[Urging the California Democratic Party to Expand Eligibility for Non-Citizens to Participate in Assembly District Elections]

Resolution urging the California Democratic Party to amend its Bylaws to allow participation in Assembly District Elections by non-citizens who are ineligible to register with the California Democratic Party and have expressed an intent to register upon becoming eligible to do so.

WHEREAS, On March 20, 2019, the California Democratic Party adopted Resolution No. 10248167 (“Resolution to Extend Membership Democratic Party Membership to Non-Citizens”, hereinafter referred to as “the March 2019 Resolution”), sponsored by the San Francisco Latino Democratic Club, and co-sponsored by the Chicano Latino Caucus, the San Francisco Democratic Party, the Rose Pak Democratic Club, California Assemblymembers Chiu (AD-17) and Gonzalez (AD-80), and a number of other individuals and organizations; and

WHEREAS, The March 2019 Resolution made it the policy of the California Democratic Party to expand eligibility for all Californians to register with the California Democratic Party, regardless of immigration status; and

WHEREAS, The California Democratic Party is governed by By-Laws and Rules of the California Democratic Party (the “Bylaws”), which are amended from time to time; and

WHEREAS, The governing body of the California Democratic Party is the Democratic State Central Committee, and members may either be appointed pursuant to Article II, Section 3 of the Bylaws, or, in pertinent part, elected by Assembly District Election Meetings pursuant to the rules and procedures set forth in Article VI of the Bylaws; and

WHEREAS, Article II, Section 1d of the Bylaws allows California residents, including non-citizen residents, to serve on the Democratic State Central Committee if they are
WHEREAS, While non-citizens may serve on the Democratic State Central Committee as appointees, they are still ineligible to participate in Assembly District Elections, wherein participation requires formal registration with the California Democratic Party; and

WHEREAS, Following the adoption of the March 2019 Resolution, the California Democratic Party had numerous opportunities to amend its Bylaws through the Party’s Rules Committee to expand eligibility for non-citizens to either register with the Party or to expand eligibility for Assembly District Elections to non-citizens who expressed an intent to register as a member of the Party upon becoming eligible to do so; and

WHEREAS, In advance of the forthcoming Assembly District Elections, advocates including those who sponsored the March 2019 Resolution have repeatedly requested that the Party Bylaws be amended to allow non-citizens to participate in Assembly District Elections; and

WHEREAS, The Party through its Rules Committee has failed to follow through on the commitments set forth in the March 2019 Resolution in a timely manner, thereby disqualifying from participation non-citizens who are ineligible to register with the Democratic Party but who have nevertheless expressed clear intent to register once they are eligible to do so; and

WHEREAS, By rendering non-citizens ineligible to participate in Assembly District Elections, the California Democratic Party has sent a harmful message to more than 5 million California residents at a time when their inclusion will only strengthen the California Democratic Party and broaden its base; and

WHEREAS, As the United States government has used the politics of fear to silence the voices of immigrants by directly threatening the safety, security, and livelihood of immigrants in California and the United States, there is no more appropriate time to facilitate,
encourage and invite participation by non-citizens in critical policy decisions that directly impact them; and

WHEREAS, California has made great strides toward integrating its immigrant population in many respects, including by passing laws to authorize health care for all children, professional licenses, driver's licenses, college grants, loans, and in-state tuition for eligible residents, regardless of their immigration status; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, The City and County of San Francisco hereby urges the California Democratic Party, State Democratic Party Chair Rusty Hicks, and Rules Committee Chair Gary Shay to act with urgency to amend the Party’s Bylaws to expand eligibility to participate in Assembly District Elections to non-citizen California residents who have expressed an intent to register with the California Democratic Party upon becoming eligible to do so; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco transmit this Resolution to the California Democratic Party and its aforementioned leadership.
Resolution urging the California Democratic Party to amend its Bylaws to allow participation in Assembly District Elections by non-citizens who are ineligible to register with the California Democratic Party and have expressed an intent to register upon becoming eligible to do so.

December 15, 2020 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED
Ayes: 11 - Fewer, Haney, Mandelman, Mar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Safai, Stefani, Walton and Yee

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 12/15/2020 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

London N. Breed
Mayor

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution, not being signed by the Mayor within the time limit as set forth in Section 3.103 of the Charter, or time waived pursuant to Board Rule 2.14.2, became effective without her approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter or Board Rule 2.14.2.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

12/23/2020