

RESOLUTION ON
THE VOTER PROFILE

Whereas, vote-by-mail use in San Francisco County has increased from 25% of all ballots cast in November 1996 to 46% of all ballots cast in November 2008; and

Whereas, vote-by-mail ballots that are submitted without the required voter signature on the exterior ballot return envelope cannot be processed or counted; and

Whereas, if a vote-by-mail envelope arrives at the San Francisco Department of Elections without the required voter signature, the Department is contacting such voters by telephone and/or e-mail to inform them of the error and options to correct the error before the end of election day and have their ballot counted; and

Whereas, if the Department of Elections does not have a telephone number or e-mail for a voter, options to notify a voter of an error with their vote-by-mail ballot are limited to slower postal communications; and

Whereas, California voter registration forms state that providing telephone number or e-mail information is optional; and

Whereas, a voter's telephone number and e-mail information, when provided, becomes part of the voter's public profile; and

Whereas, some voters choose not to provide the optional public profile information because such information is posted outside of polling places on election day and this voter profile information also becomes available to political campaigns and commercial list brokers, often resulting in unsolicited and unwanted telephone calls, which often cause registrants not to provide their phone number when registering; and

Whereas, if a voter does provide telephone and e-mail contact information, the Department of Elections is better able to assist the voter by contacting the voter in a timely fashion should there be an error that may prevent their ballot from being counted,

Therefore, be it resolved,

That the Elections Commission of the City and County of San Francisco requests that the State of California State Legislature Committee of San Francisco urge that the California Secretary of State and the California State Legislature consider changes and

modifications to the California Elections Code which would allow counties to accept a voter's telephone number and e-mail on voter registration forms and update requests, with the enhanced option allowing a voter to provide telephone number and e-mail information for the restricted and exclusive use by a county's Department of Elections for notifications regarding issues directly involving a voter's registration status, a voter's ability to cast a ballot, and issues involving the ability to process and count a voter's ballot.

Done this 18th day of November 2009

Joseph B.

Phair, President, San Francisco Elections Commission

I so attest:

Shirley Rodriques, Secretary, San Francisco Elections Commission

Introduced by Senator SimitianFebruary 23, 2007

An act to amend Section 12223 of the Elections Code, relating to elections.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 967, as introduced, Simitian. Election precincts.

Existing law requires the boundaries of an election precinct to be fixed such that it contains no more than 1000 voters on the 88th day prior to the election.

This bill would authorize a local elections official to subtract permanent absent voters from that total.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 12223 of the Elections Code is amended
2 to read:
3 12223. (a) Whenever a jurisdiction is divided into election
4 precincts or whenever the boundary of an established precinct is
5 changed or a new precinct is created, the precinct boundary shall
6 be fixed in a manner so that the number of voters in the precinct
7 does not exceed 1,000 on the 88th day prior to the day of election,
8 unless otherwise provided by law.
9 (b) ~~This section shall become operative on January 1, 2005. An~~
10 *elections official may subtract the number of permanent absent*

- 1 voters, pursuant to Chapter 3 of Division 3, from the total number
- 2 of voters for purposes of complying with subdivision (a).