

FILE NO. 231119

RESOLUTION NO. 526-23

1 [Urging Report on Implementation of Assembly Bill No. 57 - Names of Candidates]

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3 **Resolution urging the San Francisco Department of Elections to report back on the**
4 **implementation of Assembly Bill No. 57 (Low) for the 2024 elections.**

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6 WHEREAS, Assembly Member Evan Low passed Assembly Bill No. 57 (AB 57) in
7 2019, which allows candidates with birth names in character-based languages, such as
8 Chinese, Japanese, and Korean, to use those names in voter requested translated ballots;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Candidates that do not have a character-based name by birth must use
11 phonetic translation but may use particular character-based names if they can demonstrate
12 that they have been publicly known by and identified by that name over the past two years;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Elections Department, in Municipal Elections Code,
15 Section 401, requires documentary evidence demonstrating established use of a particular
16 translation or transliteration of candidate names, but the Director of Elections has the final
17 decision on which translation shall be final; and

18 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Elections Department has insisted that AB 57 does not
19 apply to city's local races, forgoing the requirement that candidates prove the two-year
20 established use and verification; and

21 WHEREAS, The 2024 primary and general elections in San Francisco will feature an
22 unprecedented number of local candidates seeking office on the ballot, many of whom will be
23 submitting self-selected translated names; and

24 WHEREAS, The 2024 presidential primary and general elections are anticipated to be
25 high turnout elections, which means there will be an increase in requests for in-language

1 ballots including Chinese, and it is important to ensure voters have correct information on the
2 ballots and voter information pamphlets; now, therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
4 urges the San Francisco Department of Elections report back to the Board of Supervisors on
5 its implementation of AB 57 for the 2024 elections by the end of November 2023.

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