



Public Input Sought in Selection of New Voting System

SAN FRANCISCO, June 28, 2005 – The San Francisco Department of Elections is inviting members of the public to participate in a "mock election," featuring the two voting systems that the City is considering to replace its current voting equipment. The mock election will be held from August 1st through 12th, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, in City Hall outside of Room 48.

The Department of Elections is in the process of selecting a new voting system to meet new State and federal voter accessibility requirements for voters with, but not limited to, sight and mobility impairments, and verifiability of election results. Starting January 1, 2006, San Francisco will be required to place at least one fully accessible voting device at each polling place, and the voting system must provide a permanent paper record to verify election results. Approximately \$8 million in State and federal funds is available to San Francisco to purchase a voting system that complies with these legal requirements. The City will use the new voting system starting at the June 2006 Statewide primary election.

John Arntz, Director of Elections, explained: "To ensure that the new voting system not only complies with the new legal requirements, but also has a high level of acceptance among San Francisco voters, it is critical that we involve as many members of the public as possible in the selection process." To maximize public participation in this process, the Department of Elections is hosting the two-week mock election featuring the two voting system vendors who submitted proposals to the Department.

Members of the public are invited to test the proposed voting systems and to complete a survey form about each one. The two vendors participating in the mock election are Election Systems & Software and Sequoia Voting Systems.

For more information about the mock election, please contact Beth Lipski at (415) 554-7780.