

*****NOT YET APPROVED*****

RESOLUTION NO. _____
RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
PALO ALTO IN SUPPORT OF VOTER
CONFIDENCE

WHEREAS, an election is a competition for the privilege of representing the people; and

WHEREAS, each voter is entitled to cast a single ballot to record his or her preferences for representation; and

WHEREAS, the records of individual votes are the basis for counting and potentially re-counting a collective total and declaring a winner; and

WHEREAS, an election's outcome is a matter of public record, based on a finite collection of immutable smaller records; and

WHEREAS, a properly functioning election system should produce substantial agreement about the results indicated by a fixed set of unchanging records; and

WHEREAS, recent elections have been conducted under conditions that have not produced substantial agreement about the outcome; and

WHEREAS, future elections cannot possibly produce substantial agreement as long as any condition permits an inconclusive count or re-count of votes; and

WHEREAS, inconclusive counts and re-counts have occurred during recent elections due in part to electronic voting devices that do not produce a paper record of votes to be re-counted if necessary; and

WHEREAS, inconclusive results have also been caused by election machines losing data, producing negative vote totals, showing more votes than there are registered voters, and persistently and automatically swapping a voter's vote from his or her chosen candidate to an opponent; and

WHEREAS, inconclusive results make it impossible to measure the will of the people in their preferences for representation; and

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WHEREAS, the Declaration of Independence refers to the Consent of the Governed as the self-evident truth from which Government derives "Just Power"; and

WHEREAS, inconclusive results, by definition, mean that the true outcome of an election cannot be known, there is no basis for confidence in the results reported from such elections;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Council of the City of Palo Alto does RESOLVE as follows:

SECTION 1. The following is a comprehensive election reform platform likely to ensure conclusive election results and create a basis for confidence in U.S. federal, State and local elections:

(1) Voting processes owned and operated entirely in the public domain, and

(2) Support of clean money laws, and

(3) A requirement that the top elected official responsible for overseeing elections in each jurisdiction not serve in any capacity in any political campaign over which he or she has jurisdiction, and

(4) Consistent national standards for security, including physical and electronic security of election systems, including tallying systems, and

(5) Uniform and inclusive voter registration standards and accurate and transparent voting roll purges, based on fair and consistent national standards, and

(6) Consistent national standards for the number of voting machines and poll workers per 100 voters in each precinct, to ensure reasonable and uniform waiting times for all voters, and

(7) A voter-verified paper ballot for every vote cast and additional uniform standards determined by a non-partisan nationally recognized commission, and

(8) Declaring election day a national holiday, and

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(9) Counting all votes publicly and locally in the presence of citizen witnesses and credentialed members of the media, and

(10) Equal time provisions to be restored by the media along with a measurable increase in local, public control of the airwaves, and

(11) Preferential voting and proportional representation to replace the winner-take-all system for Federal, State and local elections, and

(12) Renewal of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 due to expire in 2007.

In passing this resolution, the City Clerk of the City of Palo Alto, California, will follow the above guidelines, where possible, to protect, and ensure voter confidence. This resolution will be sent to California State and Federal legislators, the California Secretary of State, and the Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters.

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Be it further resolved that the City Council, by adopting this resolution, hereby states that:

When elections are conducted under conditions that prevent conclusive outcomes, the Consent of the Governed is not being sought. Absent this self-evident source of legitimacy, such Consent is not to be assumed or taken for granted.

INTRODUCED AND PASSED:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTENTIONS:

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

APPROVED:

Sr. Assistant City Attorney

City Manager

Director of Community
Services