[Voting Systems Task Force.]

Ordinance amending the Administrative Code by adding Sections 5.400-410 to establish a Voting Systems Task Force comprised of individuals with backgrounds in good government, computer science or the computer industry, election administration, and accommodations of persons with disabilities, to make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors about voting system standards, design and development.

Note: Additions are single-underline italics Times New Roman; deletions are strikethrough italics Times New Roman. Board amendment additions are double underlined. Board amendment deletions are strikethrough normal.

Be it ordained by the People of the City and County of San Francisco:

Section 1. Findings. The Board of Supervisors finds and declares as follows:

(a) The City and County of San Francisco holds it in the interest of its citizens to conduct efficient and accurate elections in a manner which promotes public trust in the integrity of the conduct of the election, the results and every aspect of the elections process.

(b) Transparency in the recording, collection, transmission, aggregation and tally of votes promotes public confidence in the integrity of elections.

(c) A growing number of government leaders, good government groups, citizens, and press accounts have questioned the value and integrity of the existing, limited choices of voting systems certified for use in conducting elections.

(d) A limited number of vendors dominate the voting systems marketplace, and their refusal to make public their voting system software and hardware designs conflicts with the goal of election transparency.

Supervisor Ammiano
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
(e) Federal and State oversight of elections are proving inadequate and ineffective in generating greater choice of newer, less expensive, more transparent voting system alternatives.

(f) The City and County of San Francisco recently acquired a voting system after 2.5 years of deliberation, which was due in part to public opposition and questions about the integrity of the system, the system vendor, and the level of dependence on the vendor for the conduct of elections.

Section 2. The San Francisco Administrative Code is hereby amended by adding Sections 5.400-410, to read as follows:

Section 5.400. Establishment and Organization of the Voting Systems Task Force.

(a) The Board of Supervisors hereby establishes a Voting Systems Task Force ("Task Force") consisting of nine voting members appointed by the Board of Supervisors, and including two individuals representing good government groups, four individuals with substantial background in computer science or the software or computer industry, two individuals with a background in or knowledge of election administration, and one individual with a background working in accommodation of persons with disabilities. The Task Force shall also include as an ex-officio non-voting member a representative of the San Francisco Elections Commission who is also a member of that Commission at the time of appointment.

(b) The voting members of the Task Force shall serve at the pleasure of the Board of Supervisors for a term of two years from the date that all nine members have been appointed. The Board of Supervisors shall fill any vacancies occurring in the voting membership of the Task Force.
(c) The Office of the City Administrator shall provide administrative support to the
Task Force.

(d) The Task Force shall schedule regular meetings once a month.


(a) The Task Force shall have the authority to hold hearings and take testimony
regarding voting systems and related matters.

(b) The Task Force shall provide the City with recommendations on:

(1) Standards and guidelines to gauge the adequacy, accuracy and trustworthiness
of any voting system to be developed or acquired and the adequacy of any vendor or other
entity which might develop and deliver such a system;

(2) Methods for generating or acquiring designs for a voting system which meets
applicable Federal, State, County and City laws, regulations and other requirements and all
other goals for the voting system while minimizing system life-cycle costs;

(3) Models for development of a voting system including proprietary, disclosed and
open source software and hardware approaches and which address aforementioned voting
systems requirements and assure a cost effective, highly reliable, maintainable system;

(4) Business models, including the City and County of San Francisco acting as its
own vendor, which promote the transparency of all aspects of design, development,
production and the business relationship of all parties associated with production, delivery,
implementation and use of the voting system;

(5) Any other considerations related to voting systems which will promote public
trust in the conduct and results of elections.

(c) During each year of its operation the Task Force shall submit to the Board of
Supervisors an annual report summarizing its recommendations.
Section 5.410. Sunset Provision.

The Voting Systems Task Force shall terminate by operation of law on December 31, 2010, and after that date the City Attorney shall cause this Article to be removed from the Administrative Code.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
DENNIS J. HERRERA, City Attorney

By: Mollie Lee
Deputy City Attorney
Ordinance amending the Administrative Code by adding Sections 5.400-410 to establish a Voting Systems Task Force comprised of individuals with backgrounds in good government, computer science or the computer industry, election administration, and accommodations of persons with disabilities, to make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors about voting system standards, design and development.

November 4, 2008 Board of Supervisors — PASSED ON FIRST READING
Ayes: 8 - Ammiano, Daly, Dufty, Maxwell, McGoldrick, Mirkarimi, Peskin, Sandoval
Noes: 3 - Alioto-Pier, Chu, Elsbernd

November 18, 2008 Board of Supervisors — FINALLY PASSED
Ayes: 7 - Ammiano, Daly, Dufty, Maxwell, McGoldrick, Mirkarimi, Sandoval
Noes: 4 - Alioto-Pier, Chu, Elsbernd, Peskin
I hereby certify that the foregoing Ordinance was FINALLY PASSED on November 18, 2008 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

Date Approved

Mayor Gavin Newsom

Date: December 1, 2008

I hereby certify that the foregoing ordinance, not being signed by the Mayor within the time limit as set forth in Section 3.103 of the Charter, became effective without his approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

File No. 081227