

1 [Universal Basic Income]

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3 **Resolution urging the City of San Francisco to implement a Universal Basic Income**  
4 **Program.**

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6 WHEREAS, The COVID-19 pandemic has led to soaring unemployment rates  
7 worldwide; and

8 WHEREAS, The global crisis has sparked renewed interest in Universal Basic Income  
9 (UBI) as a solution to address this problem by providing residents with a guaranteed income  
10 payment; and

11 WHEREAS, UBI is a cash payment that residents receive every month from the  
12 government with no strings attached; and

13 WHEREAS, Government officials across the world are considering implementing UBI  
14 programs to alleviate financial losses and uplift underserved communities; and

15 WHEREAS, Experts believe that a basic income can help curb poverty, allow for  
16 creative and useful forms of unpaid labor to flourish, improve mental well-being, and provide  
17 financial security for communities in need; and

18 WHEREAS, In 1967, Martin Luther King Jr. proposed a guaranteed income for  
19 American citizens, stating that it could reduce income inequality and abolish poverty; and

20 WHEREAS, Economist Milton Friedman proposed a negative income tax to allow  
21 people from lower-income backgrounds to receive a tax credit; and

22 WHEREAS, UBI was popularized by former 2020 Presidential Candidate Andrew Yang  
23 as a way to offset job losses caused by automation and artificial intelligence; and

24 WHEREAS, UBI has many proven benefits, including increased financial security,  
25 improved mental well-being, and overall better quality of life; and

1           WHEREAS, UBI can expand financial freedom for recipients so that college students  
2 can pay for tuition and caregivers can take sick days to care for family or relatives; and

3           WHEREAS, UBI can improve the quality of life and mental well-being for residents,  
4 particularly those who come from lower socioeconomic backgrounds; and

5           WHEREAS, UBI can allow people to expand on their hobbies and creative pursuits,  
6 such as music, arts, and entrepreneurship; and

7           WHEREAS, As seen during COVID-19, a basic income can help stabilize the economy  
8 during recessions; and

9           WHEREAS, A basic income has no specific income conditions, so there would be less  
10 bureaucratic work on auditing payments; and

11           WHEREAS, It would cost less to administer UBI than many existing welfare programs  
12 by eliminating processes like auditing income-verification paperwork; and

13           WHEREAS, UBI also has fewer restrictions than many traditional welfare programs that  
14 perpetuate structural inequalities by setting income and background restrictions; and

15           WHEREAS, UBI recipients won't have to go through a lengthy approval process or  
16 adhere by existing income restrictions; and

17           WHEREAS, Grassroots organizations such as Humanity Forward, Income Movement,  
18 Youth For UBI, The Gerald Huff Fund for Humanity, and many others, are working to pass  
19 UBI legislation across the country; and

20           WHEREAS, There are successful UBI pilot programs that have shown positive results;  
21 and

22           WHEREAS, The state of Alaska has had an active UBI program since 1982; and

23           WHEREAS, Stockton Mayor Michael D. Tubbs started the Stockton Economic  
24 Empowerment Demonstration (SEED), a pilot program that gives \$500 a month to 125 local  
25 families in Stockton, California; and

1           WHEREAS, SEED has found that providing a cash payment to residents has increased  
2 economic security for working-class families, who spent the money on basic necessities like  
3 paying for groceries, utilities, transportation, and rent; and

4           WHEREAS, A 2017-2018 national, government-backed basic income experiment by  
5 the Finnish government gave 2,000 unemployed residents aged 25-58 a monthly basic  
6 income with no specific requirements while a control group received normal unemployment  
7 benefits at the same time; and

8           WHEREAS, The study found that basic income recipients had improved overall well-  
9 being, and were generally more satisfied with their lives and experienced less mental strain  
10 and depression than the control group; and

11           WHEREAS, The researchers also noted that children and families who received a  
12 basic income had greater feelings of autonomy, financial security, and confidence in the  
13 future; and

14           WHEREAS, Participants who were freelancers, artists, and entrepreneurs said UBI  
15 created opportunities for them to pursue their dreams; and

16           WHEREAS, Participants also volunteered more often and got involved with community  
17 initiatives at higher rates than before; and

18           WHEREAS, A basic income study called 'Mincome' was conducted in a small, rural  
19 town of Dauphin, Canada, where families were guaranteed \$16,000 annually; and

20           WHEREAS, The study saw rates of hospitalizations fall, improvements in mental  
21 health, and a rise in the number of children who graduated from high school; and

22           WHEREAS, There was an 8.5% decline in hospitalizations due to a decrease in stress-  
23 induced mental health issues; and

24           WHEREAS, Researchers of the experiment believe this was a direct result of the  
25 added security in people's lives provided by a basic income; and

1           WHEREAS, The Hawaii State Legislature passed a bill asking the government to  
2 implement a UBI program to help citizens receive permanent financial security; and

3           WHEREAS, Canada is experimenting with a three-year UBI program by giving 4,000  
4 residents living in poverty with monthly payments; and

5           WHEREAS, Scotland committed 250,000 pounds to four pilot programs that pay  
6 citizens for life; and

7           WHEREAS, Finland gave 2,000 unemployed citizens 560 euros a month for two years;  
8 and

9           WHEREAS, Recipients of the basic income in Finland said the payment reduced  
10 stress, with many of them saying they received financial freedom to start their own business;  
11 and

12           WHEREAS, Since 2011, the international nongovernmental organization GiveDirectly,  
13 Inc. has provided Unconditional Cash Transfers (UCT) to poor households in Kenya; and

14           WHEREAS, GiveDirectly, Inc. found that distributing cash payments improved the  
15 consumption of food, medicine, education, and social events; and

16           WHEREAS, Citizens in the program also had improved overall well-being and  
17 increased investments in livestock, furniture, and home improvements; and

18           WHEREAS, Based on a number of pilot studies around the world, there is evidence  
19 that a basic income has lasting, long-term impacts on young people; and

20           WHEREAS, Youth who receive a basic income are more likely to complete their  
21 secondary school education because the pressure to earn money to support their family is  
22 eased; and

23           WHEREAS, Young people can utilize cash payments to pay off their tuition or student  
24 debt; and

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1           WHEREAS, UBI grants youth the financial freedom to pursue a third-level education or  
2 internships that can provide them with crucial experience for future professions; and

3           WHEREAS, UBI encourages youth to be civically engaged and volunteer more; and

4           WHEREAS, A basic income has been shown to be effective in addressing poverty in  
5 families, particularly for single parents and single-income households; and

6           WHEREAS, In Canada, an increase in child benefits led to a drop in poverty rates and  
7 addressed economic inequality; and

8           WHEREAS, In Native American communities living along the Rio Grande, the  
9 introduction of casino revenue payouts led to a decrease in child and spousal abuse; and

10           WHEREAS, In Eastern Cherokee households in North Carolina, income transfer  
11 payments led to increased voter turnout among adults who had been disadvantaged as  
12 children; and

13           WHEREAS, A guaranteed basic income could be a good way to increase civic  
14 engagement and narrow the gap in political participation between wealthier households and  
15 people from underprivileged backgrounds; and

16           WHEREAS, American startup accelerator Y Combinator is paying 100 families in  
17 Oakland, California between one thousand to two thousand dollars a month; and

18           WHEREAS, A research team at the University of Chicago, in collaboration with  
19 nonprofit organization Point Source Youth, are developing biweekly, direct cash assistance for  
20 youth experiencing homelessness in New York City; and

21           WHEREAS, The program will also offer counseling, housing navigation, and  
22 connections to services that support young people’s pathways to self-defined success; and

23           WHEREAS, The Santa Clara government recognized the financial impacts of the  
24 COVID-19 pandemic, particularly on foster youth; and

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1           WHEREAS, In May 2020, the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors approved a  
2 plan to provide 72 young adults ages 21 to 24, who were former foster youth, with one  
3 thousand dollar monthly payments for a one-year pilot program; and

4           WHEREAS, Santa Clara County officials will provide youth in the program with financial  
5 services and will check-in with them regularly to obtain information on how they spend the  
6 money and how the basic income impacts them; and

7           WHEREAS, A labor economist at the University of Pennsylvania who has studied  
8 social welfare believes that an unconditional cash payment like the one instituted by Santa  
9 Clara County officials can improve youth mental health, increase educational achievement,  
10 and promote greater voting and civic participation among young people; and

11           WHEREAS, According to the Chronicle of Social Change, cash transfers for young  
12 people impart what economists call “positive spillover effects”; and

13           WHEREAS, UBI pilot programs geared towards youth has found overwhelming  
14 evidence that low-income and vulnerable populations spend the money on basic needs; and

15           WHEREAS, When youth spend cash on goods and services in their community, they  
16 help stimulate their local economy; and

17           WHEREAS, According to numerous studies, the Bay Area has the highest income  
18 inequality in the state of California; and

19           WHEREAS, The Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) analyzed the 2018 U.S.  
20 Census Bureau data and found that top income earners in the Bay Area make 12.2 times as  
21 much as those who are at the bottom of the economic ladder; and

22           WHEREAS, PPIC also found that Bay Area residents in the 90th percentile of incomes  
23 earn on average \$384,000 a year compared to \$32,000 for those in the bottom 10th  
24 percentile; and

1           WHEREAS, The 2018 Census data shows that San Francisco County has the widest  
2 income disparities in the Bay Area, with the top five percent of households making an average  
3 of \$808,105 annually compared to \$16,184 for the bottom twenty percent of households; and

4           WHEREAS, According to the San Francisco Chronicle, San Francisco ranks 84 out of  
5 100 regions in the United States for economic inclusion; and

6           WHEREAS, In 2017, the earnings of white residents in San Francisco were \$70,200  
7 annually while earnings for people of color were \$41,500; and

8           WHEREAS, That gap continues to widen, having grown by \$2588 in 2017 alone; and

9           WHEREAS, According to The Chronicle of Social Change, legacies of systemic racism  
10 in housing and employment has led black and brown families to have less disposable income  
11 to give young adult family members to cover basic needs; and

12           WHEREAS, The Brookings Institute found that San Francisco has the sixth-highest  
13 level of income inequality in the country; and

14           WHEREAS, San Francisco residents at the 20th percentile of earnings make \$31,840  
15 per household annually, as compared to those at the 95th percentile, who bring in \$507,824  
16 per household; and

17           WHEREAS, The COVID-19 global pandemic has amplified existing inequities in our  
18 government and educational institutions, especially for marginalized youth of color; and

19           WHEREAS, The sudden closure of schools in San Francisco has resulted in students  
20 not receiving adequate meals, increased rates of job loss for youth and their parents, and an  
21 overall decline in educational quality; and

22           WHEREAS, After the San Francisco Unified School District transitioned to online  
23 learning, more than 12,000 Chromebook laptops were distributed and loaned to students in  
24 need; and

1           WHEREAS, Despite these efforts, in April 2020, an estimated 5,000 students still could  
2 not attend class virtually because their family couldn't afford adequate internet service at  
3 home; and

4           WHEREAS, A March 2020 study conducted by the Pew Research Center found that  
5 workers ages 16-24 make up 24 percent of all frontline workers in the industries most affected  
6 by COVID-19 closures; and

7           WHEREAS, Low-income youth of color, who have been most severely impacted by the  
8 COVID-19 crisis in San Francisco, should be included in the recovery process; and

9           WHEREAS, UBI would be a viable solution to address this growing income inequality  
10 and empower underserved communities; now, therefore, be it

11           RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Youth Commission urges the San Francisco  
12 Board of Supervisors (BOS), Mayor, and City departments to work with community  
13 organizations and study the impacts of a guaranteed basic income on San Francisco's  
14 children, teens, and families; and, be it

15           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Youth Commission urges the Mayor  
16 to join Mayors for Guaranteed Income, a coalition of mayors and city leaders from 11  
17 American cities who are investing in guaranteed-income pilots and are advocating for state  
18 and federal cash-based policies; and, be it

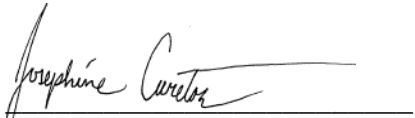
19           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Youth Commission urges the BOS  
20 and Mayor to enact legislation to implement a guaranteed basic income program in San  
21 Francisco; and, be it

22           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Youth Commission urges the BOS  
23 and Mayor to include financial services, housing navigation, and counseling workshops for  
24 young people ages 16+ in conjunction with the UBI program.

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Josephine Cureton, Chair  
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2019-2020 San Francisco Youth Commission