

1 [RESOLUTION SUPPORTING REAUTHORIZATION OF NONCITIZEN VOTING IN SCHOOL
2 BOARD ELECTIONS]

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4 **Resolution supporting the Board of Supervisors action in amending the Municipal**
5 **Elections Code to reauthorize Non-United States citizen voting in elections for the**
6 **Board of Education of the San Francisco Unified School District**

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8 WHEREAS, In November 2016, San Francisco voters approved Proposition N, a Charter
9 amendment, adding Charter Section 13.111, to allow non-United States citizens
10 (“noncitizens”) who meet certain criteria, to vote for members of the San Francisco Board of
11 Education (“School Board”) in the City’s November 2018, November 2020, and November
12 2022 elections; and

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14 WHEREAS, This right was extended to all noncitizen residents in San Francisco who were of
15 legal voting age and the parents, legal guardians, and caregivers (collectively, “parents”) of a
16 child under age 19 living within the boundaries of the San Francisco Unified School District
17 (“School District”); and

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19 WHEREAS, Over the last 30 years, cities and towns in Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts and
20 New York have passed laws allowing immigrants to vote; and

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22 WHEREAS, The public in School Board meetings share ideas for improving the School
23 District’s family communications plan, provide crucial input on budget matters, and educate
24 fellow parents about their right to be involved in their children’s education. Realizing the vital
25 contributions that noncitizen parents make to the School District, San Francisco voters passed

1 Proposition N to provide them with a greater voice in School District policies by permitting
2 them to vote in School Board elections; and

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4 WHEREAS, Extensive research demonstrates how parent involvement in their children’s
5 education is critical for students’ lifelong achievements and success. These studies
6 demonstrate that students whose parents are involved in their schooling are more likely to
7 attend school regularly, have better social emotional skills and succeed in their studies; and

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9 WHEREAS, Proposition N is imperative for parent and student engagement in our schools,
10 and ensures that noncitizen parents have a role in selecting the officials who set the School
11 District policies that impact their children’s education; and

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13 WHEREAS, Continuation of noncitizen voting in School Board elections is necessary to allow
14 many unheard voices to come forward. Though the number of noncitizen parents in the
15 School District is currently unknown, as of the 2020-2021 school year, there were over 13,682
16 English Language Learners in the School District. These students spoke a variety of
17 languages including, but not limited to, Arabic, Mandarin, Cantonese, Japanese, Korean,
18 Russian, Samoan, Spanish, Filipino, and Vietnamese; and

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20 WHEREAS, In order to realize the full civic engagement of noncitizen parents in School
21 District affairs by voting, additional resources are necessary for outreach, engagement, and
22 education, as well as improved coordination between community-based groups, School
23 District, and City Departments in order to ensure that noncitizen parents have access to a
24 safe voting system and knowledge of resources available including language access; and

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1 WHEREAS, Noncitizens have more of a stake in their communities when they have a seat at
2 the table, particularly when they are eligible to vote for School Board representatives who are
3 elected to represent the educational needs of their children; and

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5 WHEREAS, Reauthorization of noncitizen voting is an opportunity to enfranchise a broader
6 San Francisco community and create pathways for more equitable allocation of public school
7 resources as well as expanding efforts to increase cultural competency in our schools; now
8 therefore be it

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10 RESOLVED, That the Immigrant Rights Commission supports the reauthorization of Non-
11 United States Citizen voting pursuant to Charter Section 13.111(a)(2) non-United States
12 citizen voting in School Board elections, according to the terms of Charter Section
13 13.111(a)(1)(B), beyond December 31, 2022, with no sunset date on the extension; and be it

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15 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Immigrant Rights Commission shall transmit a copy of this
16 Resolution to the Sponsor, Board of Supervisors, and Mayor.

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