English and limited-English speaking voters; now, therefore, be it

24 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County
25 of San Francisco hereby urges the Registrar of Voters and the

SUPERVISOR TENG, NEWSOM, BECERRIL, KAUFMAN, BROWN, YAKI, *BIERMAN*
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

1 Department of Elections to accept as valid absentee ballots where the
2 voter has substantially complied or extend the time necessary for
3 verification, if necessary; and, be it

4 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and
5 County of San Francisco requests that the Citizens Advisory Committee
6 on Elections review the accessibility and customer service for all
7 San Francisco voters; and, be it

8 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City
9 and County of San Francisco requests the Citizens Advisory Committee
10 provide a report on increasing the efficiency of the Department of
11 Elections to the Board of Supervisors in 60 days.



City and County of San Francisco

City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

Tails

Resolution

File Number: 992279

Date Passed:

Resolution urging the Registrar of Voters and the Department of Elections to use every effort to protect the voting rights of all San Francisco voters and the Citizens Advisory Committee on Elections to review the accessibility and customer service for all San Francisco voters and requesting the Citizens Advisory Committee to provide a report on increasing the efficiency of the Department of Elections to the Board of Supervisors in 60 days.

December 13, 1999 Board of Supervisors — ADOPTED

Ayes: 10 - Becerril, Bierman, Brown, Katz, Kaufman, Leno, Newsom, Teng, Yaki,
Yee

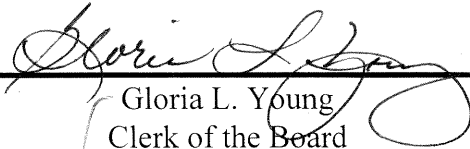
Absent: 1 - Ammiano

File No. 992279

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on December 13, 1999 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

DEC 14 1999

Date Approved


Gloria L. Young
Clerk of the Board


Mayor Willie L. Brown Jr.