

BOARD of SUPERVISORS



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## MEMORANDUM

### RULES COMMITTEE

#### SAN FRANCISCO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

TO: Supervisor Aaron Peskin, Chair  
Rules Committee

FROM: Victor Young, Assistant Clerk *Victor Young*

DATE: January 10, 2022

SUBJECT: **COMMITTEE REPORT, BOARD MEETING**  
Tuesday, January 11, 2022

The following file should be presented as a **COMMITTEE REPORT** at the Board Meeting on Tuesday, January 11, 2022. This item was acted upon at the Rules Committee Meeting on Monday, January 10, 2022, at 10:00 a.m., by the votes indicated.

#### **Item No. 22 File No. 211303**

[Municipal Elections Code - Open Source Voting]

Ordinance amending the Municipal Elections Code to require the Director of Elections to submit information documenting the City's intended open source voting pilot program to the California Secretary of State, on behalf of the Board of Supervisors, and, upon approval of the Secretary of State, to implement such a system for use at the November 8, 2022, election.

#### RECOMMENDED AS A COMMITTEE REPORT

Vote: Supervisor Rafael Mandelman - Aye  
Supervisor Connie Chan - Aye  
Supervisor Aaron Peskin - Aye

c: Board of Supervisors  
Angela Calvillo, Clerk of the Board  
Alisa Somera, Legislative Deputy Director  
Anne Pearson, Deputy City Attorney

File No. 211303

Committee Item No. 3

Board Item No. \_\_\_\_\_

# COMMITTEE/BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

## AGENDA PACKET CONTENTS LIST

Committee: Rules Committee

Date Jan 10, 2022

Board of Supervisors Meeting

Date \_\_\_\_\_

### Cmte Board

- Motion
- Resolution
- Ordinance
- Legislative Digest
- Budget and Legislative Analyst Report
- Youth Commission Report
- Introduction Form
- Department/Agency Cover Letter and/or Report
- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
- Grant Information Form
- Grant Budget
- Subcontract Budget
- Contract/Agreement
- Form 126 - Ethics Commission
- Award Letter
- Application
- Form 700
- Vacancy Notice
- Information Sheet
- Public Correspondence

### OTHER (Use back side if additional space is needed)

- Voting system Use Procedures for Ca Template
- \_\_\_\_\_
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Completed by: Victor Young Date Jan 6, 2022

Completed by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

1 [Municipal Elections Code - Open Source Voting]

2  
3 **Ordinance amending the Municipal Elections Code to require the Director of Elections**  
4 **to submit information documenting the City’s intended open source voting pilot**  
5 **program to the California Secretary of State, on behalf of the Board of Supervisors,**  
6 **and, upon approval of the Secretary of State, to implement such a system for use at the**  
7 **November 8, 2022, election.**

8 NOTE: **Unchanged Code text and uncodified text** are in plain Arial font.  
9 **Additions to Codes** are in *single-underline italics Times New Roman font*.  
10 **Deletions to Codes** are in *strikethrough italics Times New Roman font*.  
11 **Board amendment additions** are in double-underlined Arial font.  
12 **Board amendment deletions** are in ~~strikethrough Arial font~~.  
13 **Asterisks (\* \* \* \*)** indicate the omission of unchanged Code  
14 subsections or parts of tables.

15 Be it ordained by the People of the City and County of San Francisco:

16 Section 1. The Municipal Elections Code is hereby amended by adding Article XII,  
17 consisting of Sections 1200, 1201 and 1202, to read as follows:

18 **ARTICLE XII: OPEN SOURCE VOTING PILOT PROGRAM**

19 **SEC. 1200. FINDINGS.**

20 *(a) Since 2007, the Board of Supervisors (“Board”) has shown interest in developing and using*  
21 *open source voting systems in the City and County of San Francisco (“the City”). In 2007, the City*  
22 *adopted Resolution No. 330-07, supporting an investigation into the feasibility of an open source voting*  
23 *system. In 2008, the City enacted Ordinance No. 268-08, creating a Voting Systems Task Force*  
24 *(“VSTF”) that provided the City with recommendations on models for development of a voting system,*  
25 *including proprietary, disclosed, and open source software and hardware. In June 2011, the VSTF*

1 issued “Recommendations on Voting Systems for the City and County of San Francisco,” a report  
2 summarizing their recommendations. This report is available with the Clerk of the Board in File No.  
3 110805. In 2014, the City adopted Resolution No. 460-14, committing the City to work with other  
4 jurisdictions and organizations to create new voting systems using open source software. The  
5 Elections Commission (“Commission”) has also passed resolutions in support of open source voting in  
6 2007, 2015, and 2018. These Commission resolutions are with the Clerk of the Board in the file for the  
7 ordinance establishing this Article XII, File No. 211303.

8 (b) Under California Elections Code Section 19209, to conduct an open source pilot program,  
9 the Board, without formally adopting a voting system, may provide for the experimental use of the  
10 voting system in a pilot program held in one or more precincts at a single election. Among other  
11 criteria, the voting system must meet the requirements of regulations adopted by the California  
12 Secretary of State (“SOS”). Under the California Elections Code, the Board must submit to the SOS a  
13 plan for the pilot program no later than nine months before the election at which the pilot program is  
14 proposed to be conducted; after submittal of such a plan, the SOS would have up to three months to  
15 approve or reject it. But, as of December 14, 2021, the SOS had not yet issued the regulations required  
16 for any pilot program, as required by the California Elections Code.

17 (c) On November 12, 2021, the SOS distributed a public letter confirming that it has begun the  
18 process of drafting the necessary regulations for a pilot program. This letter from the SOS is on file  
19 with the Clerk of the Board in File No. 211303. The letter also explained that while regulations have  
20 not yet been adopted, there are two available paths to move forward with an open source pilot  
21 program. First, the City or the open source voting system provider may submit a voting system for  
22 testing and review for certification by the SOS. Second, the City or the open source voting system  
23 provider may outline and document the intended voting system equipment, implementation, and use,  
24 and provide that information to the SOS for feedback.

1 (d) As of December 14, 2021, the SOS had not approved a pilot program for an open source or  
2 disclosed source voting system. The City is hoping to be the first to conduct a pilot program in  
3 conjunction with a future election. Conducting this pilot program would advance the Board's and the  
4 Commission's long-term goal of moving towards open source voting systems for City elections.

5 **SEC. 1201. DEFINITIONS.**

6 For purposes of this Article XII, the following terms have the following meanings:

7 "Ballot marking device" shall mean voting equipment used by voters to record votes on paper  
8 ballots.

9 "Disclosed source voting system" shall mean a voting system subject to licenses that allow the  
10 public to review all of its source code and the ability to share all source code with other parties.

11 Disclosed source voting systems may incorporate software that has a proprietary license that would  
12 restrict the users' ability to copy or modify its source code.

13 "Open source" shall mean the software's source code is available for use, study, re-use,  
14 modification, enhancement, and re-distribution and is subject to one or more licenses approved by the  
15 Open Source Initiative.

16 "Open source voting system" shall mean a voting system (a) whose software is open source;  
17 and (b) whose electronic hardware is off-the-shelf and publicly available.

18 "Secretary of State" shall mean the California Secretary of State.

19 "Source code" shall mean the version of a computer program in which the programmer's  
20 original programming statements are expressed in a source language (e.g. C++, C#, Visual Basic or  
21 Java) which must be compiled or assembled and linked into equivalent machine-executable object  
22 code, thereby resulting in an executable software program.

23 "Voting system" means a mechanical, electromechanical, or electronic system and its software,  
24 or any combination of these used for casting a ballot, tabulating votes, or both. "Voting system" does  
25 not include a remote accessible vote by mail system.

1           **SEC. 1202. SUBMISSION OF PLAN FOR INTENDED OPEN SOURCE VOTING PILOT**

2           **PROGRAM.**

3           (a) For the purposes of this Article XII, the intended open source voting pilot program shall  
4           consist of a minimum of one open source ballot marking device that the City wishes to use at the City  
5           Hall Voting Center for the November 8, 2022 Consolidated General Election. The Director of  
6           Elections shall have discretion to decide if more than one ballot marking device will be utilized during  
7           the open source pilot program and where to place the ballot marking device(s), based upon  
8           accessibility, security, and staffing requirements. But, to the extent feasible, an open source ballot  
9           marking device shall be available to any voter that wants to use the device at the City Hall Voting  
10           Center.

11           (b) By no later than February 8, 2022, the Director of Elections shall submit information to the  
12           SOS that describes a plan for the City's intended open source voting pilot program, as set forth in  
13           subsection (a). The SOS must adopt regulations for open source voting pilots, and approve the City's  
14           plan for the intended open source voting pilot program, in order for the Department of Elections to  
15           deploy the open source ballot marking device(s) at the November 8, 2022 Consolidated General  
16           Election for the public's use.

17           (c) The Director of Elections' plan for the intended open source voting pilot program shall  
18           include information that outlines and documents the City's intended open source voting system  
19           equipment, implementation, and use. The information shall include at a minimum: (a) a list of each  
20           piece of hardware, software, and firmware that will be used and how each complies with the  
21           requirements of California Elections Code Sections 19209 and 19212, and (b) draft use procedures on  
22           how the system will be implemented and used by the Department of Elections and poll workers. The  
23           use procedures shall conform to the SOS's template available on the SOS website. This template is on  
24           file with the Clerk of the Board in File No. 211303.

1           Section 2. Effective Date

2           This ordinance shall become effective 30 days after enactment. Enactment occurs  
3 when the Mayor signs the ordinance, the Mayor returns the ordinance unsigned or does not  
4 sign the ordinance within ten days of receiving it, or the Board of Supervisors overrides the  
5 Mayor's veto of the ordinance.

6

7 APPROVED AS TO FORM:  
8 DAVID CHIU, City Attorney

8

9 By: /s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
10 ANA FLORES  
11 Deputy City Attorney

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## LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Municipal Elections Code - Open Source Voting]

**Ordinance amending the Municipal Elections Code to require the Director of Elections to submit information documenting the City’s intended open source voting pilot program to the California Secretary of State, on behalf of the Board of Supervisors, and, upon approval of the Secretary of State, to implement such a system for use at the November 8, 2022, election.**

### Existing Law

In general, the California Secretary of State (“SOS”) must certify any voting systems before they are used in any elections held in California. Voting systems include hardware, software and combinations thereof used to either cast a ballot or tabulate votes.

But under Elections Code Section 19209 (“Section 19209”), the Board of Supervisors, without formally adopting a voting system, may provide for the experimental use of the voting system in a pilot program held in one or more precincts at a single election. The Board of Supervisors may proceed with such a pilot, even if the voting system has not been certified, if the pilot:

- uses only software and firmware with disclosed source code, except for unmodified commercial off-the-shelf software and firmware;
- meets the requirements set forth in the SOS’s voting system standards, adopted pursuant to Elections Code Section 19101(b);
- meets the requirements of the SOS’s regulations governing voting system pilot programs, adopted pursuant to Elections Code Section 19209(g); and
- implements risk-limiting audits.

As of December 14, 2021, the SOS had not adopted regulations governing disclosed source voting system pilot programs.

Section 19209 also requires the Board of Supervisors to submit any plan for a pilot program no later than nine months before the election at which the pilot program of a voting system is proposed to be conducted. The Secretary of State would then have up to three months to approve or reject the plan.

### Amendments to Current Law

The proposed ordinance would require the Director of Elections, on behalf of the Board of Supervisors, to submit information documenting the City’s intended open source voting pilot program to the California Secretary of State by February 8, 2022. For the purposes of this



proposed plan, the intended open source voting pilot program would consist of at least one open source ballot marking device that the City would use at the City Hall Voting Center for the November 8, 2022 Consolidated General Election. The deployment of the open source ballot marking device(s) at the November 8, 2022 Consolidated General Election would be subject to the SOS's adoption of regulations for disclosed source voting system pilots and the SOS's approval of the City's plan.

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1 **Open Source Voting Systems Resolution**

2 Adopted by the San Francisco Elections Commission (6-0) on November 18, 2015.

3  
4 [Supporting Open Source Voting Systems — Encouraging the Mayor and Board  
5 of Supervisors to Initiate a Project to Develop and Certify an Open Source Voting System]

6 **Resolution to support the development and certification of an open source voting**  
7 **system running on commercial off-the-shelf hardware; and to request that the Mayor**  
8 **and Board of Supervisors initiate and fund a project to develop and certify such a**  
9 **system for use in San Francisco.**

10 WHEREAS, Free and fair elections, as a cornerstone of the democratic process,  
11 demand the highest levels of public openness, accessibility, accuracy, security, and  
12 trustworthiness;

13 WHEREAS, The public benefits from elections that, in their conduct and operation, also  
14 have increased efficiency, innovation, and affordability;

15 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Elections Commission (“Elections Commission”) on  
16 May 16, 2007 adopted a resolution that—

17 (a) Cited concerns raised by members of the Board of Supervisors about ratifying a  
18 contract for voting machines which did not allow for open source software; and that

19 (b) Established a policy that the San Francisco Department of Elections (“Department  
20 of Elections”) shall endeavor in contracting to prioritize and select if possible, voting  
21 systems and vendors which provide the maximum level of security and transparency  
22 possible consistent with the principles of public disclosure;

23 WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco (“San Francisco”) on December 11,  
24 2007, and as amended on January 18, 2008, entered into a four-year voting system

1 agreement with Sequoia Voting Systems, Inc. at a cost of \$13.78 million — an agreement that  
2 the Board of Supervisors extended and that will expire on January 1, 2017;

3 WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors on November 18, 2008 created a Voting  
4 Systems Task Force to make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors about voting  
5 system standards, design and development, including models for development of a voting  
6 system including proprietary, disclosed and open source software and hardware approaches  
7 and which address aforementioned voting systems requirements and assure a cost effective,  
8 highly reliable, maintainable system;

9 WHEREAS, The Voting Systems Task Force in June 2011 completed its report, which  
10 recommended in part that—

11 (a) The Department of Elections should give strong preference to a voting system  
12 licensing structure that gives San Francisco all of the rights provided by a license  
13 approved by the Open Source Initiative (OSI), even if the system is maintained by an  
14 external party; and that

15 (b) If an open source model is used, that San Francisco work with other jurisdictions  
16 and organizations to develop and manage the code-base in order to leverage  
17 additional resources and expertise; and

18 (c) San Francisco should be an active participant in the movement toward more open  
19 and transparent voting systems;

20 WHEREAS, After the November 2016 election, San Francisco will have spent \$19.69  
21 million over nine years on its current voting system agreement, including \$2.86 million on  
22 software licensing fees, \$6.53 million on hardware, and \$1.63 million on hardware  
23 maintenance;

24 WHEREAS, The California legislature, in enacting SB 360 in 2013, expressed its

1 intention that—

2 (a) The Secretary of State study and encourage the development of voting systems  
3 that use nonproprietary source code and that are easy to audit;

4 (b) California receive the benefits of the publicly funded development of a  
5 nonproprietary voting system in the state; and

6 (c) Provides for the experimental use of a voting system in a pilot program if the voting  
7 system uses only software and firmware with disclosed source code, except for  
8 unmodified commercial off-the-shelf software and firmware;

9 WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors on December 9, 2014 unanimously passed  
10 Resolution No. 460-14, which committed San Francisco to work with other jurisdictions and  
11 organizations to create new voting systems using open source software, and which stated  
12 further that—

13 (a) San Francisco supports the movement toward more open and transparent voting  
14 systems and the creation of new voting systems using open source software and  
15 inexpensive commodity components; and

16 (b) The Board of Supervisors requests that the Local Agency Formation Commission  
17 conduct a study of the feasibility and cost-effectiveness of San Francisco leading an  
18 effort to develop and use a new voting system, either whole or in part, through a  
19 collaborative model;

20 WHEREAS, The Department of Elections on August 6, 2015 issued a Request for  
21 Information (RFI) for a new voting system, expressing a preference for voting systems  
22 designed using open source software;

23 WHEREAS, The Department received thirteen responses to the RFI by the August 28,  
24 2015 deadline, all of which left significant gaps in meeting the RFI requirements with existing

1 voting systems; and

2 WHEREAS, Six RFI respondents proposed predominantly open source systems,  
3 though in the absence of funding, none have yet been fully developed or certified; and

4 WHEREAS, The Local Agency Formation Commission on October 23, 2015 issued its  
5 final report, “Study on Open Source Voting Systems,” which analyzed the possibility of San  
6 Francisco leading an effort to develop and use an open source voting system, and concluded  
7 in part that several ongoing voting system projects can be adopted and provide an opportunity  
8 for San Francisco to expedite the development of an open source voting system, if San  
9 Francisco chooses to develop its own voting system;

10 WHEREAS, The Elections Commission on October 21, 2015 held a public hearing on  
11 open source voting systems during which five of the six open source RFI respondents gave  
12 presentations on the benefits of open source voting systems and on possible ways forward for  
13 San Francisco to develop and adopt a certified open source voting system;

14 WHEREAS, Any open source software license approved by the Open Source Initiative  
15 (OSI) ensures that the software can be freely viewed, used, changed, and redistributed — in  
16 modified or unmodified form — by anyone, including people, organizations, and governmental  
17 entities;

18 WHEREAS, The transparency of open source software promotes greater trust and  
19 public confidence in its use, and in particular permits greater security and correctness through  
20 increased public scrutiny and feedback from experts;

21 WHEREAS, For the purposes of this resolution, “open voting system” means a voting  
22 system whose software is open source under OSI-approved software licenses; whose  
23 electronic hardware is commercial off-the-shelf (COTS); and whose auxiliary development  
24 products, materials, and documents related to areas such as requirements, design, build,

1 installation, testing, and user documentation, and any additional materials submitted to gain  
2 regulatory approval, are freely and openly licensed;

3 WHEREAS, The current voting system marketplace provides little or no incentive for  
4 established vendors to offer an open voting system, and the initial development and  
5 certification costs make it prohibitive for new industry entrants to do so;

6 WHEREAS, Since elections are a public process undergirding democracy across the  
7 United States, access to improved voting systems should not be limited only to those  
8 jurisdictions with greater financial means, and all jurisdictions should be free to make  
9 improvements to those systems on their own as needed;

10 WHEREAS, The development and certification of an open voting system could not only  
11 provide San Francisco with an affordable, accurate, flexible, and secure voting system, but  
12 could benefit all election jurisdictions across the country by providing them such an option;

13 WHEREAS, Additionally, copyleft provisions in open source software licenses would  
14 help ensure that everyone, including San Francisco, has free access to future changes and  
15 improvements to that software, providing a way for San Francisco to derive additional benefit  
16 from the creation of an open voting system; and

17 WHEREAS, As a leader in innovative public policy initiatives and as a hub for  
18 innovation in software and open source — with the San Francisco Bay Area home to many  
19 well-known organizations like Apple, Facebook, GitHub, Google, the Mozilla Foundation,  
20 Twitter, Yahoo, and countless others contributing significantly to open source software — San  
21 Francisco is a natural jurisdiction to take the lead in developing and certifying an open voting  
22 system; now, therefore be it

23 RESOLVED, That it be the position of the Elections Commission that open voting  
24 systems using paper ballots have the potential to provide the greatest degree of accessibility,

1 accuracy, transparency, security, auditability, affordability, and flexibility in elections, and so  
2 would best serve the voters of San Francisco; and, be it

3       FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Elections Commission expresses its appreciation to  
4 the Board of Supervisors for its past resolution in support of open source voting systems  
5 running on inexpensive commodity components, and encourages the Mayor and Board of  
6 Supervisors to initiate and fund a project, starting in the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2016,  
7 with the goal of ensuring that an open voting system be available for use by the Department  
8 of Elections for the June 2020 Presidential Primary Election, and for partial or pilot use by the  
9 November 2019 Municipal Election or earlier; and, be it

10       FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Elections Commission encourages the Mayor and  
11 Board of Supervisors to consider incorporating the following characteristics into such a  
12 project:

13       (a) First, hire a project director with technical expertise to be responsible for planning  
14 and leading the project, including working with stakeholders, collaborators, and  
15 regulators; drafting system requirements; and selecting and managing technical  
16 contractors, as necessary;

17       (b) Incorporate openness and transparency into the project, for example by forming a  
18 public committee of experts and citizens to advise the project director, and by releasing  
19 all development products, including software source code and documentation, as they  
20 are developed;

21       (c) Design and implement the voting system in a modular fashion, by developing  
22 components like the ballot layout software, scanner device drivers, a central scanner, a  
23 precinct scanner, an accessible voting device, tabulation software, and the election  
24 results reporter independently and in parallel, using open data formats to communicate

- 1 with one another;
- 2 (d) Express a preference for open source licenses with copyleft characteristics so that  
3 San Francisco and other jurisdictions can benefit from future improvements that others  
4 make to the voting system components;
- 5 (e) Build on prior open source work where possible to reduce project time and costs;
- 6 (f) Permit the selection of different organizations to develop different components of the  
7 voting system to reduce project risk, for example by issuing separate, smaller  
8 Requests for Proposal (RFPs) for each voting system component;
- 9 (g) Spread project costs over multiple years to reduce risk, spending funds in  
10 subsequent years only after the results of prior expenditures are known;
- 11 (h) Produce production-ready deliverables early on and incrementally as in an agile  
12 approach to further reduce risks and costs, rather than waiting until the conclusion of  
13 the project to deliver finished versions of all components;
- 14 (i) Certify and use components of the voting system in real elections prior to the  
15 completion of the full system, for example by facilitating pilot projects of the form  
16 permitted by SB 360 and/or the use of a blended system during a transition period that  
17 incorporates components from both a proprietary system and the open system being  
18 developed;
- 19 (j) Work with the California Secretary of State's Office before the completion of each  
20 component to maximize the likelihood of state certification;
- 21 (k) Recruit other organizations, including other jurisdictions, universities, open source  
22 software organizations, and commercial entities with an interest in open source, to  
23 cosponsor, fund, and help manage the development, certification, and maintenance of  
24 the voting system;



1 (l) Explore the possibility of innovative partnerships with public and private entities that  
2 could let San Francisco further reduce, and even recover, project costs;

3 (m) Seek grants from foundations, other government agencies, and nonprofit  
4 organizations with a similar interest in election openness to help fund and support the  
5 project; and, be it

6 FINALLY RESOLVED, That it be the policy of the Department of Elections to support  
7 and work towards the adoption of a fully open voting system, including supporting the  
8 development, testing, and certification of such a system.

1 SAN FRANCISCO ELECTIONS COMMISSION

2 **Open Source Voting Systems Resolution #2**

3 (Adopted by the San Francisco Elections Commission (6-0) on June 20, 2018.)

4  
5 [The Commission is adopting this resolution to supplement (and not replace) its first  
6 Open Source Voting Systems Resolution, adopted on November 18, 2015, since many  
7 events have transpired since that time.]

8  
9 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Elections Commission (“Elections Commission”)  
10 on November 18, 2015 unanimously passed an Open Source Voting Systems  
11 Resolution that, in part—

12 (a) Encouraged the Mayor and Board of Supervisors to initiate and fund a project  
13 to develop and certify an open source voting system; and

14 (b) Outlined several key project characteristics, and encouraged the Mayor and  
15 Board of Supervisors to consider incorporating them; and

16 (c) Established a policy for the San Francisco Department of Elections to support  
17 and work towards the adoption of an open source voting system;

18 WHEREAS, Mayor Ed Lee in the 2016 budget process allocated \$300,000  
19 towards a planning and assessment phase for the project, approximately half of which  
20 was allocated for a “business case” to assess the feasibility of the project, including  
21 informing the City and County of San Francisco (“San Francisco”) of the associated  
22 costs, timelines, options, and possible next steps;

23 WHEREAS, The Elections Commission on April 19, 2017 established an Open  
24 Source Voting System Technical Advisory Committee (“TAC”) to provide technical

1 guidance, ideas, and support to the Elections Commission on ways to improve and help  
2 ensure the success of San Francisco's open source voting system project;

3 WHEREAS, The Department of Elections in May 2017 issued the RFP for the  
4 business case, which required that, "Any Contractor who prepares or assists in  
5 preparing the business case described in this RFP will not be eligible to perform  
6 subsequent services for the City in relation to the possible development of an  
7 accessible, open source voting system," which resulted in organizations with the most  
8 interest and expertise not bidding;

9 WHEREAS, The winning bidder, Slalom, whose contract was signed September  
10 29, 2017, had no prior experience in elections or voting systems and little or no  
11 experience with open source development efforts;

12 WHEREAS, Travis County, Texas on September 28, 2017 cancelled its  
13 STAR-Vote project, in large part because its monolithic, waterfall-like approach sought  
14 to build all components at once as opposed to developing components delivering  
15 usable functionality incrementally, and which differed from San Francisco's project  
16 because it—

17 (a) Was larger in scope to the extent that its core purpose was to fundamentally  
18 change how voting was performed, recorded, tabulated, and verified;

19 (b) Was based on a proprietary source rather than an open source development  
20 plan and only anticipated becoming open source eventually; and

21 (c) Lacked a business / development plan to incrementally provide usable  
22 functionality within the available funding capacity;

23 WHEREAS, Slalom delivered its final report to San Francisco for review by the  
24 Mayor's Office and San Francisco's Committee on Information Technology ("COIT") on

1 March 14, 2018, more than six weeks after the January 26, 2018 due date and well into  
2 San Francisco's annual budget process;

3 WHEREAS, Slalom's report recommended a waterfall-like approach and lacked  
4 the information, specificity, and credibility needed for San Francisco leaders and  
5 stakeholders to decide on next steps, including—

6 (a) Recommended a second, much more expensive planning phase of \$1.1 to  
7 \$1.2 million that the report called a “Discovery Phase,” which would take place  
8 before doing any actual development and whose purpose included doing many  
9 of the things the business case was supposed to do;

10 (b) Failing to consult with vendors and organizations that the Commission invited  
11 to present at its October 21, 2015 meeting—subsequent to the Department of  
12 Elections’ August 6, 2015 RFI (REG 2015-01) in relation to obtaining a new  
13 voting system—all of whom presented cost estimates much lower than those  
14 provided in Slalom’s report;

15 (c) Provided excessively high cost estimates with extremely wide ranges,  
16 including—

17 (1) \$850,000 to \$2 million to develop a “Vote Tabulator System,” a simple  
18 component responsible for summing vote totals;

19 (2) \$860,000 to \$2 million to develop a “Vote Reporting System,” a simple  
20 component responsible for generating static reports of vote totals; and

21 (3) \$500,000 to \$1 million per year for “cloud-based hosting,” even though  
22 only a remote accessible vote by mail component is allowed to be  
23 connected to the internet, such a component would require a much

1 smaller hosting requirement, and such a component is not a requirement  
2 to implement any other part of the system;

3 WHEREAS, TAC on March 8, 2018 voted unanimously to recommend to the  
4 Elections Commission that—

5 (a) “the Mayor budget for the Department of Elections a full-time staff person who  
6 can serve as the project lead / product owner for the project and report directly to  
7 the Director of Elections”; and that

8 (b) “an agile, incremental approach be taken towards the project, in which  
9 components can be piloted and used in real elections [in conjunction with the  
10 proprietary system in use] as the components are developed and certified,”  
11 starting with the components needed to tabulate vote-by-mail ballots;

12 WHEREAS, The Elections Commission on March 21, 2018 voted unanimously to  
13 approve TAC's March 8, 2018 recommendations;

14 WHEREAS, TAC on June 14, 2018 voted unanimously to adopt a statement on  
15 Slalom’s “Open Source Voting System Feasibility Assessment,” beginning, “Certain  
16 inaccuracies and basic omissions in Slalom’s Report lead us to seriously question the  
17 report as a whole. We recommend not relying on it for determining the future direction  
18 of the project”;

19 WHEREAS, TAC also on June 14, 2018 voted unanimously to adopt a project to  
20 implement a full-featured election results reporter as a proof of concept, to show in part  
21 that a reporting component can be developed for much less cost than the \$860,000 to  
22 \$2 million estimated by Slalom;

23 WHEREAS, The Open Source Voting System Resolution unanimously passed  
24 by the Elections Commission on November 18, 2015 encouraged that the project “First,

1 hire a project director with technical expertise to be responsible for planning and leading  
2 the project, including working with stakeholders, collaborators, and regulators; drafting  
3 system requirements; and selecting and managing technical contractors, as necessary”;

4 WHEREAS, The Department of Technology and Department of Elections jointly  
5 submitted to COIT an application for funding the open source voting system project in  
6 FY2018-19 with an additional \$960,000; and in response COIT recommended only an  
7 additional \$300,000, for a total of \$425,000 available for FY2018-19;

8 WHEREAS, San Francisco’s Department of Human Resources (“DHR”) in 2017  
9 started a technology project to modernize its hiring practices (the “Hiring Modernization  
10 Project”) using an iterative, modular approach that internally it estimated could cost  
11 between \$20-30 million over five years;

12 WHEREAS, COIT on May 4, 2018 recommended allocating \$1 million in seed  
13 money for the first year (FY2018-19) of the Hiring Modernization Project, for the  
14 purposes of hiring a Project Manager and starting incremental development—even  
15 though DHR recognizes that their overall estimate will continue to evolve since the  
16 project is being approached in a modular and iterative way;

17 WHEREAS, The Elections Commission is responsible for the proper  
18 administration of the general practices of the Department of Elections, which in turn is  
19 vested with the conduct and management of matters pertaining to elections in San  
20 Francisco;

21 WHEREAS, Since voting systems pertain to and are used in elections in San  
22 Francisco, their development by San Francisco should require the same level of  
23 transparency and public oversight that elections themselves require;

1           WHEREAS, Progress towards planning and development of an open source  
2 voting system has so far been hampered by the lack of both clear designations of  
3 accountability and a person with appropriate skills and experience to lead the project;

4           WHEREAS, Significant efforts and progress have been made by the California  
5 Clean Money Campaign in conjunction with some San Francisco elected officials to  
6 provide for state matching funds for open source voting systems;

7           WHEREAS, Clearer and renewed commitments from the Mayor and the Board of  
8 Supervisors for an open source voting system, including a commitment for greater  
9 funding in FY2018-19, would strengthen the project’s ability to attract effective  
10 development collaborators and supplementary sources of funding;

11           WHEREAS, Board of Supervisors President and Mayor-elect London Breed,  
12 Board of Supervisors Budget and Finance Committee Chair Malia Cohen, and Board of  
13 Supervisors Member Jane Kim recently made public statements in support of effective  
14 funding to start developing an open source voting system project, in response to the  
15 Elections Commission’s request of \$4 million for FY2018-19; now, therefore be it

16           RESOLVED, That the Elections Commission calls on the Mayor and Board of  
17 Supervisors to state their commitment to effectively proceeding with San Francisco’s  
18 open source voting system project, so that the Elections Commission, Department of  
19 Elections, and the rest of San Francisco can state publicly and unambiguously that San  
20 Francisco has decided to move forward, which will allow San Francisco to more  
21 effectively identify and attract potential collaborators and other funders, including the  
22 State of California, nonprofits, and other counties; and, be it

1 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Commission ask the Mayor and Board of  
2 Supervisors that the project be funded and developed incrementally, so that San  
3 Francisco can support a robust development schedule in FY2018-19 that—

4 (a) Develops and uses some open source voting system components sooner and  
5 more cost-effectively, without necessarily having to first fund the entire project;

6 (b) Develop cost estimates and project management approaches for later stages  
7 of the project by learning from real-world experience, as opposed to planning  
8 abstractly on paper; and

9 (c) More effectively attract and recruit project collaborators, by being able to  
10 show real progress using innovative approaches; and, be it

11 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Elections Commission ask the Mayor and  
12 Board of Supervisors to name the Department of Elections as the owner of the project  
13 to develop and certify an open source voting system, so that the Elections Commission  
14 and the public can, through the authority and meetings of the Elections Commission,  
15 have oversight over and regular visibility into this fundamental matter pertaining to  
16 elections; and, be it

17 FURTHER RESOLVED, That it is the policy of the Elections Commission that the  
18 open source voting system project should be led by a dedicated project director /  
19 project manager who reports to the Director of Elections; who has experience in agile  
20 methods, open source development, elections and voting systems, and the  
21 management of technical projects; and who will—

22 (a) Work with the Director and other stakeholders in San Francisco;

23 (b) Use TAC and other Departments among their resources, including learning  
24 from the model of DHR's Hiring Modernization Project;



1 (c) Use the RFI process to learn possible approaches from vendors; and, be it

2 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Elections Commission rejects the cost

3 estimates in the Slalom Report as poorly supported and not credible, and the waterfall

4 approach recommended in the report as outmoded, inconsistent with the agile

5 approach preferred by the Commission, and generally not in San Francisco's interest

6 due to the increased cost and risk; and, be it

7 FINALLY RESOLVED, That the Commission encourages the Department of

8 Elections to continue its best practices of working collaboratively with other

9 Departments, including the Department of Technology, San Francisco Digital Services,

10 the Office of Contract Administration, the Mayor's Office, and other members of COIT

11 on the project.

## SAN FRANCISCO ELECTIONS COMMISSION

## Commission Policy on Transparency and Security in Voting Systems

***Commission general policy statement  
regarding transparency in voting systems technologies  
as well as providing for voting systems security***

Whereas California Secretary of State Debra Bowen has expressed strong support for a move towards open source election software;

Whereas members of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors have recently raised concerns about ratifying a contract for voting machines which did not allow for open source software;

Pursuant to Section 13.105.5, San Francisco Charter which authorizes the Election Commission to establish general policies for the Elections Department, the Elections Commission establishes the following general policies;

First, the Elections Commission endorses the policy of using voting system technologies and software that maximize voting system security while at the same time providing the maximum level of transparency possible to assure voters that their votes will be counted as cast.

Specifically, to ensure the integrity of our elections and to increase public confidence in our government, the Commission endorses the policy that the Department of Elections should make reasonable efforts to select and use voting systems technology, including hardware and software, that at a minimum, is publicly disclosed.

In this context, public disclosure means that members of the public should have at least the right to inspect, test, and comment on such technology in a procurement process and as configured for a specific election independent of the San Francisco Department of Elections or other government agency of the City and County of San Francisco,

Second, the Commission adopts as policy that the Election Department shall endeavor in contracting to prioritize and select if possible, voting systems and vendors which provide the maximum level of security and transparency possible consistent with the principles of public disclosure. This policy will enable the citizenry to understand the methodology involved in the election process, in a manner consistent with ensuring secret ballot protection and voting system security.

1 SAN FRANCISCO ELECTIONS COMMISSION

2 **Resolution on Open Source Voting Pilot Legislation**

3 (Adopted by the San Francisco Elections Commission (5-0) on December 15, 2021.)

4  
5 WHEREAS, During the Roll Call for Introductions of the November 16, 2021  
6 Board of Supervisors meeting, Board of Supervisors President Shamann Walton  
7 requested legislation from the City Attorney regarding the San Francisco Department of  
8 Elections submitting a plan to the California Secretary of State no later than February 8,  
9 2022, so as to allow an open source voting pilot to be conducted during the  
10 November 8, 2022 Consolidated General Election;

11 WHEREAS, At its November 17, 2021 meeting, the Elections Commission  
12 unanimously adopted a resolution in support of President Walton's request for  
13 legislation to move the open source voting pilot process forward;

14 WHEREAS, At the December 14, 2021 Board of Supervisors meeting, President  
15 Walton introduced the open source voting legislation he previously requested; now,  
16 therefore be it

17 RESOLVED, That the Elections Commission supports President Walton's open  
18 source voting pilot legislation and encourages the Board of Supervisors to adopt it and  
19 the Mayor to sign it; and, be it

20 FINALLY RESOLVED, That the Commission requests that the Mayor encourage  
21 the Secretary of State to adopt regulations governing voting system pilot programs in  
22 time for San Francisco to conduct a pilot during the November 8, 2022 election.

# Voting System Use Procedures for California Template

California Elections Code (EC) §19205 requires the Secretary of State to establish procedures for the use and testing of a voting system. Regulations require those procedures to be reviewed biennially. Approval or certification of a proposed system does not take effect until all applicable procedures for the system's use have been formulated and approved. The vendor must supply a copy of those procedures to any prospective purchaser.

Statewide procedures provide the following benefits:

- Guidance to election staff and vendor support staff for use of a voting system in an election to ensure compliance with election law;
- Verifiable established standards to protect the security, integrity and accuracy of the election and insure privacy of all voters;
- A baseline for testing and evaluating the suitability of a proposed voting system; and
- Protection of an election from legal challenge by establishing statewide uniformity on use of the system.

The Secretary of State recommends that initial voting system use procedures be developed by the vendor, working together with county election officials who are knowledgeable in the laws and practices for conducting elections in California.

Procedures should be drafted so that minimum standards are established to provide the secure and accurate use of a voting system in compliance with all Federal and State regulations and procedures. On the other hand, they should not be so detailed and rigid that they do not allow the election official reasonable flexibility to establish additional procedures for use of the system in their jurisdiction, as appropriate.

The outline presented below is meant as guidance for developing voting system use procedures for all systems. The drafting of use procedures should address each of these elements *as appropriate for use of that particular system* in an election. Where existing system documentation (e.g., equipment operating manuals) already addresses a topic in detail, it is acceptable to provide an overview of that element and reference to the appropriate document, provided overall readability of the document is preserved. Clearly identify all areas where it is appropriate or required for jurisdiction election officials to establish additional procedures.

## **Voting System Use Procedures Template**

### **1. Introduction**

#### 1.1. System description and components

*Specifically identify all equipment, including model numbers and version numbers. Specifically identify all software and versions, including operating system and commercial off-the-shelf (COTS) applications, that are required or recommended for use with the system*

#### 1.2. Terms and Definitions

### **2. Ballot Definition**

#### 2.1. Overview

#### 2.2. Paper and printing specifications (as appropriate)

#### 2.3. Layout requirements and specifications (as appropriate)

### **3. System Installation and Configuration**

#### 3.1. Hardware requirements and specifications

#### 3.2. Hardware and network set-up and configuration

#### 3.3. Software installation and configuration

*Are there installation options that must be installed or should not be installed for use in California?*

#### 3.4. Acceptance Testing

*Certification Procedures, Article 13 requires an election jurisdiction to perform acceptance testing whenever it acquires a new voting system or whenever the voting system is modified. The results of that acceptance testing are to be certified to the Secretary of State. Please establish procedures for that testing in accordance with the requirements detailed in this Article.*

#### 3.5. Software and firmware upgrades

*Detail how software and firmware upgrades will be distributed and how they are to be applied.*

### **4. Election Set-up and Definition**

#### 4.1. Programming and configuration of election management system/software, including audit records to be generated and retained

#### 4.2. Programming and configuration of vote recording/tabulation devices, including audit records to be generated and retained

#### 4.3. System diagnostic testing procedures, including audit records to be generated and retained

#### 4.4. System proofing

#### 4.5. Logic and accuracy testing of system and components

*The test is to verify the readiness of the system for the specific election and not just an equipment test. The test should be performed using the actual election definition and ballot formats.*

##### 4.5.1. Pre-conditions for performance of tests, including test decks (as appropriate)

##### 4.5.2. Accuracy Test procedures

##### 4.5.3. Logic Test procedures

##### 4.5.4. Retention of test materials

##### 4.5.5. Logic and Accuracy Board and certification of testing

#### 4.6. Ballot tally programs

#### 4.7. Election Observer Panel

- 4.8. Hardware maintenance and preparation for use
- 5. Polling Place Procedures**
  - 5.1. Precinct supplies, delivery and inspection
  - 5.2. Polling place set-up (*including equipment setup*)
  - 5.3. Opening the polls
  - 5.4. Polling place procedures
    - For DREs, include how to handle a "fleeing voter"*
  - 5.5. Special needs voters
    - What are the procedures for voters who are visually impaired or have other disabilities? What are the procedures for voters who have a language preference other than English?*
  - 5.6. Provisional voters
    - 5.6.1. In precinct
    - 5.6.2. Out of precinct
  - 5.7. Closing the polls and vote reporting
  - 5.8. Securing audit logs and back-up records
  - 5.9. Troubleshooting and problem resolution
- 6. Absentee/Mail Ballot Procedures (Central Tabulation)**
  - 6.1. System start-up and pre-tabulation report procedures
  - 6.2. Tabulation procedures
  - 6.3. Post-tabulation report and shutdown procedures
- 7. Semi-Official Canvass Tabulation and Reporting**
  - 7.1. System start-up and pre-tabulation reports
  - 7.2. Processing vote reports
    - 7.2.1. Central tabulation
    - 7.2.2. Precinct tabulation (as appropriate)
  - 7.3. Integration with county systems and Calvoter
- 8. Official Canvass and Post-Election Procedures**
  - 8.1. Election Observer Panel
  - 8.2. Canvassing precinct returns
  - 8.3. Canvassing absentee ballots
  - 8.4. Canvassing provisional ballots
  - 8.5. Canvassing write-in votes
  - 8.6. 1% Manual recount procedures
  - 8.7. Handling ballot exceptions (definition of vote, determining voter intent)
    - How to handle various incorrect markings. Guidelines on determining voter intent.*
  - 8.8. Post-election logic and accuracy testing
  - 8.9. Final reporting of official canvass
  - 8.10. Back-up and Retention of election material
    - What to back up and how. What materials and reports to retain.*
- 9. Manual Recount procedures**
- 10. Security**
  - 10.1. Physical security of system and components

*Describe all physical methods that should be employed for protecting the system, its components and data before, during and after an election*

## 10.2. Logical security of system and components

### 10.2.1. Essential and non-essential services and ports

*What features, services and ports in the operating system and supporting software should be disabled? What features, services and ports are essential and cannot be disabled?*

### 10.2.2. User-level security

*Security accounts/roles should be defined such that each level of user has only sufficient privileges to perform the tasks of that role and no more. Please provide sufficient definitions to create these accounts/roles.*

### 10.2.3. Anti-virus protection

### 10.2.4. Procedures for verifying, checking, and installing essential updates and changes

*These changes are primarily for installing critical updates to operating system, anti-virus protection or other third-party elements related to security and error correction.*

#### 10.2.4.1. Audit records for the changes showing what, when, who, and why

#### 10.2.4.2. Installation procedures for those updates which would normally be installed using an internet connection

#### 10.2.4.3. Acceptance testing after the installation.

## 10.3. Security procedures for central processing

## 10.4. Security procedures for polling places

## 10.5. Audit trails

## **11. Biennial Hardware Certification and Notification**

EC § 19220 requires jurisdictions to examine voting systems every two years and certify the results to the Secretary of State.

*Describe detailed procedures for performing the examination and certifying the results to the Secretary of State.*



**SHIRLEY N. WEBER, PH.D.**  
CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE

November 12, 2021

David J. Canepa  
President, Board of Supervisors  
County of San Mateo  
Hall of Justice - 400 County Center  
Redwood City, CA 94063

Shamann Walton  
President, Board of Supervisors  
City & County of San Francisco  
City Hall - 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244  
San Francisco, Ca. 94102-4689

Dear President Canepa and President Walton,

Thank you for your August 11, 2021 correspondence. In your correspondence, you request that the California Secretary of State adopt regulations pertaining to voting system pilot programs. It is our understanding that both of you want to utilize a voting system that is not certified or conditionally approved in California, but that is an open-source voting system, for your respective counties in a pilot program during the November 8, 2022, General Election. Thank you for your proposed text and other supporting information. You have also requested that the Secretary of State file the regulations on an emergency basis with the California Office of Administrative Law.

Secretary of State staff has met with members of your respective teams on July 15, 2021, and October 6, 2021 to discuss the current statutory requirements and possible pilot projects for an open-source voting system.

**Request for Regulations**

It is the expressed intent of the Secretary of State to move forward with promulgating regulations regarding the use of open-source voting systems in pilot programs. Preliminary activities relating to drafting proposed regulations are underway. The regulations to be developed may include, but not be limited to, requirements for plans, implementation and use requirements, and testing and review requirements.

1500 11TH STREET, SACRAMENTO, CA 95814, (916) 653-7244

[WWW.SOS.CA.GOV](http://WWW.SOS.CA.GOV)





### **The Rulemaking Process Under the Administrative Procedure Act**

The state rulemaking process begins with the research and gathering of necessary materials and information to develop the following four documents required to initiate the formal Administrative Procedure Act (APA) (Chapter 3.5 of the California Government Code, section 11340 et seq.) rulemaking process with the Office of administrative Law, the agency responsible for reviewing and approving state regulations: (a) Express Terms (Proposed Regulations), (b) Notice of Proposed Action, (c) Initial Statement of Reasons, and (e) Economic and Fiscal Impact Statement. The Secretary of State has historically included parties from outside of the agency, typically those who would be subject to the proposed regulations, to participate in this process.

Upon initiation of the rulemaking process, the Secretary of State is required to also publish a notice of proposed action to the California Regulatory Notice Register and provide notice to all persons that have requested notice. Once the APA rulemaking process is officially started, the Secretary of State has one year to complete process and submit the completed rulemaking file to OAL.

The APA requires a minimum 45-day period for the public to comment to the agency in writing on the proposed regulation. The Secretary of State has historically held public hearings for proposed rulemaking actions. Hearings must be scheduled for a date at least 45 days after the notice of proposed action was published. At the public hearing, both written and oral comments are accepted.

After the initial public comment period, any changes made to the initial proposal require further notice to the public and must be made available for public comment for at least 15 days. If a change is substantial and not sufficiently related to the original proposal, the Secretary of State is required to publish another 45-day notice in the California Regulatory Notice Register. In both instances, a notice of opportunity to comment on proposed changes along with a copy of the text of the proposed changes must be sent to each person who has submitted written comments on the proposal, testified at the public hearing, or asked to receive any notices of proposed modification. However, no further public hearing is required. This typically transpires several times prior to the adoption of regulations.

The Secretary of State is required to summarize and respond to comments that are directed at the proposal or at the procedures of the rulemaking action. For each comment, the Secretary of State must include either an explanation of how the proposed action has been changed to accommodate the comment or state the reasons for rejecting the comment. In summarizing and responding to public comments, the agency must demonstrate that it understood and considered the comment. The summary and response to comments is included as part of the rulemaking file in a document called a Final Statement of Reasons. This is also an extensive process that can require a considerable amount of time and resources depending on the quantity of the received comments.

Once submitted, OAL has 30 working days to conduct a review of the rulemaking record to ensure that the agency satisfied the requirements of the APA and Office of Administrative Law's regulations. OAL will then either approve the rulemaking action and file the proposed regulation with the Secretary of State or disapprove the rulemaking action. Regulations typically become effective on quarterly dates based on when the final regulations are filed with the Secretary of State. The typical quarterly effective dates are January 1, April 1, July 1, and October 1.

### **Request to File Regulations as an Emergency**

After analysis, the request to file voting system pilot program regulations on an emergency basis to allow utilization of a piloted uncertified voting system for the November 8, 2022, General Election does not meet the requirements outlined in the California Government Code. Government Code section 11342.545 provides that an emergency means a situation that calls for immediate action to avoid serious harm to the public peace, health, safety, or general welfare. For an emergency regulation to be approved, an emergency must be shown to exist. Unless a situation is expressly deemed in statute to meet the emergency standard, an agency must make a finding of emergency by describing specific facts supported by substantial evidence that demonstrate the existence of an emergency and the need for immediate adoption of the proposed regulation. Additionally, pursuant Government Code section 11346.1(b)(2), a finding of emergency based only upon expediency, convenience, best interest, public need, or speculation, is not adequate to demonstrate the existence of an emergency.

### **Next Steps**

As indicated above, the Secretary of State has begun the preliminary activities for drafting and promulgating regulations. We look forward to your participation in the rulemaking process.

As you are aware, the California Elections Code allows that a governing board can provide for the experimental use of a voting system in a pilot program in an election if the voting system is either: (1) certified or conditionally approved prior to its experimental use; or (2) uses only software and firmware with disclosed source, implements risk-limiting auditing, is suitable for the purpose for which it is intended, preserves the secrecy of the ballot, is safe from fraud or manipulation, is accessible to voters with disabilities pursuant to Elections Code section 19242 and applicable federal laws, and is accessible to voters who require assistance in a language other than English if the language is one in which a ballot or ballot materials are required to be made available to voters pursuant to Elections Code section 14201 and applicable federal laws.

Accordingly, you have two paths forward: submit the voting system for testing and review for certification pursuant to California Elections Code and the California Code of Regulations or utilize a system that is solely disclosed source. If you chose to submit the voting system for testing and review for certification, the application and associated information can be found on our website: <https://votingsystems.cdn.sos.ca.gov/cert-and-approval/vsysapproval/vote-tech-applic-2021.pdf>. If you chose to pursue a system that is solely disclosed source, as the regulation

November 12, 2021

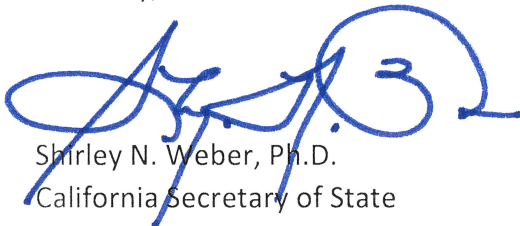
Page 4

process moves forward, the Secretary of State would encourage you to clearly outline and document each of your jurisdiction's intended voting system equipment, implementation and use and provide it to our office for feedback. The outline and documentation should provide, at minimum, (a) a list of each piece of hardware, software and firmware that will be used and how each complies with the requirements in (2) above; and (b) draft Use Procedures on how the system will be implemented and used by county election officials and poll workers. The Use Procedures should be written to conform to the template that is available from the Secretary of State's website at:

<http://votingsystems.cdn.sos.ca.gov/cert-and-approval/vsysapproval/useprocedures-2006.pdf>.

Again, thank you for your correspondence and partnership on this issue. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



Shirley N. Weber, Ph.D.  
California Secretary of State



State of California

925 L Street, Suite 805  
Sacramento, CA 95814

phone: (916) 445-2125

Milton Marks Commission on California State  
Government Organization and Economy

website: [www.lhc.ca.gov](http://www.lhc.ca.gov)

January 5, 2022

San Francisco Board of Supervisors Rules Committee  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, City Hall, Room 244  
San Francisco, CA 94102

**RE: SUPPORT FOR OPEN SOURCE VOTING PILOT LEGISLATION (FILE NO. 211303)**

Dear San Francisco Board of Supervisors Rules Committee,

The Little Hoover Commission supports legislation (File No. 211303) sponsored by Supervisor Shamann Walton that would authorize an open source voting pilot program to be conducted during the November 8, 2022 election in San Francisco.

The Commission underscored the importance of strengthening the security of the state's voting infrastructure in its March 2019 [letter](#) to the Governor and Legislature and its April 2021 report, [California Election Infrastructure: Making a Good System Better](#). In [Making a Good System Better](#), the Commission found that California relies on a for-profit model for election equipment security. Under this model, the process to test and re-certify election infrastructure is extensive and does not incentivize security upgrades for existing models.

To help California better address any security vulnerabilities, the Commission recommended that California invest in a publicly-owned, open source elections system. In this system, expert "white hat" hackers and interested members of the public could review the source code and report potential security flaws and other concerns before they could impact elections. Only authorized personnel would be allowed to physically modify the code. The Commission found several benefits to the state investing in and utilizing open source elections systems, including greater transparency, financial savings, and better alignment with a state goal to use open source software across government.

This legislation would partially implement the Commission's recommendation for California to adopt an open source elections system. For this reason, the Little Hoover Commission supports this legislation. If the Commission can provide any further information about our study, please do not hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,

Pedro Nava, Chair

C: Commissioners, Little Hoover Commission

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Pedro Nava, Chairman

Cynthia Buiza

Jim Nielsen, Senator

Sean Varner, Vice Chairman

Phillip Chen, Assemblymember

Cathy Schwamberger

Dion Aroner

Bill Emmerson

Janna Sidley

David Beier

Gil Garcetti

Ethan Rarick, Executive Director

Tasha Boerner Horvath,  
Assemblymember

Dave Min, Senator

**From:** [Brandon Philips](#)  
**To:** [Board of Supervisors, \(BOS\)](#); [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Comment in Support of the Open Source Voting Pilot Legislation, File No. 211303  
**Date:** Friday, December 31, 2021 9:20:59 PM

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This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear San Francisco Board of Supervisors-

I write to comment in support of the open-source voting pilot legislation, File No. 211303.

From September 2018 to July 2019 I served on the San Francisco Open Source Voting System Technical Advisory Committee (OSVTAC). I also served as a San Francisco Polling Place Inspector in November 2018 to gain firsthand experience on SF Elections training, processes, and hardware.

I have also spent my entire career working on open source software. Recently, I was Co-Founder and CTO of a company, CoreOS, which built open source and commercial infrastructure software that is used by companies like Nike, Starbucks, Verizon and many others. And we created many open source software products that power critical components of services run at Microsoft, Google, Amazon, and countless others.

My combined experiences with elections and open source development, I believe, give me a useful perspective to comment on the legislation under consideration. In short, I want to encourage you to pass the open-source voting pilot legislation (File No. 211303) and enable the City's open source voting pilot program with VotingWorks to proceed.

In January 2019 as part of my SF OSVTAC research I met Ben Adida, founder of VotingWorks. We discussed the challenges of creating organizations that can both build open source software and also deliver that software to enterprise users with complex requirements. Ben and I shared the same view that early on a successful open source product requires both an engaged set of early users and a core team of engineers who enjoy solving those users' problems.

Throughout the remainder of 2019 VotingWorks built an impressive initial product, piloted in a real election, and received significant donations to expand their work. It was clear that VotingWorks was rapidly becoming an organization up to the challenges we had discussed in January.

In September 2019 my family made our first donation to VotingWorks. The same motivation that motivated my volunteer efforts on the OSVTAC motivated our donation to VotingWorks: I want to see municipalities using the best possible technologies for voting systems, and my experience has shown the best possible technologies for critical systems are open source.

Further, VotingWorks does what no municipality pursuing an open source voting system on its own can accomplish: create a center for collaboration. Having a non-profit organization, like VotingWorks, focused on solving the common problems of many municipalities ensures the open source products are adaptable to municipal requirements, well documented, and encodes

the reliability that naturally emerges from lots of demanding users.

Finally, based on my personal experience as a SF Polling Place Inspector, I believe the proposed plan to pilot VotingWorks as an alternative to existing Dominion ballot marking devices will delight users, SF Elections Staff, and Poll Workers alike. I think all Poll Workers and Staff can agree the accessible ballot marking devices currently deployed in SF are unwieldy and failure-prone. So, a replacement using modern web technologies will be a welcome change.

Moving forward with this VotingWorks pilot will help San Francisco lead California in adopting open source voting technology. And I am confident that SF Staff, Poll Workers, and Voters will see excellent results with the product just as Mississippi has.

Thank You,

Brandon



**SHIRLEY N. WEBER, PH.D.**  
**CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE**

November 12, 2021

David J. Canepa  
President, Board of Supervisors  
County of San Mateo  
Hall of Justice - 400 County Center  
Redwood City, CA 94063

Shamann Walton  
President, Board of Supervisors  
City & County of San Francisco  
City Hall - 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244  
San Francisco, Ca. 94102-4689

Dear President Canepa and President Walton,

Thank you for your August 11, 2021 correspondence. In your correspondence, you request that the California Secretary of State adopt regulations pertaining to voting system pilot programs. It is our understanding that both of you want to utilize a voting system that is not certified or conditionally approved in California, but that is an open-source voting system, for your respective counties in a pilot program during the November 8, 2022, General Election. Thank you for your proposed text and other supporting information. You have also requested that the Secretary of State file the regulations on an emergency basis with the California Office of Administrative Law.

Secretary of State staff has met with members of your respective teams on July 15, 2021, and October 6, 2021 to discuss the current statutory requirements and possible pilot projects for an open-source voting system.

**Request for Regulations**

It is the expressed intent of the Secretary of State to move forward with promulgating regulations regarding the use of open-source voting systems in pilot programs. Preliminary activities relating to drafting proposed regulations are underway. The regulations to be developed may include, but not be limited to, requirements for plans, implementation and use requirements, and testing and review requirements.

1500 11TH STREET, SACRAMENTO, CA 95814, (916) 653-7244

[WWW.SOS.CA.GOV](http://WWW.SOS.CA.GOV)



### **The Rulemaking Process Under the Administrative Procedure Act**

The state rulemaking process begins with the research and gathering of necessary materials and information to develop the following four documents required to initiate the formal Administrative Procedure Act (APA) (Chapter 3.5 of the California Government Code, section 11340 et seq.) rulemaking process with the Office of administrative Law, the agency responsible for reviewing and approving state regulations: (a) Express Terms (Proposed Regulations), (b) Notice of Proposed Action, (c) Initial Statement of Reasons, and (e) Economic and Fiscal Impact Statement. The Secretary of State has historically included parties from outside of the agency, typically those who would be subject to the proposed regulations, to participate in this process.

Upon initiation of the rulemaking process, the Secretary of State is required to also publish a notice of proposed action to the California Regulatory Notice Register and provide notice to all persons that have requested notice. Once the APA rulemaking process is officially started, the Secretary of State has one year to complete process and submit the completed rulemaking file to OAL.

The APA requires a minimum 45-day period for the public to comment to the agency in writing on the proposed regulation. The Secretary of State has historically held public hearings for proposed rulemaking actions. Hearings must be scheduled for a date at least 45 days after the notice of proposed action was published. At the public hearing, both written and oral comments are accepted.

After the initial public comment period, any changes made to the initial proposal require further notice to the public and must be made available for public comment for at least 15 days. If a change is substantial and not sufficiently related to the original proposal, the Secretary of State is required to publish another 45-day notice in the California Regulatory Notice Register. In both instances, a notice of opportunity to comment on proposed changes along with a copy of the text of the proposed changes must be sent to each person who has submitted written comments on the proposal, testified at the public hearing, or asked to receive any notices of proposed modification. However, no further public hearing is required. This typically transpires several times prior to the adoption of regulations.

The Secretary of State is required to summarize and respond to comments that are directed at the proposal or at the procedures of the rulemaking action. For each comment, the Secretary of State must include either an explanation of how the proposed action has been changed to accommodate the comment or state the reasons for rejecting the comment. In summarizing and responding to public comments, the agency must demonstrate that it understood and considered the comment. The summary and response to comments is included as part of the rulemaking file in a document called a Final Statement of Reasons. This is also an extensive process that can require a considerable amount of time and resources depending on the quantity of the received comments.



Once submitted, OAL has 30 working days to conduct a review of the rulemaking record to ensure that the agency satisfied the requirements of the APA and Office of Administrative Law's regulations. OAL will then either approve the rulemaking action and file the proposed regulation with the Secretary of State or disapprove the rulemaking action. Regulations typically become effective on quarterly dates based on when the final regulations are filed with the Secretary of State. The typical quarterly effective dates are January 1, April 1, July 1, and October 1.

### **Request to File Regulations as an Emergency**

After analysis, the request to file voting system pilot program regulations on an emergency basis to allow utilization of a piloted uncertified voting system for the November 8, 2022, General Election does not meet the requirements outlined in the California Government Code. Government Code section 11342.545 provides that an emergency means a situation that calls for immediate action to avoid serious harm to the public peace, health, safety, or general welfare. For an emergency regulation to be approved, an emergency must be shown to exist. Unless a situation is expressly deemed in statute to meet the emergency standard, an agency must make a finding of emergency by describing specific facts supported by substantial evidence that demonstrate the existence of an emergency and the need for immediate adoption of the proposed regulation. Additionally, pursuant Government Code section 11346.1(b)(2), a finding of emergency based only upon expediency, convenience, best interest, public need, or speculation, is not adequate to demonstrate the existence of an emergency.

### **Next Steps**

As indicated above, the Secretary of State has begun the preliminary activities for drafting and promulgating regulations. We look forward to your participation in the rulemaking process.

As you are aware, the California Elections Code allows that a governing board can provide for the experimental use of a voting system in a pilot program in an election if the voting system is either: (1) certified or conditionally approved prior to its experimental use; or (2) uses only software and firmware with disclosed source, implements risk-limiting auditing, is suitable for the purpose for which it is intended, preserves the secrecy of the ballot, is safe from fraud or manipulation, is accessible to voters with disabilities pursuant to Elections Code section 19242 and applicable federal laws, and is accessible to voters who require assistance in a language other than English if the language is one in which a ballot or ballot materials are required to be made available to voters pursuant to Elections Code section 14201 and applicable federal laws.

Accordingly, you have two paths forward: submit the voting system for testing and review for certification pursuant to California Elections Code and the California Code of Regulations or utilize a system that is solely disclosed source. If you chose to submit the voting system for testing and review for certification, the application and associated information can be found on our website: <https://votingsystems.cdn.sos.ca.gov/cert-and-approval/vsysapproval/vote-tech-applic-2021.pdf>. If you chose to pursue a system that is solely disclosed source, as the regulation

November 12, 2021

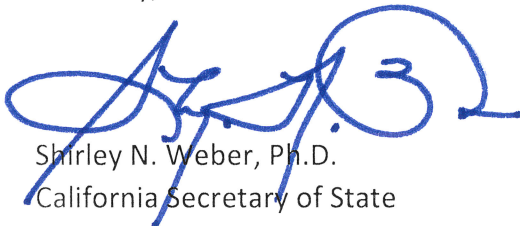
Page 4

process moves forward, the Secretary of State would encourage you to clearly outline and document each of your jurisdiction's intended voting system equipment, implementation and use and provide it to our office for feedback. The outline and documentation should provide, at minimum, (a) a list of each piece of hardware, software and firmware that will be used and how each complies with the requirements in (2) above; and (b) draft Use Procedures on how the system will be implemented and used by county election officials and poll workers. The Use Procedures should be written to conform to the template that is available from the Secretary of State's website at:

<http://votingsystems.cdn.sos.ca.gov/cert-and-approval/vsysapproval/useprocedures-2006.pdf>.

Again, thank you for your correspondence and partnership on this issue. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



Shirley N. Weber, Ph.D.  
California Secretary of State

BOARD of SUPERVISORS



City Hall  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244  
San Francisco 94102-4689  
Tel. No. 554-5184  
Fax No. 554-5163  
TDD/TTY No. 554-5227

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Director John Arntz, Department of Elections

FROM: Victor Young, Assistant Clerk *Victor Young*

DATE: December 17, 2021

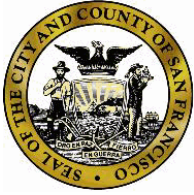
SUBJECT: LEGISLATION INTRODUCED

The Board of Supervisors' Rules Committee received the following proposed legislation:

**File No. 211303**

**Ordinance amending the Municipal Elections Code to require the Director of Elections to submit information documenting the City's intended open source voting pilot program to the California Secretary of State, on behalf of the Board of Supervisors, and, upon approval of the Secretary of State, to implement such a system for use at the November 8, 2022, election.**

If you have comments or reports to be included with the file, please forward them to me at the Board of Supervisors, City Hall, Room 244, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, San Francisco, CA 94102 or by email at: [victor.young@sfgov.org](mailto:victor.young@sfgov.org).



# City and County of San Francisco

## Master Report

City Hall  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

**File Number:** 211303      **File Type:** Ordinance      **Status:** Pending Committee Action

**Enacted:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Effective:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Version:** 1      **In Control:** Rules Committee

**File Name:** Municipal Elections Code - Open Source Voting      **Date Introduced:** 12/14/2021

**Requester:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Cost:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Final Action:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Comment:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Title:** Ordinance amending the Municipal Elections Code to require the Director of Elections to submit information documenting the City's intended open source voting pilot program to the California Secretary of State, on behalf of the Board of Supervisors, and, upon approval of the Secretary of State, to implement such a system for use at the November 8, 2022, election.

**Sponsor:** Walton

### History of Legislative File 211303

Ver	Acting Body	Date	Action	Sent To	Due Date	Result
1	President	12/14/2021	ASSIGNED	Rules Committee		
	12/16/21 - President Walton waived the 30-day rule pursuant to Board Rule No. 3.22.					

Member, Board of Supervisors  
District 3



City and County of San Francisco

**AARON PESKIN**

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DATE: January 6, 2022  
TO: Angela Calvillo  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
FROM: Supervisor Aaron Peskin, Chair, Rules Committee  
RE: Rules Committee  
COMMITTEE REPORT

---

Pursuant to Board Rule 4.20, as Chair of the Rules Committee, I have deemed the following matter is of an urgent nature and request it be considered by the full Board on Tuesday, January 11, 2022, as a Committee Report:

**211100 [Administrative Code - Commissioners - Health Service System Eligibility]**

Ordinance amending the Administrative Code to provide members of the Public Works Commission, Sanitation and Streets Commission, and Sheriff's Department Oversight Board with health insurance coverage through the San Francisco Health Service System.

**211303 [Municipal Elections Code - Open Source Voting]**

Ordinance amending the Municipal Elections Code to require the Director of Elections to submit information documenting the City's intended open source voting pilot program to the California Secretary of State, on behalf of the Board of Supervisors, and, upon approval of the Secretary of State, to implement such a system for use at the November 8, 2022, election.

This matter will be heard in the Rules Committee at a Regular Meeting on Monday, January 10, 2022, at 10:00 a.m.

*/s/ Aaron Peskin*

**From:** [Jim Soper2](#)  
**To:** [Board of Supervisors, \(BOS\)](#); [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Open source ordinance, file #: 211303  
**Date:** Thursday, January 6, 2022 12:22:39 AM

---

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Supervisors,

I am co-chair of the National Voting Rights Task Force. We are a Bay Area group that has been working for fair and accurate elections since 2004.

We are writing in support of the proposed open source ordinance, file #: 211303, as described here:

"Ordinance amending the Municipal Elections Code to require the Director of Elections to submit information documenting the City's intended open source voting pilot program to the California Secretary of State, on behalf of the Board of Supervisors, and, upon approval of the Secretary of State, to implement such a system for use at the November 8, 2022, election."

(<https://sfgov.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=5363338&GUID=17F649C5-8994-4B55-BC46-BEF731449C51>)

It is very important that the public be able to inspect the software that is used to elect our governments. No less important, we should also have access to the log files, databases, and other data associated with the voting system. With San Francisco's current vendor, the for-profit company Dominion, the software and inner workings of the system is secret and considered private property.

We urge the Board to pass this legislation.

Thank you,

Jim Soper

Co-Chair,  
National Voting Rights Task Force  
[www.nvrta.org](http://www.nvrta.org)

**From:** [Brandon Philips](#)  
**To:** [Board of Supervisors, \(BOS\)](#); [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Comment in Support of the Open Source Voting Pilot Legislation, File No. 211303  
**Date:** Friday, December 31, 2021 9:21:00 PM

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This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear San Francisco Board of Supervisors-

I write to comment in support of the open-source voting pilot legislation, File No. 211303.

From September 2018 to July 2019 I served on the San Francisco Open Source Voting System Technical Advisory Committee (OSVTAC). I also served as a San Francisco Polling Place Inspector in November 2018 to gain firsthand experience on SF Elections training, processes, and hardware.

I have also spent my entire career working on open source software. Recently, I was Co-Founder and CTO of a company, CoreOS, which built open source and commercial infrastructure software that is used by companies like Nike, Starbucks, Verizon and many others. And we created many open source software products that power critical components of services run at Microsoft, Google, Amazon, and countless others.

My combined experiences with elections and open source development, I believe, give me a useful perspective to comment on the legislation under consideration. In short, I want to encourage you to pass the open-source voting pilot legislation (File No. 211303) and enable the City's open source voting pilot program with VotingWorks to proceed.

In January 2019 as part of my SF OSVTAC research I met Ben Adida, founder of VotingWorks. We discussed the challenges of creating organizations that can both build open source software and also deliver that software to enterprise users with complex requirements. Ben and I shared the same view that early on a successful open source product requires both an engaged set of early users and a core team of engineers who enjoy solving those users' problems.

Throughout the remainder of 2019 VotingWorks built an impressive initial product, piloted in a real election, and received significant donations to expand their work. It was clear that VotingWorks was rapidly becoming an organization up to the challenges we had discussed in January.

In September 2019 my family made our first donation to VotingWorks. The same motivation that motivated my volunteer efforts on the OSVTAC motivated our donation to VotingWorks: I want to see municipalities using the best possible technologies for voting systems, and my experience has shown the best possible technologies for critical systems are open source.

Further, VotingWorks does what no municipality pursuing an open source voting system on its own can accomplish: create a center for collaboration. Having a non-profit organization, like VotingWorks, focused on solving the common problems of many municipalities ensures the open source products are adaptable to municipal requirements, well documented, and encodes

the reliability that naturally emerges from lots of demanding users.

Finally, based on my personal experience as a SF Polling Place Inspector, I believe the proposed plan to pilot VotingWorks as an alternative to existing Dominion ballot marking devices will delight users, SF Elections Staff, and Poll Workers alike. I think all Poll Workers and Staff can agree the accessible ballot marking devices currently deployed in SF are unwieldy and failure-prone. So, a replacement using modern web technologies will be a welcome change.

Moving forward with this VotingWorks pilot will help San Francisco lead California in adopting open source voting technology. And I am confident that SF Staff, Poll Workers, and Voters will see excellent results with the product just as Mississippi has.

Thank You,

Brandon



**From:** [Charlotte Hill](#)  
**To:** [Board of Supervisors, \(BOS\)](#); [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support for File No. 211303 (open-source voting pilot legislation)  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 5, 2022 9:18:41 PM

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This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear San Francisco Board of Supervisors,

I served on the San Francisco Elections Commission for two years from May 2018 to March 2020, including as Vice President in 2019. I also completed a PhD recently at UC Berkeley's Goldman School of Public Policy. My focus was on reforms that can improve democracy in the United States.

I understand that the San Francisco-based nonprofit VotingWorks recently offered to help San Francisco conduct a small pilot of its open-source paper-ballot voting system during the November 2022 election. Based on my experiences on the Elections Commission, my knowledge of VotingWorks, and my perspective on voting reform, I want to encourage you to accept this offer by passing the recently introduced open-source voting pilot legislation (File No. 211303).

I have been following VotingWorks since the fall of 2018. With its focus on open-source paper-ballot voting, I can attest that VotingWorks is a good organization and effective in its mission. I even started donating to the organization as a result. VotingWorks' progress in completing the development of an open-source paper-ballot voting system is a remarkable achievement—one that benefits everyone, because open source is available to everyone. No other organization in the United States, nonprofit or for-profit, has come close to developing a complete open-source voting system.

Developing an open-source voting system was one of the City's goals while I served on the Elections Commission. During that time, I saw many challenges faced by both advocates and the City and County itself. The consulting firm the City hired to assess the project estimated it would cost between \$12 million and \$28 million for design and development alone. In the spring of 2018, the Elections Commission asked the City to budget an initial \$4 million to start the project. Later that year, the Board of Supervisors and Mayor were able to set aside just under \$1.3 million. However, this seed money was largely taken away when the pandemic hit, leaving no remaining resources and no path to progress.

Fortunately, VotingWorks' own progress in the meantime means that San Francisco no longer has to spend millions of dollars and years of time developing its own system. VotingWorks' offer to conduct a pilot creates an opportunity for San Francisco to try an open-source system in a limited setting—at no cost to the City—all while receiving oversight from the California Secretary of State under the California Elections Code. In February 2018, the City's RFP for a new voting system had only one bidder: the City's current vendor, Dominion. If VotingWorks' system is successful in a pilot, it means that San Francisco's next voting system RFP would very likely have an open-source option. This extra option would help lower costs for the City's next voting system contract and thus free up taxpayer dollars for other City initiatives.

Moving forward with a pilot during the November 2022 election can do much to realize one of the City's goals of increased election transparency through open-source voting, and it can do so at little or no cost to the City. In doing so, San Francisco can be a participant in bringing about open-source voting and be a leader for all counties in California in the process.

Sincerely,

Charlotte Hill

<<https://my-email-signature.link/signature.gif?>

[u=1081919&e=201516869&v=a443eaa348f55550ceed0b8ab71be485f24c13b0e9d40e3f6e34bf5c0ab94d57>](https://www.google.com/search?q=1081919&e=201516869&v=a443eaa348f55550ceed0b8ab71be485f24c13b0e9d40e3f6e34bf5c0ab94d57)



Chris Jerdonek <chris.jerdonek@gmail.com>

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## Support for File #211303 (Municipal Elections Code - Open Source Voting)

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**Barbara Simons** <barbara.b.simons@gmail.com>  
To: board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org  
Cc: Chris Jerdonek <chris.jerdonek@gmail.com>

Thu, Jan 6, 2022 at 4:27 PM

Dear Board of Supervisors,

I am submitting this email in strong support of the proposed legislation (File #211303) to implement an open source voting pilot in San Francisco during the November 2022 election.

As of now, the voting systems used in San Francisco are proprietary. That means that it is not possible for independent experts to examine the software that runs the machines and report on deficiencies or errors that are uncovered without getting permission of the vendor, something that rarely is granted. Yet, these voting systems are used to tabulate our votes and determine who the various winners are. Given how contentious our elections have become together with the motivation of some bad players to manipulate our elections, San Francisco should lead the way with the most secure, open, and transparent voting system possible.

We know that it's almost impossible to write a large software program that has no errors or bugs. For that reason alone, we need to deploy voting technology that can be inspected and checked by independent experts. That's why San Francisco needs open source voting technology.

Regards,

Barbara Simons

[301 Mission St., Unit 45D](#)

[San Francisco, CA 94105](#)

P.S. Since I have been working on issues relating to voting technology for years, I've included a short bio as an fyi.

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 **Election Bio.pdf**  
87K

Barbara Simons has been on the Board of Advisors of the U.S. Election Assistance Commission since she was appointed in 2008 by Sen. Reid and reappointed by Sen. Schumer. She published *Broken Ballots: Will Your Vote Count?*, a book on voting technology co-authored with Douglas Jones. She also co-authored the report that led to the cancellation of Department of Defense's Internet voting project (SERVE) in 2004 because of security concerns. Simons is a former President of the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM), the oldest and largest international educational and scientific society for computing professionals. She is the only woman to have received the Distinguished Engineering Alumni Award from the College of Engineering of U.C. Berkeley, where she earned her Ph.D. in computer science. A fellow of ACM and of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, she also received the 2020 ACM Policy Award, the Computing Research Association Distinguished Service Award, the ACM Outstanding Contribution Award, the Electronic Frontier Foundation Pioneer Award, and the Norbert Wiener Award from Computer Professionals for Social Responsibility. She is Board Chair of Verified Voting and is retired from IBM Research.

**From:** [Melissa Ambrose](#)  
**To:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support for open-source voting system pilot legislation, file # 211303  
**Date:** Sunday, January 9, 2022 7:41:36 PM

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This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

San Francisco Office of the Clerk,

As a San Francisco resident, I'm emailing to request that the Board of Supervisors support President Walton's legislation, File No. 211303, for a pilot project of an open-source paper ballot voting system in next November's election. I join with the nearly 2,000 San Francisco residents who have signed petitions for the development of an open-source voting system since 2018.

The San Francisco Board of Supervisors has been calling for an open-source voting system for over a decade because nothing is more important to democracy than confidence in the security and transparency of our elections. As former Governor Jerry Brown said recently, "These voting machines have to be...open to observation. We gotta know. There can be no obscurity here -- nothing, nothing hidden. That's what open source means. I'm all for it."

It is simply unacceptable that one commercial vendor using secret software has a monopoly on voting systems that San Francisco can use. Any modest cost that overseeing the pilot might require from the Department of Elections would be offset many times over by the millions of dollars that could be saved by breaking that monopoly with an open-source voting system -- not to mention that San Francisco would no longer have to spend millions of dollars developing its own open-source system.

So I urge the Board of Supervisors to pass President Walton's pilot legislation. A pilot program for the November election to prove the viability of an open-source voting system will help San Francisco lead California and the nation to more transparent and less costly elections!

Melissa Ambrose  
melissambrose@gmail.com  
674 Precita Ave  
San Francisco, California 94110



**From:** [Jackie Pomies](#)  
**To:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support for open-source voting system pilot legislation, file # 211303  
**Date:** Monday, January 10, 2022 8:54:56 AM

---

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

San Francisco Office of the Clerk,

As a San Francisco resident, I'm emailing to request that the Board of Supervisors support President Walton's legislation, File No. 211303, for a pilot project of an open-source paper ballot voting system in next November's election. I join with the nearly 2,000 San Francisco residents who have signed petitions for the development of an open-source voting system since 2018.

The San Francisco Board of Supervisors has been calling for an open-source voting system for over a decade because nothing is more important to democracy than confidence in the security and transparency of our elections. As former Governor Jerry Brown said recently, "These voting machines have to be...open to observation. We gotta know. There can be no obscurity here -- nothing, nothing hidden. That's what open source means. I'm all for it."

It is simply unacceptable that one commercial vendor using secret software has a monopoly on voting systems that San Francisco can use. Any modest cost that overseeing the pilot might require from the Department of Elections would be offset many times over by the millions of dollars that could be saved by breaking that monopoly with an open-source voting system -- not to mention that San Francisco would no longer have to spend millions of dollars developing its own open-source system.

So I urge the Board of Supervisors to pass President Walton's pilot legislation. A pilot program for the November election to prove the viability of an open-source voting system will help San Francisco lead California and the nation to more transparent and less costly elections!

Jackie Pomies  
jbpomies@yahoo.com  
1271 - 38th Avenue  
San Francisco, California 94122





**From:** [Revel Paul](#)  
**To:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support for open-source voting system pilot legislation, file # 211303  
**Date:** Monday, January 10, 2022 8:46:59 AM

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This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

San Francisco Office of the Clerk,

As a San Francisco resident, I'm emailing to request that the Board of Supervisors support President Walton's legislation, File No. 211303, for a pilot project of an open-source paper ballot voting system in next November's election. I join with the nearly 2,000 San Francisco residents who have signed petitions for the development of an open-source voting system since 2018.

The San Francisco Board of Supervisors has been calling for an open-source voting system for over a decade because nothing is more important to democracy than confidence in the security and transparency of our elections. As former Governor Jerry Brown said recently, "These voting machines have to be...open to observation. We gotta know. There can be no obscurity here -- nothing, nothing hidden. That's what open source means. I'm all for it."

It is simply unacceptable that one commercial vendor using secret software has a monopoly on voting systems that San Francisco can use. Any modest cost that overseeing the pilot might require from the Department of Elections would be offset many times over by the millions of dollars that could be saved by breaking that monopoly with an open-source voting system -- not to mention that San Francisco would no longer have to spend millions of dollars developing its own open-source system.

So I urge the Board of Supervisors to pass President Walton's pilot legislation. A pilot program for the November election to prove the viability of an open-source voting system will help San Francisco lead California and the nation to more transparent and less costly elections!

Revel Paul  
revelpaul@yahoo.com  
538 Taraval  
SAN FRANCISCO, California 94116



**From:** [C.Martin](#)  
**To:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support for open-source voting system pilot legislation, file # 211303  
**Date:** Monday, January 10, 2022 12:33:35 AM

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This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

San Francisco Office of the Clerk,

As a San Francisco resident, I'm emailing to request that the Board of Supervisors support President Walton's legislation, File No. 211303, for a pilot project of an open-source paper ballot voting system in next November's election. I join with the nearly 2,000 San Francisco residents who have signed petitions for the development of an open-source voting system since 2018.

The San Francisco Board of Supervisors has been calling for an open-source voting system for over a decade because nothing is more important to democracy than confidence in the security and transparency of our elections. As former Governor Jerry Brown said recently, "These voting machines have to be...open to observation. We gotta know. There can be no obscurity here -- nothing, nothing hidden. That's what open source means. I'm all for it."

It is simply unacceptable that one commercial vendor using secret software has a monopoly on voting systems that San Francisco can use. And I am in favor of a paper trail. Any modest cost that overseeing the pilot might require from the Department of Elections would be offset many times over by the millions of dollars that could be saved by breaking that monopoly with an open-source voting system -- not to mention that San Francisco would no longer have to spend millions of dollars developing its own open-source system.

So I urge the Board of Supervisors to pass President Walton's pilot legislation. A pilot program for the November election to prove the viability of an open-source voting system will help San Francisco lead California and the nation to more transparent and less costly elections!

C Martin  
chezza.m.sf@gmail.com  
950 Pine St Apt 205  
San Francisco, California 94108



**From:** [Kelly CUTHBERTSON](#)  
**To:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support for open-source voting system pilot legislation, file # 211303  
**Date:** Monday, January 10, 2022 8:39:11 AM

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This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

San Francisco Office of the Clerk,

As a San Francisco resident, I'm emailing to request that the Board of Supervisors support President Walton's legislation, File No. 211303, for a pilot project of an open-source paper ballot voting system in next November's election. I join with the nearly 2,000 San Francisco residents who have signed petitions for the development of an open-source voting system since 2018.

The San Francisco Board of Supervisors has been calling for an open-source voting system for over a decade because nothing is more important to democracy than confidence in the security and transparency of our elections. As former Governor Jerry Brown said recently, "These voting machines have to be...open to observation. We gotta know. There can be no obscurity here -- nothing, nothing hidden. That's what open source means. I'm all for it."

It is simply unacceptable that one commercial vendor using secret software has a monopoly on voting systems that San Francisco can use. Any modest cost that overseeing the pilot might require from the Department of Elections would be offset many times over by the millions of dollars that could be saved by breaking that monopoly with an open-source voting system -- not to mention that San Francisco would no longer have to spend millions of dollars developing its own open-source system.

So I urge the Board of Supervisors to pass President Walton's pilot legislation. A pilot program for the November election to prove the viability of an open-source voting system will help San Francisco lead California and the nation to more transparent and less costly elections!

And... As a 30 year resident of San Francisco, though now in Oakland (thanks to SF housing costs) I maintain a strong attachment to the City.

More importantly, what SF does matters to all citizens when it comes to protecting the vote.

Please support this measure.

Respectfully,

Kelly Cuthbertson

Kelly CUTHBERTSON  
kcuthbertson@gmail.com  
6649 Oakwood Drive  
oakland, California 94612



**From:** [Robin Mackey](#)  
**To:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support for open-source voting system pilot legislation, file # 211303  
**Date:** Monday, January 10, 2022 8:26:38 AM

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This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

San Francisco Office of the Clerk,

As a San Francisco resident, I'm emailing to request that the Board of Supervisors support President Walton's legislation, File No. 211303, for a pilot project of an open-source paper ballot voting system in next November's election. I join with the nearly 2,000 San Francisco residents who have signed petitions for the development of an open-source voting system since 2018.

The San Francisco Board of Supervisors has been calling for an open-source voting system for over a decade because nothing is more important to democracy than confidence in the security and transparency of our elections. As former Governor Jerry Brown said recently, "These voting machines have to be...open to observation. We gotta know. There can be no obscurity here -- nothing, nothing hidden. That's what open source means. I'm all for it."

It is simply unacceptable that one commercial vendor using secret software has a monopoly on voting systems that San Francisco can use. Any modest cost that overseeing the pilot might require from the Department of Elections would be offset many times over by the millions of dollars that could be saved by breaking that monopoly with an open-source voting system -- not to mention that San Francisco would no longer have to spend millions of dollars developing its own open-source system.

So I urge the Board of Supervisors to pass President Walton's pilot legislation. A pilot program for the November election to prove the viability of an open-source voting system will help San Francisco lead California and the nation to more transparent and less costly elections!

Robin Mackey  
robinmackey333@gmail.com  
249 Bocana Street  
San Francisco , California 94110





**From:** [Margaret Graham](#)  
**To:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support for open-source voting system pilot legislation, file # 211303  
**Date:** Monday, January 10, 2022 7:57:44 AM

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San Francisco Office of the Clerk,

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Margaret Graham  
margotgraham@me.com  
1980 Washington St Apt 803  
San Francisco, California 94109



**From:** [Ashley Harwood](#)  
**To:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support for open-source voting system pilot legislation, file # 211303  
**Date:** Monday, January 10, 2022 6:45:25 AM

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San Francisco Office of the Clerk,

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Ashley Harwood  
spamicidalmanic@gmail.com  
976 Harrison  
San Francisco , California 94107



**From:** [William Clark](#)  
**To:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support for open-source voting system pilot legislation, file # 211303  
**Date:** Monday, January 10, 2022 12:36:16 AM

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San Francisco Office of the Clerk,

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William Clark  
ashkenaz510@yahoo.com  
1190 Howard St Apt 510  
San Francisco, California 94103



**From:** [Virginia Horning](#)  
**To:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support for open-source voting system pilot legislation, file # 211303  
**Date:** Monday, January 10, 2022 6:26:14 AM

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San Francisco Office of the Clerk,

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Virginia Horning  
ginnyhorning@gmail.com  
280 Spear  
San Francisco, California 94105





**From:** [Pam smith](#)  
**To:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support for open-source voting system pilot legislation, file # 211303  
**Date:** Monday, January 10, 2022 8:05:56 AM

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San Francisco Office of the Clerk,

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Pam smith  
pamelasanfrancisco@yahoo.com  
Page st  
sf, California 94117



**From:** [Thomas Smith](#)  
**To:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support for open-source voting system pilot legislation, file # 211303  
**Date:** Sunday, January 9, 2022 10:12:00 PM

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San Francisco Office of the Clerk,

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Thomas Smith  
doesburg68@gmail.com  
2410 Pacific Ave. Apt 10  
San Francisco, California 94115



**From:** [Gay Chung](#)  
**To:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support for open-source voting system pilot legislation, file # 211303  
**Date:** Monday, January 10, 2022 7:28:24 AM

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San Francisco Office of the Clerk,

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Gay Chung  
gcchung@yahoo.com  
1517 Waller St.  
San Francisco, California 94117



**From:** [Ivan Rhudick](#)  
**To:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support for open-source voting system pilot legislation, file # 211303  
**Date:** Monday, January 10, 2022 7:42:30 AM

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San Francisco Office of the Clerk,

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Ivan Rhudick  
ivan.rhudick@gmail.com  
251 5th Avenue  
San Francisco, California 94118-2307





**From:** [Martin Horwitz](#)  
**To:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support for open-source voting system pilot legislation, file # 211303  
**Date:** Sunday, January 9, 2022 11:44:39 PM

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San Francisco Office of the Clerk,

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Martin Horwitz  
martin7ahorwitz@yahoo.com  
1326 23rd Ave  
San Francisco, California 94122



**From:** [Bianca Molgora](#)  
**To:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support for open-source voting system pilot legislation, file # 211303  
**Date:** Monday, January 10, 2022 4:53:26 AM

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San Francisco Office of the Clerk,

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Bianca Molgora  
biancamsf@yahoo.com  
3976 Folsom st.  
San Francisco, California 94110



**From:** [Jeff Gallegos](#)  
**To:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support for open-source voting system pilot legislation, file # 211303  
**Date:** Monday, January 10, 2022 5:23:32 AM

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San Francisco Office of the Clerk,

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Jeff Gallegos  
jeffrolimon@yahoo.com  
3966 1/2 26TH Street  
San Francisco , California 94131



**From:** [Jean Mont-Eton](#)  
**To:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support for open-source voting system pilot legislation, file # 211303  
**Date:** Monday, January 10, 2022 4:56:29 AM

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San Francisco Office of the Clerk,

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Jean Mont-Eton  
jeanmonteton@aol.com  
4333 Ulloa  
San Francisco , California 94116





**From:** [Kathleen Brown](#)  
**To:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support for open-source voting system pilot legislation, file # 211303  
**Date:** Sunday, January 9, 2022 10:44:28 PM

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San Francisco Office of the Clerk,

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Kathleen Brown  
bkate7679@gmail.com  
1245 California St.  
San Francisco, California 94109



**From:** [Jeffrey Perrone](#)  
**To:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support for open-source voting system pilot legislation, file # 211303  
**Date:** Sunday, January 9, 2022 7:43:07 PM

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Jeffrey Perrone  
jperrone@well.com  
145 Moreland Street  
San Francisco, California 94131



**From:** [Birgit Hermann](#)  
**To:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support for open-source voting system pilot legislation, file # 211303  
**Date:** Sunday, January 9, 2022 7:44:57 PM

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San Francisco Office of the Clerk,

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Birgit Hermann  
bhermannsf@aol.com  
627 Page Street  
San Francisco, California 94117



**From:** [Naomi Prochovnick](#)  
**To:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support for open-source voting system pilot legislation, file # 211303  
**Date:** Monday, January 10, 2022 12:12:54 AM

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Naomi Prochovnick  
nshomani@gmail.com  
98 Parkridge Drive, Apt. 305  
San Francisco, California 94131





**From:** [Johanna Abate](#)  
**To:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support for open-source voting system pilot legislation, file # 211303  
**Date:** Sunday, January 9, 2022 7:45:17 PM

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Johanna Abate  
johanna1115@yahoo.com  
1650 California St, Apt 9, Apt 9, Apt 9  
San Francisco, California 94109



**From:** [Nicole Ortega](#)  
**To:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support for open-source voting system pilot legislation, file # 211303  
**Date:** Sunday, January 9, 2022 11:41:00 PM

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This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

San Francisco Office of the Clerk,

As a San Francisco resident, I'm emailing to request that the Board of Supervisors support President Walton's legislation, File No. 211303, for a pilot project of an open-source paper ballot voting system in next November's election. I join with the nearly 2,000 San Francisco residents who have signed petitions for the development of an open-source voting system since 2018.

The San Francisco Board of Supervisors has been calling for an open-source voting system for over a decade because nothing is more important to democracy than confidence in the security and transparency of our elections. As former Governor Jerry Brown said recently, "These voting machines have to be...open to observation. We gotta know. There can be no obscurity here -- nothing, nothing hidden. That's what open source means. I'm all for it."

It is simply unacceptable that one commercial vendor using secret software has a monopoly on voting systems that San Francisco can use. Any modest cost that overseeing the pilot might require from the Department of Elections would be offset many times over by the millions of dollars that could be saved by breaking that monopoly with an open-source voting system -- not to mention that San Francisco would no longer have to spend millions of dollars developing its own open-source system.

So I urge the Board of Supervisors to pass President Walton's pilot legislation. A pilot program for the November election to prove the viability of an open-source voting system will help San Francisco lead California and the nation to more transparent and less costly elections!

Nicole Ortega  
nicoleortegasolano@gmail.com  
206 Wicklow Dr.  
South San Francisco, California 94080



**From:** [Isadore Rosenthal](#)  
**To:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support for open-source voting system pilot legislation, file # 211303  
**Date:** Sunday, January 9, 2022 10:53:28 PM

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San Francisco Office of the Clerk,

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Isadore Rosenthal  
isadorerosenthal@gmail.com  
1434-25th Ave.  
San Francisco, California 94122



**From:** [Pamela Magers](#)  
**To:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support for open-source voting system pilot legislation, file # 211303  
**Date:** Sunday, January 9, 2022 10:31:25 PM

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San Francisco Office of the Clerk,

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Pamela Magers  
pamelaclarecsf@aol.com  
3743 Cesar Chavez St.  
San Francisco, California 94110





**From:** [Rosemary Curry](#)  
**To:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support for open-source voting system pilot legislation, file # 211303  
**Date:** Sunday, January 9, 2022 10:43:58 PM

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San Francisco Office of the Clerk,

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Rosemary Curry  
curry.romare@yahoo.com  
68 GILLETTE AVE  
SAN FRANCISCO, California 94134



**From:** [Edward Neely](#)  
**To:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support for open-source voting system pilot legislation, file # 211303  
**Date:** Sunday, January 9, 2022 7:43:16 PM

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San Francisco Office of the Clerk,

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Edward Neely  
ecn2857@yahoo.com  
??? ???????  
San Francisco , California 94115



**From:** [Betty Kissilove](#)  
**To:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support for open-source voting system pilot legislation, file # 211303  
**Date:** Sunday, January 9, 2022 10:11:22 PM

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San Francisco Office of the Clerk,

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Betty Kissilove  
cacaogal@gmail.com  
1401 10th Ave  
San Francisco, California 94122



**From:** [Janet Stillman](#)  
**To:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support for open-source voting system pilot legislation, file # 211303  
**Date:** Sunday, January 9, 2022 9:50:58 PM

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San Francisco Office of the Clerk,

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Janet Stillman  
janetstillman@yahoo.com  
979 Alabama St  
sF, California 94110





**From:** [Birgit Hermann](#)  
**To:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support for open-source voting system pilot legislation, file # 211303  
**Date:** Sunday, January 9, 2022 10:02:11 PM

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San Francisco Office of the Clerk,

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Birgit Hermann  
bhermannsf@me.com  
627 Page St  
San Francisco, California 94117



**From:** [David Jacobson](#)  
**To:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support for open-source voting system pilot legislation, file # 211303  
**Date:** Sunday, January 9, 2022 9:54:27 PM

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San Francisco Office of the Clerk,

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David Jacobson  
newsfeatures@yahoo.com  
300 3rd Street #516  
San Francisco, California 94107



**From:** [Carol DiBenedetto](#)  
**To:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support for open-source voting system pilot legislation, file # 211303  
**Date:** Sunday, January 9, 2022 9:53:50 PM

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Carol DiBenedetto  
caroldb2001@yahoo.com  
Carol DiBenedetto, 433 Upper Terrace #2  
San Francisco, California 94117



**From:** [David Doering](#)  
**To:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support for open-source voting system pilot legislation, file # 211303  
**Date:** Sunday, January 9, 2022 7:46:09 PM

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David Doering  
davedoering@hotmail.com  
1544 Polk  
San Francisco, California 94109





**From:** [LISA PATTON](#)  
**To:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support for open-source voting system pilot legislation, file # 211303  
**Date:** Sunday, January 9, 2022 9:50:31 PM

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LISA PATTON  
lapatton729@hotmail.com  
1881 SUTTER ST APT 105  
San Francisco, California 94115



**From:** [Bill Hsu](#)  
**To:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support for open-source voting system pilot legislation, file # 211303  
**Date:** Sunday, January 9, 2022 9:43:25 PM

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Bill Hsu  
oneofmanyhsus@yahoo.com  
43 Belcher Street  
San Francisco, California 94114



**From:** [Gail Caswell](#)  
**To:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support for open-source voting system pilot legislation, file # 211303  
**Date:** Sunday, January 9, 2022 9:40:58 PM

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Gail Caswell  
sunshine4kid@yahoo.com  
839 Post St.  
San Francisco, California 94109



**From:** [Gail Henigman](#)  
**To:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support for open-source voting system pilot legislation, file # 211303  
**Date:** Sunday, January 9, 2022 9:38:25 PM

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Gail Henigman  
gnamgineh@yahoo.com  
101 Parnassus Ave Apt 1, Day, Day  
San Francisco, California 94117-4239





**From:** [lorin piper](#)  
**To:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support for open-source voting system pilot legislation, file # 211303  
**Date:** Sunday, January 9, 2022 9:31:49 PM

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lorin piper  
lorinpiper@yahoo.com  
770 DOLORES ST  
SAN FRANCISCO, California 94110



**From:** [Greg Pennington](#)  
**To:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support for open-source voting system pilot legislation, file # 211303  
**Date:** Sunday, January 9, 2022 9:27:56 PM

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Greg Pennington  
greglpennington@aol.com  
798 Post street, Apt 500  
San Francisco, California 94109



**From:** [Genevieve Fujimoto](#)  
**To:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support for open-source voting system pilot legislation, file # 211303  
**Date:** Sunday, January 9, 2022 7:46:37 PM

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Genevieve Fujimoto  
fujifuji8kamo6@sonic.net  
9 Landers Street  
San Francisco, California 94114



**From:** [Michael Pavitt](#)  
**To:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support for open-source voting system pilot legislation, file # 211303  
**Date:** Monday, January 10, 2022 12:11:48 PM

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This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

San Francisco Office of the Clerk,

As a San Francisco resident, I'm emailing to request that the Board of Supervisors support President Walton's legislation, File No. 211303, for a pilot project of an open-source paper ballot voting system in next November's election. I join with the nearly 2,000 San Francisco residents who have signed petitions for the development of an open-source voting system since 2018.

The San Francisco Board of Supervisors has been calling for an open-source voting system for over a decade because nothing is more important to democracy than confidence in the security and transparency of our elections. As former Governor Jerry Brown said recently, "These voting machines have to be...open to observation. We gotta know. There can be no obscurity here -- nothing, nothing hidden. That's what open source means. I'm all for it."

It is simply unacceptable that one commercial vendor using secret software has a monopoly on voting systems that San Francisco can use. Any modest cost that overseeing the pilot might require from the Department of Elections would be offset many times over by the millions of dollars that could be saved by breaking that monopoly with an open-source voting system -- not to mention that San Francisco would no longer have to spend millions of dollars developing its own open-source system.

So I urge the Board of Supervisors to pass President Walton's pilot legislation. A pilot program for the November election to prove the viability of an open-source voting system will help San Francisco lead California and the nation to more transparent and less costly elections!

Michael Pavitt  
mikepavitt@aol.com  
1542 34th Avenue  
San Francisco , California 94122





**From:** [Carol Brownson](#)  
**To:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support for open-source voting system pilot legislation, file # 211303  
**Date:** Monday, January 10, 2022 11:00:02 AM

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San Francisco Office of the Clerk,

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Carol Brownson  
cbbrownson@gmail.com  
2309 California St  
San Francisco, California 94115-2704



**From:** [jon morris](#)  
**To:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support for open-source voting system pilot legislation, file # 211303  
**Date:** Monday, January 10, 2022 11:55:56 AM

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San Francisco Office of the Clerk,

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jon morris  
jokimo@yahoo.com  
618 Texas st  
san francisco, California 94107



**From:** [Stewart Wilber](#)  
**To:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support for open-source voting system pilot legislation, file # 211303  
**Date:** Monday, January 10, 2022 11:55:20 AM

---

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San Francisco Office of the Clerk,

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Stewart Wilber  
s.wilber@mindspring.com  
1923A 15th St  
San Francisco, California 94114



**From:** [Miranda Duran](#)  
**To:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support for open-source voting system pilot legislation, file # 211303  
**Date:** Monday, January 10, 2022 2:38:24 PM

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San Francisco Office of the Clerk,

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Miranda Duran  
fuzzball\_mimi@yahoo.com  
2604 donegal avenue  
South San Francisco, California 94080





**From:** [Sean San José](#)  
**To:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support for open-source voting system pilot legislation, file # 211303  
**Date:** Monday, January 10, 2022 11:47:56 AM

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San Francisco Office of the Clerk,

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Sean San José  
seansanjova@yahoo.com  
566 Lisbon Street  
San Francisco, California 94112-3543



**From:** [Robert Stine](#)  
**To:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support for open-source voting system pilot legislation, file # 211303  
**Date:** Monday, January 10, 2022 1:25:05 PM

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San Francisco Office of the Clerk,

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Robert Stine  
zv75@yahoo.com  
29A Rivoli St.  
San Francisco, California 94117



**From:** [Victoria Bruckner](#)  
**To:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support for open-source voting system pilot legislation, file # 211303  
**Date:** Monday, January 10, 2022 12:52:17 PM

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San Francisco Office of the Clerk,

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Victoria Bruckner  
victoriabruckner988@gmail.com  
580 Capp Street, Apt. #706  
San Francisco, California 94110-2559



**From:** [Janice Moore](#)  
**To:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support for open-source voting system pilot legislation, file # 211303  
**Date:** Monday, January 10, 2022 10:12:43 AM

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San Francisco Office of the Clerk,

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Janice Moore  
mjani76@aol.com  
1 Federal St., Apt. 18  
San Francisco , California 94107





**From:** [Susan Alexander](#)  
**To:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support for open-source voting system pilot legislation, file # 211303  
**Date:** Monday, January 10, 2022 11:58:17 AM

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San Francisco Office of the Clerk,

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Susan Alexander  
susanalex@gmail.com  
1800 Broadway #301  
San Francisco, California 94109



**From:** [Nathan Vogel](#)  
**To:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support for open-source voting system pilot legislation, file # 211303  
**Date:** Monday, January 10, 2022 10:51:09 AM

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San Francisco Office of the Clerk,

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Nathan Vogel  
doctorspook@hotmail.com  
49 Alpine Ter  
SAN FRANCISCO, California 94177



**From:** [Janie Lucas](#)  
**To:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support for open-source voting system pilot legislation, file # 211303  
**Date:** Monday, January 10, 2022 10:33:59 AM

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San Francisco Office of the Clerk,

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Janie Lucas  
janielucas@att.net  
827 Capp St  
San Francisco, California 94110



**From:** [Mike Zonta](#)  
**To:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support for open-source voting system pilot legislation, file # 211303  
**Date:** Monday, January 10, 2022 11:55:13 AM

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San Francisco Office of the Clerk,

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Mike Zonta  
zonta1111@aol.com  
352 Brighton Ave Ocean Avenue, #329  
San Francisco, California 94112





**From:** [Julia Rieger](#)  
**To:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support for open-source voting system pilot legislation, file # 211303  
**Date:** Monday, January 10, 2022 10:23:28 AM

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San Francisco Office of the Clerk,

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Julia Rieger  
julia.rieger@gmail.com  
3501 Laguna St, Apt 203  
San Francisco, California 94123



**From:** [Ron Nieberding](#)  
**To:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support for open-source voting system pilot legislation, file # 211303  
**Date:** Monday, January 10, 2022 9:13:01 AM

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San Francisco Office of the Clerk,

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Ron Nieberding  
nieberding2@yahoo.com  
915 Franklin Street #406  
San Francisco, California 94109-7704



**From:** [jeff pekrul](#)  
**To:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support for open-source voting system pilot legislation, file # 211303  
**Date:** Monday, January 10, 2022 9:58:55 AM

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jeff pekrul  
jp89149@gmail.com  
1164 Church Street  
San Francisco, California 94114



**From:** [Marie Delloue](#)  
**To:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support for open-source voting system pilot legislation, file # 211303  
**Date:** Monday, January 10, 2022 10:46:18 AM

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Marie Delloue  
madelloue61@gmail.com  
636 Balboa  
San Francisco CA, California 94118





**From:** [Nancy Arbuckle](#)  
**To:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support for open-source voting system pilot legislation, file # 211303  
**Date:** Monday, January 10, 2022 9:44:58 AM

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Nancy Arbuckle  
crockerbuckle@mindspring.com  
2111 Hyde Street, Apt 306  
San Francisco, California 94109



**From:** [Anastasia Yovanopoulos](#)  
**To:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support for open-source voting system pilot legislation, file # 211303  
**Date:** Monday, January 10, 2022 10:17:50 AM

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This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

San Francisco Office of the Clerk,

As a San Francisco resident, I'm emailing to request that the Board of Supervisors support President Walton's legislation, File No. 211303, for a pilot project of an open-source paper ballot voting system in next November's election. I join with the nearly 2,000 San Francisco residents who have signed petitions for the development of an open-source voting system since 2018.

The San Francisco Board of Supervisors has been calling for an open-source voting system for over a decade because nothing is more important to democracy than confidence in the security and transparency of our elections. As former Governor Jerry Brown said recently, "These voting machines have to be...open to observation. We gotta know. There can be no obscurity here -- nothing, nothing hidden. That's what open source means. I'm all for it."

It is simply unacceptable that one commercial vendor using secret software has a monopoly on voting systems that San Francisco can use. Any modest cost that overseeing the pilot might require from the Department of Elections would be offset many times over by the millions of dollars that could be saved by breaking that monopoly with an open-source voting system -- not to mention that San Francisco would no longer have to spend millions of dollars developing its own open-source system.

So I urge the Board of Supervisors to pass President Walton's pilot legislation. A pilot program for the November election to prove the viability of an open-source voting system will help San Francisco lead California and the nation to more transparent and less costly elections!

Sincerely,  
Anastasia Yovanopoulos  
SF, CA 94114

Anastasia Yovanopoulos  
shashacooks@yahoo.com  
3718 24th st  
sf, California 94114



**From:** [Caroline Badger](#)  
**To:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support for open-source voting system pilot legislation, file # 211303  
**Date:** Monday, January 10, 2022 10:22:54 AM

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Caroline Badger  
CarolineBadger@yahoo.com  
2090 Pacific Avenue #201  
San Francisco, California 94109



**From:** [Melissa Ambrose](#)  
**To:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Support for open-source voting system pilot legislation, file # 211303  
**Date:** Sunday, January 9, 2022 7:41:36 PM

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San Francisco Office of the Clerk,

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Melissa Ambrose  
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San Francisco, California 94110

