

RESOLUTION NO. .

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF SAN MATEO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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**RESOLUTION URGING THE COUNTY'S CHIEF ELECTIONS OFFICER TO EXPAND
EXISTING OUTREACH EFFORTS TO UNHOUSED AND HOUSING UNSTABLE
VOTERS IN SAN MATEO COUNTY**

RESOLVED, by the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Mateo, State of California, that:

WHEREAS, the County recognizes the importance of civic engagement and the fundamental right to vote for all residents; and

WHEREAS, there exists a significant population of unhoused individuals in San Mateo County facing unique voting-related challenges, including barriers to accessing information about voter registration and the electoral process; and

WHEREAS, to ensure inclusivity and equal participation in the democratic process, it is imperative to address the disparities in access to voting resources for the unhoused and housing unstable population; and

WHEREAS, statistics indicate that, as of September 30, 2023, San Mateo County had over 1,800 unhoused individuals, highlighting the urgent need for targeted outreach efforts; and

WHEREAS, unhoused individuals often lack a fixed address, making it difficult for them to receive election-related materials and information, and they face challenges in accessing polling locations; and

WHEREAS, this Board acknowledges that overcoming these barriers is crucial to promoting democratic values and ensuring that all eligible individuals, regardless of housing status, can exercise their right to vote; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of the barriers faced by unhoused and housing unstable individuals, the County's recently adopted 2024-2028 Election Administration Plan includes planned targeted outreach efforts to unhoused and housing-unstable voters throughout San Mateo County; and

WHEREAS, the outreach efforts called for in the 2024-2028 Election Administration Plan include distribution of voter registration forms and information (in multiple languages) on voting to those without a permanent address and voter identification requirements and direct outreach by Elections Division staff to known encampment sites, shelters, and the County's Navigation Center.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors urges the County's Chief Elections Officer to continue existing and planned additional outreach efforts tailored to the needs of unhoused and housing-unstable voters in San Mateo County, including the distribution of information about key election dates, voting locations, and registration requirements, and to continue and expand collaboration with local shelters, service providers, and community organizations to facilitate voter education sessions and registration assistance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County's Chief Elections Officer is requested to explore additional potential innovative solutions to expand voting access for unhoused and housing unstable voters in San Mateo County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisor expresses their gratitude to Elections Division employees and volunteers for their dedication and tireless efforts to address disparities in participation electoral process of unhoused and housing unstable voters, and pledges its commitment to working collaboratively with the County's Chief Elections Officer, community organizations, and other stakeholders to eliminate barriers to voting for the unhoused population and promote an inclusive and equitable electoral process for all San Mateo County voters.

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