Motion authorizing proponent’s ballot argument in favor of Proposition ___, a Charter Amendment regarding vacancy in Elective Office

MOVED, That pursuant to Section 540 of the Municipal Elections Code, the Board of Supervisor does hereby authorize a ballot argument in favor of Proposition ___, a Charter amendment repealing Sections 2.102, and 6.107, amending Sections 3.102, 8.100 and 8.101 and adding Section 13.101.5 to shorten the period following a vacancy in an elective officer before there is an election to fill the unexpired term; and, be it

FURTHER MOVED, That the full text of said argument hereby authorized be shown in the copy attached to this motion and is hereby declared to be a part hereof; and, be it

FURTHER MOVED, That the Director of elections be and is hereby authorized and directed to include said argument in the pamphlet accompanying the sample ballots to be mailed to the voters of the City and County of San Francisco for the election to be held on Tuesday, November 6, 2001.
San Francisco, which prides itself in letting the voters decide issues of importance to the City, is behind the times and out of step when it comes to filling vacancies to local office.

In California, if a vacancy occurs for the U.S. Senate, the Governor's appointee must face the voters within two years. Likewise, if a vacancy occurs for the U.S. Congress or for the California legislature, voters elect the successor within twelve months.

In San Francisco, however, appointees to City-wide office and for Supervisor may serve for up to 29 months, and to the Community College and School Boards for up to 48 months before they must face the voters.

With the exception of a vacancy for Mayor, which is filled by the Board of Supervisors, all other vacancies are filled by the Mayor.

From 1996 to 1999, the Mayor appointed six members to the Board of Supervisors – a majority of the old Board.

This tended to limit open debate at the Board on the issues of great importance to San Francisco, and undermine the independence of the Board as a co-equal branch of government.

The voters last Fall, stated, loud and clear, that they wanted to see balance restored to City government, and to make the Board more accountable to the voters.

Proposition C would do just that.

In most cases, this Charter Amendment would limit the time to one year that appointees would serve without standing for election. The appointees would face the voters at elections already scheduled, resulting in no additional cost to administer elections.

Proposition C would restore balance to City Government, put San Francisco in step with the rest of the State, and shift power to fill all elective offices back to the voters where it rightfully belongs.

Vote Yes on Proposition C.

Board of Supervisors

[continue text on next page]
Motion authorizing proponent's ballot argument in favor of Proposition C, a Charter Amendment regarding vacancy in Elective Office.

August 20, 2001 Board of Supervisors — AMENDED
August 20, 2001 Board of Supervisors — APPROVED AS AMENDED
Ayes: 10 - Ammiano, Daly, Gonzalez, Hall, Leno, Maxwell, McGoldrick, Newsom, Peskin, Yee
Absent: 1 - Sandoval

File No. 011473

I hereby certify that the foregoing Motion was APPROVED AS AMENDED on August 20, 2001 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Gloria L. Young
Clerk of the Board