



**CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
DEPARTMENT OF ELECTIONS**

John Arntz, Director

April 17, 2024

Angela Calvillo, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244
San Francisco, California 94102

Dear Ms. Calvillo:

Enclosed please find an original single-sided and two single-sided, black and white copies of the proposed amendments to the Municipal Elections Code Section 401 for the Board of Supervisors' (Board) approval, which will codify the requirement that local candidates must provide documentation showing their usage of a Chinese-character-based name for two years prior to the candidates filing nomination papers when requesting a name to appear on the ballot. These amendments align with the Board's Resolution No. 526-23 (Attachment 1) urging the Department of Elections to implement a two-year period regarding candidates' usage of Chinese-character-based names when filing nomination papers. Also attached is the Department's response to Resolution No. 526-23 (Attachment 2)

These amendments also provide for family members or candidates to submit declarations upon the filing of nomination papers to attest that the candidates have a Chinese-character-based name by birth although the family members or candidates have no documentation to substantiate the use of the name (Attachment 3).

Also attached are the Board's inquiry from October 2023 regarding the Department's "process of reviewing and approving submitted translations of non-character-based names for San Francisco ballots, and a comparison with the requirements set forth in California Assembly Bill No. 57 (Low)" (Attachment 4), and the Department's response to this inquiry (Attachment 5).

Respectfully,

John Arntz, Director

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Encl: Proposed Amendments to Municipal Elections Code Section 401 – Chinese-Character-Based Names

- Attachment 1: Board Resolution No. 526-23
- Attachment 2: Department Response to Board Resolution 526-23
- Attachment 3: Declarations for Candidates or Family Members to Attest Candidates' Name by Birth
- Attachment 4: Board Inquiry Requesting Comparison of State and Local Laws Regarding Character-Based Names
- Attachment 5: Department's Response to Board Inquiry Requesting Comparison of State and Local Laws Regarding Character-based Names