SF Students Cast their Votes in Mock Election

October 18, 2011 (San Francisco) – San Francisco’s public high school students voted to keep interim Mayor Ed Lee in office, voted in Sharmin Bok for District Attorney, approved Ross Mirkarimi for Sheriff and turned down the advisory proposition to change how public school assignment system works. These votes were all gathered and tabulated in a mock election, a bi-annual tradition in SFUSD’s high schools.

Over 8,000 high school students voted in the mock election overseen by the SFUSD Student Advisory Council (SAC) and Youth Vote in mid-October.

Balboa senior Jasmine Minato, who is vice president of the school’s student body, participated in the voting process. She says taking part in a mock vote is important as a young citizen.

“Voting is a crucial part of how we all shape our culture,” says Minato. “It’s important that we as students have the experience of taking responsibility for that.”

Earlier this fall, Youth Vote organized a forum for students to question mayoral candidates directly. Issues brought up included making Muni free for all San Francisco Youth and improving access to college and careers.

Youth Vote Coordinator Peter Lauterborn helped organize the election and supply voter information to SFUSD high school students. He sees the mock elections as serving two important purposes.

“This not only exposes young people to the elections process,” says Lauterborn,” but it also exposes adults to our youth’s perspectives and interests.” Lauterborn adds that, by the time a student graduates, he or she has had at least eight chances to vote on city and state initiatives and candidates.

Youth Vote is a civic engagement project that gives high school students an opportunity to voice their opinions about current youth issues, ballot measures, and political candidates running for election. Youth Vote curriculum is mandatory for every public high school in the city and is coordinated by a coalition of education/voter advocacy groups including the San Francisco Youth Commission, the Student Advisory Council of SFUSD, and the Board of Education.

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Fall 2011 Mock Election Results

Proposition A: School Bonds
Passed, 79.3%

Proposition B: Road Repaving and Street Safety Bonds
Passed, 69.5%

Proposition C: Altering City Pension and Health Care Benefits
Passed, 53.7%

Proposition D: Altering City Pension Benefits
Failed, 43.2%

Proposition E: Amending or Repealing Ballot measures
Failed, 39.9%

Proposition F: Campaign Consultant Ordinance
Failed, 44.9%

Proposition G: Sales Tax
Failed, 31.8%

Proposition H: School District Student Assignment
Failed, 45.2%

Sheriff: Ross Mirkarimi 58.5%

District Attorney: Sharmin Bock 53.4%

Mayor: Edwin Lee 59.2%

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