

Subject: Resolution No. 105-11A4

In Support of "Why Tuesday? SF: The Saturday Voting Act"

- Commissioners Kim-Shree Maufas, Hydra B. Mendoza, and Rachel Norton

WHEREAS: In 1845, Congress passed the law declaring Tuesday as the official voting day due to America's agrarian society or agricultural-life norms for it took several days to travel into the town's main square to conduct official business, and

WHEREAS: Today the United States is ranked 132 out of 179 developed countries in turnout among eligible voters, and

WHEREAS: Despite San Francisco's politically-involved and educated population, voter turnout averages approximately 46 percent and in some recent elections it has been as low as 23%, and

WHEREAS: Citizens have indicated that scheduling of the election has been a major barrier to voting, thus sparking a national grassroots movement called "Why Tuesday?" supporting a weekend election day, and

WHEREAS: San Francisco residents deserve an elections process that corresponds with schedules and lifestyles of today's working families, which is based on current housing and workplace patterns, transportation networks, and technological developments, and

WHEREAS: The *"Why Tuesday? SF: Saturday Voting Act"* would create a pilot program, at no cost to the taxpayers, seeking to increase the voter turnout at elections held in the City and County by making voting more accessible for today's working families who wish involve their children in the democratic process on a day when majority of residents are not working, and

WHEREAS: In alignment with the SF Youth Commission's YouthVote Initiative, the *"Why Tuesday? SF: Saturday Voting Act"* would extend the opportunities for eligible High School and College Aged Youth to vote by opening all polling places on the Saturday before a Tuesday election, while still maintaining the traditional Tuesday voting that supports civic engagement by voting regularly.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Board of Education of the San Francisco Unified School District supports comprehensive, fiscally-sound plan that creates an opportunity for more families to vote together and engages our youth to participate in the electoral process on their way to becoming more active citizens, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Board of Education supports the passing of *"Why Tuesday? SF: The Saturday Voting Act,"* which will mandate a full scale citywide election on the Saturday before the Tuesday in November of 2011 to serve as an example for the rest of the country that Saturday voting does increase voter turnout and then provide an efficacy study for the continuation of Saturday voting.

*(www.whytuesdaysf.org)

5/11/10