

Supervisor Matt Gonzalez
President, Board of Supervisors



City Hall—Room 282
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For Immediate Release
October 28, 2003

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What: Supervisor Gonzalez to hold a press conference to discuss the status of Instant RunOff Voting in San Francisco
Where: City Hall, Room 278
When: 1:30, Thursday October 30, 2003

SAN FRANCISCO'S IRV-READY VOTING EQUIPMENT TO BE DEMONSTRATED AT A PRESS CONFERENCE AND SPECIAL RULES COMMITTEE HEARING

On Thursday, October 30, Supervisor Matt Gonzalez will hold a press conference regarding the status of IRV implementation in San Francisco. At the press conference, the elections equipment vendor for the City and County of San Francisco, Elections Systems and Software (ES&S), will demonstrate San Francisco's voting equipment, the Optech Eagle, which has been modified and upgraded to count instant runoff voting (IRV) ballots for local elections. **The press conference will be at 1:30 p.m. in the Board of Supervisors Conference Room, room 278.**

Also on Thursday, October 30, the Rules Committee of the Board of Supervisors will hold a Special Hearing on the status of IRV implementation, including ES&S's attempts to obtain state and federal certification. The IRV-ready equipment also will be demonstrated at the hearing for the public. **The Special Rules Committee Hearing will be at 2:30 p.m. in room 263.**

The voters of San Francisco passed instant runoff voting in March 2002, and it was to be implemented by November 2003. On Election Day, November 4th, San Francisco will be in violation of its voter-driven law to use instant runoff voting. Although ES&S modified and upgraded the city's voting equipment last June, it has proven difficult to receive certification of their equipment from the Secretary of State's office, which has precluded the possibility of using IRV in San Francisco for the upcoming election.

The press conference and Special Hearing will provide a public demonstration of the IRV-ready equipment, and also explore remaining issues to certification presented by the Elections Division of the Secretary of State's office.

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