



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Inter-Departmental Correspondence

Board of Supervisors

DATE: July 29, 2002

BOARD MEETING DATE: August 6, 2002

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors
FROM: Mark Church, County Supervisor
SUBJECT: Peninsula Democracy Corps Program

Recommendation

Adopt a resolution to establish the Peninsula Democracy Corps Program, and authorizing County personnel, subject to approval from their Department Heads, to serve as poll workers on election day, and to receive their normal pay for the day as well as the normal stipend paid to poll workers.

Background

For major elections, the Elections Division must recruit and train approximately 2,000 poll workers to staff more than 500 polling places throughout the county. In addition to working 14 to 15 hours on election day, workers must attend a two-hour training class during the final weeks before the election. The Division currently pays a stipend of \$80 to \$125, including \$25 for the training session.

The attrition that steadily erodes our core pool of elder volunteers and the growing challenges of the work are straining our ability to recruit and maintain a trained workforce of adequate number.

Within the 30-day period prior to a typical election day, an average of 240 workers rescind their commitments, and some 40 of these occur the day before the election.

Discussion

This county has a long tradition of efficient, accurate elections. This success story makes us proud and drives us to continued achievement. Essential to that success is a well trained, dependable force of poll workers. That workforce is at risk. The Peninsula Democracy Corps, comprised of employees of public agencies, offers a win-win solution.

All employee organizations and department heads have been notified and are supportive of this proposal.

Vision Alignment

This program clearly serves the commitments and goals of the County's *Shared Vision 2010* in the areas of People and Partnerships, as follows:

- Commitment: Realize the potential of our diverse population.
 - Goal 1: Our diverse population works well together to build strong communities, effective government and a prosperous economy.
 - Goal 2: Civic engagement—including voting, public service, charitable giving, volunteerism and participation in public discussions of important issues—is uniformly high among the diverse population.
- Commitment: Responsive, effective and collaborative government.
 - Goal 20: Government decisions are based on careful consideration of future impact, rather than temporary relief or immediate gain.
 - Goal 21: County employees understand, support and integrate the County vision and goals into their delivery of services.
 - Goal 22: County and local governments effectively communicate, collaborate and develop strategic approaches to issues affecting the entire County.
- Commitment: Leaders work together across boundaries to preserve and enhance our quality of life.
 - Goal 24: Residents accept individual responsibility for contributing to the quality of life of the County as a whole.
 - Goal 25: Residents express their support for regional, collaborative approaches to issues.

Fiscal Impact

There is no Net County Cost. All funds will come from the budgeted Elections Expense account.


Mark Church, Supervisor