

PROPOSITION V

Choice for Students--JROTC

It is hereby the policy of the City and County of San Francisco that students in San Francisco public high schools should continue to be able to choose to participate in the schools' Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) program.

JROTC is a 90 year old leadership program in the San Francisco Unified School District that teaches students discipline, leadership skills and the importance of civic responsibility. It is a during and after-school program that serves over 1600 students, the great majority of whom are from racial minority groups. Students and their instructors voluntarily commit hundreds of community service hours to their schools as well as to the community at large.

In November 2006, a narrow majority of San Francisco school board members voted to phase out JROTC over a three year period. Recently, the board voted to delay this phase out for at least a year. However, without additional action, JROTC will end in the San Francisco schools in the near future.

High school students need more choice not less. High school deans and principals will attest to the need for students to make a "social" connection at school in order to avoid at-risk behavior. JROTC has been cited by program alumni, parents and teachers as saving at-risk students during high school. The program has the support 85% of the students polled (citywide), as well as all of the Parent Teacher Student Associations at the affected schools, and all of the principals at these schools.

JROTC does not discriminate in any way, shape or form, and does not abide by the "Don't Ask Don't Tell" policy. The steering committee of the Friends of JROTC, formed to support JROTC, has voted unanimously to oppose the Don't Ask Don't Tell policy, and sent a letter to Congress stating this opposition.

Because JROTC works, the people of the City and County of San Francisco hereby support the right of students to have academic and after-school program choices, and declare it policy to offer voluntary JROTC programs and to reverse the action by the Board of Education to terminate the program.