



County of San Mateo

Inter-Departmental Correspondence

Department: BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
DISTRICT 5
File #: 24-238

Board Meeting Date: 4/9/2024

Special Notice / Hearing: None
Vote Required: Majority

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors
From: Supervisor David J. Canepa, District 5
Subject: Resolution Reaffirming Continued Support for the Rights of Voters with Disabilities

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a resolution reaffirming the Board of Supervisors' continued support for the rights of voters with disabilities in San Mateo County.

BACKGROUND:

Despite the significant number of Americans living with disabilities, accessibility to elections remains a challenge. Voters with disabilities encounter physical, informational, and communication barriers that hinder their ability to participate fully in the electoral process. Recognizing this issue, the County of San Mateo has made strides in addressing accessibility concerns through initiatives such as the Voter Accessibility Advisory Committee and various accommodation options for voters with disabilities.

DISCUSSION:

This resolution reaffirms the County's commitment to advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion by ensuring equal access to the ballot box for voters with disabilities. It acknowledges the County's efforts in providing accessible voting options, including remote accessible vote by mail ballots, in-home ballot assistance, and accessible curbside voting at Vote Centers. Furthermore, the resolution underscores the County's compliance with ADA regulations and California Secretary of State guidelines to ensure all voting locations are accessible.

Additionally, the resolution highlights the Voter Bill of Rights granted to California voters, emphasizing the right to receive assistance in casting ballots and the right to report any illegal activity during elections. It also acknowledges California law's presumption of competency to vote for individuals with disabilities, reinforcing the importance of protecting the civil rights of all voters.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None.