

# TEXT OF PROPOSED DECLARATION OF POLICY PROPOSITION J

## DECLARATION OF POLICY, UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE

There are an estimated 130,000 uninsured San Franciscans of which over 10 percent are 18 years of age or under and over 67 percent are working adults.

Individuals who are uninsured, delay seeking care when they are ill thus causing greater complexity and more costly care.

Uninsured individuals have greater difficulty obtaining needed medical care and have lower health status.

The overall health status of San Francisco cannot be improved with a high number of uninsured San Franciscans.

Despite the growth in the local economy and nation-wide reductions in health premiums, the number of uninsured has not decreased.

It shall be the policy of the City and County of San Francisco to improve the overall health status of San Franciscans by assisting the City's uninsured in obtaining affordable health care coverage through:

- creating a health care purchasing program that allows voluntary participation by private employers to access affordable health care insurance,

- maximizing the City's market strength as a purchaser of health insurance to provide affordable health care coverage, and,

- implementing insurance programs that encourage individuals to routinely obtain cost-effective, preventive health care services.

As a purchaser of health care, the City shall strive to make the best use of health care resources on behalf of its residents.