

Subject: Resolution No. 75-22A1

Urging the San Francisco Unified School District to Implement and Carry Out YouthVote in all San Francisco Public High Schools, an Annual Voting Curriculum

- Commissioners Jane Kim, Eric Mar, Kim-Shree Maufas, Hydra B. Mendoza, Mark Sanchez, Jill Wynnns, Norman Yee and Student Delegates Rosie Liou and Nestor Reyes

WHEREAS: In 2004 only 47% of young people ages 18-24 voted vs. 66% of citizens ages 25 and older; and

WHEREAS: 40.6 million U.S. citizens are between the ages of 18 and 29, comprising 1 in 5 eligible voters, yet historically, this massive block has participated in low numbers; and

WHEREAS: Just 10% of voters in the November 2, 2004 elections were between 16 the ages of 18 and 24; and

WHEREAS: Nationally, just 1.4 million additional young people ages 18 to 29 were registered to vote during the November 2, 2004 elections; and

WHEREAS: Just 10% of nation-wide voters in the November 2, 2004 elections were first-time voters; and

WHEREAS: Many students and young people do not vote because they feel that candidates care little about the issues most important to young people or the opinions of young people; and

WHEREAS: According to a recent study by Harvard University's Institute of Politics, many students and young people feel as if they do not have sufficient time or information to become educated voters; and

WHEREAS: According to a recent study by Harvard University's Institute of Politics, "students are distrustful of the political institutions that remain broadly powerful in bringing about widespread social and economic change;" and

WHEREAS: Various stakeholders, including Coleman Advocates, SFUSD Student Advisory Council, the San Francisco Youth Commission, Youth Making a Change, and Youth Leadership Institute, has had previous success with its YouthVote voting curriculum during the 1992 elections through the 2004 elections, retrieving information from upwards of 4,500 students in 17 different San Francisco high schools; and

WHEREAS: The SFUSD Student Advisory Council and the San Francisco Youth Commission was responsible for conducting YouthVote in the SFUSD high schools in 2005 when 9,360 students voted, and again in 2006 when 7,368 students voted in 17 high schools; and

WHEREAS: High school is the last scholastic setting in which many young people can be taught the value of voting; and

WHEREAS: A voter registration curriculum would encourage, educate, and increase many of those students who will not continue to higher education after high school, and who are unrepresented in local, state, and national government.

~~**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Board of Education of the San Francisco Unified School District, in collaboration with relevant partners, implements an annual grade appropriate voting curriculum in high schools, called Youth Vote. The curriculum will include at least two “Civic Engagement Days” per school year in which social studies instructors teach a brief history of voting, and the propositions and stances of politicians involved in the ensuing elections; including a lesson on legal processes of registration and voting for seniors; and~~

~~**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED:** That a mock election is held in all San Francisco public high schools in which students vote on the actual propositions and all students vote on major delegates, candidates, and complete a student survey, of the ensuing election; and~~

~~**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the collective results of the mock election be announced in a public press conference at least one week prior to the ensuing election; and~~

~~**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Board of Education of the San Francisco Unified School District, in collaboration with relevant partners, distribute voter registration materials and register all eligible and willing 17.5 year olds and older in high school, who are under the jurisdiction of the San Francisco Unified School District.~~

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: *That the Board of Education of the San Francisco Unified School District, in collaboration with other relevant partners¹ implement a mandated voter education curriculum for all senior level American Democracy high school students for three annual “Civic Engagement” days based on a specifically designed standards based YouthVote curriculum; and*

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED: *That a mock-election be held at least annually where all SFUSD high schools will participate in YouthVote and students will have the opportunity to vote on local, state, and presidential candidates for office, a student delegate to the Board of Education, and complete a survey assessing student needs across the district; and*

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: *That grade appropriate voter education curriculum be highly encouraged for all other high school students, who will also participate in this YouthVote mock election; and*

¹

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED: That all relevant partners¹ evaluate and agree on an annual memorandum of understanding for purposes of implementing YouthVote; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That data gathered from the YouthVote survey serve as official measures of SFUSD students' needs and opinions on issues; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED: That the collective results of the mock-election be announced in a public press conference at least one week prior to the ensuing election; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the San Francisco Unified School District, in collaboration with relevant partners¹, make accessible voter registration materials to register all eligible and willing high school students, who are under the jurisdiction of the San Francisco Unified School District.

5/22/07

10/23/07

Please Note:

- Referred on 5/22/07 by order of the Chair to the Curriculum and Program and Budget and Business Services Committees.
- Taken up by the Budget and Business Services Committee on 6/6/07. Forwarded to the Board with a positive recommendation with a request for further budget analysis.
- Taken up by the Curriculum and Program Committee on 10/11/07. Forwarded to the Board with a positive recommendation as amended. Old language ~~stricken out~~. New ***Language in Bold and italics.***
- Adopted, as amended, on 10/23/07.

1. Partners include but are not limited to the SFUSD Student Advisory Council, SFUSD Office of Teaching and Learning, the Department of Elections, the Department of Children, Youth, and their Families/San Francisco Youth Commission YouthVote Coordinator, David Binder Research, Peer Resources.