File No.	100267	Committee Item No3
		Board Item No

# COMMITTEE/BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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	/: Linda Wong	Date July 9, 2010 Date

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FILE NO. 100267 ((FIRST DRAF1)

[Amending the Charter's Definition of Voter]

#### CHARTER AMENDMENT

#### PROPOSITION \_\_\_\_

Describing and setting forth a proposal to the qualified voters of the City and County of San Francisco to amend the Charter of the City and County of San Francisco by amending Article XVII to change the definition of "voter."

The Board of Supervisors hereby submits to the qualified voters of the City and County, at an election to be held on November 2, 2010, a proposal to amend the Charter of the City and County by amending Article XVII to read as follows:

NOTE:

Additions are <u>single-underline italics Times New Roman</u>; deletions are <u>strike through italics Times New Roman</u>.

ARTICLE XVII: DEFINITIONS.

For all purposes of this Charter, the following terms shall have the meanings specified below:

"Business day" shall mean any day other than a Saturday, Sunday or holiday on which governmental agencies are authorized by law to close.

"Confirm" or "confirmation" shall mean the approval by a majority of the members of the Board of Supervisors.

"Discrimination" shall mean violations of civil rights on account of race, color, religion, creed, sex, national origin, ethnicity, age, disability or medical condition, political affiliation, sexual orientation, ancestry, marital or domestic partners status, gender identity, parental status, other non-merit factors, or any category provided for by ordinance.

"Domestic partners" shall mean persons who register their partnerships pursuant to the voter-approved Domestic Partnership Ordinance.

"Elector" shall mean a person registered to vote in the City and County.

"For cause" shall mean the issuance of a written public statement by the Mayor describing those actions taken by an individual as a member of a board or commission which are the reasons for removal, provided such reasons constitute official misconduct in office.

"General municipal election" shall mean the election to be held in the City and County on the Tuesday immediately following the first Monday in November in odd-numbered years.

"Initiative" shall mean (1) a proposal by the voters with respect to any ordinance, act or other measure which is within the powers conferred upon the Board of Supervisors to enact, any legislative act which is within the power conferred upon any other official, board, commission or other unit of government to adopt, or any declaration of policy; or (2) any measure submitted to the voters by the Mayor or by the Board of Supervisors, or four or more members of the Board.

"Notice" shall mean publication in an official newspaper (as defined by ordinance), and a contemporaneous filing with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors or other appropriate office.

"One-third," "a majority" or "two-thirds" of the Board of Supervisors or any other board or commission of the City and County shall mean one-third, a majority or two-thirds of all members of such board or commission.

"Published" shall mean published in an official newspaper of the City and County.

"Referendum" shall mean the power of the voters to nullify ordinances involving legislative matters except that the referendum power shall not extend to any portion of the annual budget or appropriations, annual salary ordinances, ordinances authorizing the City Attorney to compromise litigation, ordinances levying taxes, ordinances relative to purely administrative matters, ordinances necessary to enable the Mayor to carry out the Mayor's emergency powers, or ordinances adopted pursuant to Section 9.106 of this Charter.

"Special municipal election" shall mean, in addition to special elections otherwise required by law, the election called by (1) the Director of Elections with respect to an initiative, referendum or recall, and (2) the Board of Supervisors with respect to bond issues, election of an

official not required to be elected at the general municipal election, or an initiative or referendum.

"Statewide election" shall mean an election held throughout the state.

"Voter" shall mean an elector who is registered in accordance with the provisions of state or municipal law.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

DENNIS J. HERRERA, City Attorney

By:

Mollfé Lee

Deputy City Attorney

### **LEGISLATIVE DIGEST**

[Amending the Charter definition of voter.]

A proposal to amend the Charter of the City and County of San Francisco at an election to be held on November 2, 2010 by amending Article XVII to change the definition of "voter."

## Existing Law

The Charter defines "voter" as "an elector who is registered in accordance with the provisions of state law." An elector is a person registered to vote in the City and County of San Francisco. State law establishes eligibility requirements and procedures for registering to vote. It also establishes a voter registration deadline of fifteen days before an election.

Under current law, voter registration in the City and County of San Francisco is conducted according to state law. There are no local registration procedures that differ from state law.

## Amendments to Current Law

This proposal would change the definition of voter to include persons registered to vote in accordance with municipal law, as well as persons registered to vote in accordance with state law. This would permit San Francisco to establish local voter registration procedures for exclusively municipal elections. If San Francisco established local registration procedures, a person registered according to these local procedures would be a "voter" under the new Charter definition.

### **Background Information**

This charter amendment would permit San Francisco to establish local voter registration procedures for exclusively municipal elections. For example, San Francisco could adopt same day voter registration for municipal elections.