

1 [Supporting California State Assembly Bill No. 616 (Stone) - The Agricultural Labor Relations  
2 Voting Choice Act]

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3 **Resolution urging the California State Legislature and Governor to support California**  
4 **State Assembly Bill No. 616, introduced by California Assembly Member Mark Stone,**  
5 **The Agricultural Labor Relations Voting Choice Act in 2022, and allow expanded**  
6 **access to union voting for agriculture workers in California.**

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8 WHEREAS, In 1975, farm workers won the right to vote for union representation under  
9 California’s Agricultural Labor Relations Act and under the California Agricultural Labor  
10 Relations Act, farm worker representation elections were conducted the way other political  
11 elections were – at a physical polling place; and

12 WHEREAS, Since then, the state has updated how Californians vote for their local,  
13 state and federal elected officials by making it easier to register to vote, increasing the amount  
14 of time to vote, adding more ways and access to vote, allowing someone else to turn in their  
15 ballot, AB 616 would similarly update how a farm worker exercises their existing right to vote  
16 for union representation; and

17 WHEREAS, California law was also changed to allow all state and local public workers  
18 - including teachers, firefighters, nurses, and staff - to vote to have a union by simply signing a  
19 union representation card; and

20 WHEREAS, Following the 2020 general elections, Governor Gavin Newsom said,  
21 “Making voting easier, providing more choice, more opportunity...is fabulous” and signed into  
22 law ways to make it easier for Californians to vote in his elections, including the Recall  
23 Election in 2021 and his re-election in 2022, the Agricultural Labor Relations Voting Choice  
24 Act would afford farm workers similar opportunities in union representation elections by

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1 helping to facilitate farm workers' longstanding right to vote, free from any form of vote  
2 suppression; and

3 WHEREAS, Under the Agricultural Labor Relations Voting Choice Act, the ballots will  
4 continue to remain secret, farm workers will have a choice to vote at a "polling place" as they  
5 do now, or they can receive assistance in filling out and returning their "representation ballot  
6 card" as long as the person who assists them co-signs the representation ballot card and  
7 returns it to the state agency overseeing farm worker union elections, the Agricultural Labor  
8 Relations Board, in a sealed and signed envelope; now, therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors supports the United Farm  
10 Workers (UFW) in urging the Legislature and Governor to support the Agricultural Labor  
11 Relations Voting Choice Act in 2022.

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