

1 [Urging Secretary of State to oversee March Primary.]

2  
3 **Resolution urging the California Secretary of State to oversee the March 2002 primary**  
4 **election in the County of San Francisco.**

5  
6 WHEREAS, The right to vote is a fundamental right in our democracy and San  
7 Francisco voters deserve the assurance that local elections are effectively conducted and  
8 overseen; and,

9 WHEREAS, Recent events in the 2000 and 2001 elections held by the County of San  
10 Francisco have raised concerns regarding the management of local elections; and,

11 WHEREAS, In May, 2001, the California Secretary of State was notified by Dr. Phillip  
12 Paris of the San Francisco Department of Elections that approximately 3,600 ballots were  
13 missing and unaccounted for; and,

14 WHEREAS, After the Secretary of State reviewed the actual ballots in a random  
15 sample of approximately 3% of the precincts in San Francisco, the Secretary was unable to  
16 reconstruct the canvass of votes to match the official results reported and certified by San  
17 Francisco County; and,

18 WHEREAS, The Secretary of State conducted a hand count of ballots in 21 random  
19 precincts and found 705 discrepancies between the number of ballots listed in the Statement  
20 of Vote and the number of ballots available for inspection, equating to an average discrepancy  
21 of 8.8% of the vote per precinct; and,

22 WHEREAS, One full month after the November 2001 election, 400 blank ballots were  
23 brought into the Department of Elections by a fired poll worker, indicating that those ballots  
24 were not accounted for at the time of the election; and,

25

1           WHEREAS, Eight ballot box lids used for the November 2001 election were discovered  
2 in the San Francisco Bay and were fished out by the Coast Guard after reportedly blowing off  
3 ballot boxes stored at Pier 29; and,

4           WHEREAS, Weeks after the November 2001 election, 240 ballots that had been left  
5 inside of automated precinct machines were found during the canvassing process; and,

6           WHEREAS, The California Secretary of State investigated the 2000 and 2001 elections  
7 and monitored the run-off election for City Attorney in December of 2001, and has asked the  
8 County of San Francisco to recanvass 648 precincts, at the great expense of San Francisco  
9 taxpayers, for the November 2000 election to determine whether the Secretary's findings were  
10 an anomaly or were consistent with other precincts; and,

11           WHEREAS, The recent history of investigations, findings and incidents suggest that  
12 greater oversight of election management is sorely needed; and,

13           WHEREAS, The San Francisco Elections Commission is charged with addressing  
14 these multiple concerns, but is newly seated and still developing its oversight capabilities;  
15 and,

16           WHEREAS, The San Francisco electorate deserves nothing less than a fair,  
17 accountable election above reproach in the coming March primary; and,

18           WHEREAS, The Secretary of State has issued his order for San Francisco to respond  
19 retroactively to potential irregularities in the 2000/2001 elections; now, therefore be it

20           RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco, in  
21 an attempt to act proactively, do hereby urge the California Secretary of State to oversee the  
22 March 2002 primary election in the County of San Francisco; and, be it

23           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors shall send this  
24 resolution to the California Secretary of State for his review and action.  
25



# City and County of San Francisco

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

## Tails

### Resolution

---

**File Number:** 020290

**Date Passed:**

Resolution urging the California Secretary of State to oversee the March 2002 primary election in the County of San Francisco.

---

February 19, 2002 Board of Supervisors — CONTINUED

Ayes: 7 - Daly, Gonzalez, Hall, Leno, Maxwell, Peskin, Sandoval

Noes: 3 - Ammiano, McGoldrick, Yee

Absent: 1 - Newsom

February 25, 2002 Board of Supervisors — REFERRED: Health and Human Services Committee

March 4, 2002 Board of Supervisors — ADOPTED

Ayes: 7 - Daly, Gonzalez, Hall, Leno, Maxwell, Newsom, Peskin

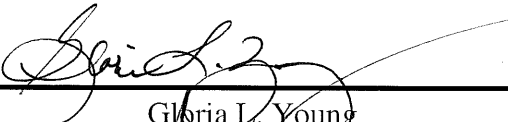
Noes: 4 - Ammiano, McGoldrick, Sandoval, Yee

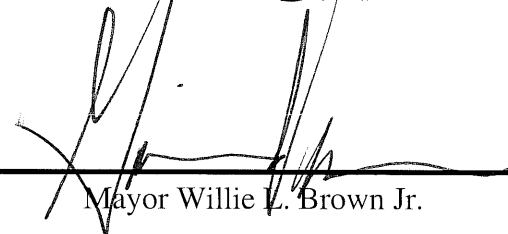
File No. 020290

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on March 4, 2002 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

3/15/02

Date Approved

  
Gloria L. Young  
Clerk of the Board

  
Mayor Willie L. Brown Jr.