Resolution authorizing the San Francisco Department of Elections to accept and expend grant funds in an amount not to exceed $249,998.41 for improving accessibility to and participation in the election process for individuals with disabilities in accordance with the California Secretary of State’s VOTE Grant Program.

WHEREAS, The California Secretary of State has been awarded grant funds from the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Developmental Disabilities, Voting Access for Individuals with Disabilities (VOTE) under Section 261 of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA); and,

WHEREAS, The California Secretary of State has been delegated the responsibility to oversee the VOTE Grant process to distribute the funds to counties through the competitive VOTE Grant Program; and,

WHEREAS, The California Secretary of State has developed the VOTE Grant Program to assist counties in increasing accessibility to voting such as assessing accessibility to polling places and voting areas, obtaining materials and equipment to provide the same opportunity for access and participation (including privacy and independence) to individuals with disabilities as for other voters, to train elections officials and poll workers on how to best promote access and participation of individuals with disabilities, and to provide individuals with disabilities with information about the accessibility of polling places and voting; and,

WHEREAS, The Department of Elections prepared an Accessibility Program Plan that described its proposed use of grant funds that included a timeline for completion and detailed costs for each activity and associated category, and the Department of Elections consulted with representatives from the Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired and the
Independent Living Resource Center and as well as considered feedback from poll workers when considering its application; and,

WHEREAS, The Department of Elections' application for the VOTE Grant Program funds has been accepted by the California Secretary of State and the entire amount requested by the Department was granted; and,

WHEREAS, The Department of Elections must provide the Secretary of State with detailed invoices prior to receiving reimbursement of funds expended in the course of the VOTE Grant Program; and,

WHEREAS, The Department of Elections agrees to provide the Secretary of State with a summary report on the Department's activities following each election which includes the amount of funding expended, assessments and metrics of the quality of the activities and materials, and public comment including community groups; and,

WHEREAS, The anticipated grant start date is January 4, 2010; and

WHEREAS, The grant terms prohibit including indirect costs in the grant budget; now, be it

RESOLVED, That the Department of Elections is hereby authorized to accept and expend grants under the California Secretary of State's VOTE Grant Program in an amount not to exceed $249,998.41 to improve accessibility to and participation in the elections process for individuals with the full range of disabilities; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors hereby waives inclusion of indirect costs in the grant budget; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Director of Elections is authorized to enter into an agreement with the California Secretary of State on behalf of the City and County of San Francisco for the acceptance and expenditure of these funds granted under Section 261 of the Help America Vote Act.
RECOMMENDED:

John Amtz
Director of Elections

APPROVED:

Mayor

Controller
Resolution authorizing the San Francisco Department of Elections to accept and expend grant funds in an amount not to exceed $249,998.41 for improving accessibility to and participation in the election process for individuals with disabilities in accordance with the California Secretary of State's VOTE Grant Program.

January 26, 2010 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED

Ayes: 10 - Avalos, Campos, Chiu, Chu, Daly, Dufty, Elsbernd, Mar, Maxwell and Mirkarimi

Excused: 1 - Alioto-Pier

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 1/26/2010 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

Mayor Gavin Newsom

Date Approved