


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: John Arntz, Director, Department of Elections

FROM:  Derek Evans, Assistant Clerk, Rules Committee
Board of Supervisors

DATE: March 11, 2016

SUBJECT: LEGISLATION INTRODUCED

The Board of Supervisors Rules Committee has received the following request for hearing, introduced by Supervisor Wiener on February 9, 2016. This matter is being referred to you for informational purposes. Please note that this item has been tentatively scheduled for the March 24, 2016, Rules Committee meeting.

File No. 160127 Hearing - Open Source Voting

Hearing on San Francisco's efforts to fund, design, and implement an open source voting system, including budget costs and projected roll-out schedule; and requesting the Department of Elections and the Elections Commission to report.

Please review and submit any comments you wish to be included with the legislative file.

If you have any questions or concerns please call me at (415) 554-7702 or email derek.evans@sfgov.org. To submit documentation, please forward to me at the Board of Supervisors, City Hall, Room 244, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, San Francisco, CA 94102.

Voting Rights Task Force
1015 Shattuck Ave
Berkeley, CA 94707
www.CountedAsCast.com/alameda/vrtf.php

March 7, 2016

To: The Honorable Edwin M. Lee, Mayor of San Francisco
San Francisco Board of Supervisors

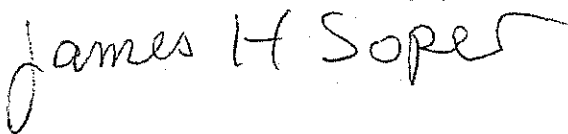
RE: Budget Support for Open Source Voting System Project

Dear Mayor Lee and Members of the Board of Supervisors:

The Voting Rights Task Force is a group of well-informed citizens that has been working to advance election integrity in the Bay Area and California since 2004.

We strongly urge you to fully fund the open source voting system initiative recommended by the Board of Supervisors and the Elections Commission. We believe that this initiative will be a very important step forward for free, fair and functional elections in San Francisco, California, and the United States.

Thank you.



James H. Soper

Co-Chair
Voting Rights Task Force

Cc: Christopher Jerdonek, Elections Commission Vice President
San Francisco Elections Commission
John Arntz, Director of Elections



www.commoncause.org

March 1, 2016

The Honorable Edwin M. Lee, Mayor of San Francisco, and
The San Francisco Board of Supervisors
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 48
City Hall
San Francisco, CA 94102

RE: Open Source Voting System Project - SUPPORT

Dear Mayor Lee and Members of the Board,

Dear Mayor Lee and Members of the Board of Supervisors:

On behalf of California Common Cause and our members, I am writing to express our support for the proposal to fund, in this year's budget, the start of a project to develop and certify an open source voting system for use in San Francisco starting in June 2020.

Common Cause supports the development and adoption of open source voting systems. Open source systems are more transparent, more adaptable to voting system, presentation, and procedural changes, and can be a long-term cost-savings. Common Cause supports a similar effort in Los Angeles County.¹

San Francisco has long been a national leader in policy and good governance innovation, and this project is in keeping with that tradition. With success, this project has the potential to improve not just San Francisco elections, but also those of other California counties.

For these reasons, Common Cause supports the funding of this project. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at nheidorn@commoncause.org or 510-798-3425.

Sincerely,

Nicolas Heidorn
Policy and Legislative Counsel
California Common Cause

¹ Available at: <http://www.lavote.net/vsap/>.

From: Board of Supervisors, (BOS)
To: BOS-Supervisors
Subject: FW: Budget Support for Open Source Voting System Project

From: Justin Jones [mailto:justin.samuel.jones@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, February 05, 2016 3:03 PM
To: Lee, Mayor (MYR) <mayoredwinlee@sfgov.org>; Board of Supervisors, (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>
Cc: Jerdonek, Chris (REG) <chris.jerdonek@sfgov.org>; turnerbrentm@gmail.com; Commission, Elections (REG) <elections.commission@sfgov.org>; Arntz, John (REG) <john.arntz@sfgov.org>
Subject: Budget Support for Open Source Voting System Project

Dear Mayor Lee and Members of the Board of Supervisors:

I am writing to encourage you to fully fund in this year's budget the start of a project to develop and certify an open source voting system for use in San Francisco starting in June 2020, as described by the San Francisco Elections Commission's unanimous November 18, 2015 resolution.

The Board of Supervisors already supports open source voting systems. In December 2014 the Board unanimously passed a resolution supporting the creation of an open source voting system. Thank you to the Board for its past leadership on this issue.

I strongly support the development and adoption of an open source voting system. Such a system would not only be more transparent. It would also be more affordable and more flexible. Elections are public processes and the foundation of our democracy. It makes sense for our voting equipment to be a shared and fully transparent public resource.

San Francisco is a leader in public policy and good government, and the San Francisco Bay Area is a world-wide center for technology and innovation. Open source voting is at the intersection of both of these areas. California has an added benefit of an association leader here.. see www.cavo-us.org . I am familiar with CAVO and know them to be staunch advocates for the best standards of open source voting.

San Francisco has a tremendous opportunity through this project to improve not just San Francisco elections but to benefit the entire country as a whole. San Francisco's voting system would be open and affordable to all jurisdictions in the country.

Again, I encourage you to fully fund open source voting in this year's budget.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Justin Jones

--

Justin Jones
[925-895-4449](tel:925-895-4449) | justin.samuel.jones@gmail.com

From: Board of Supervisors, (BOS)
To: BOS-Supervisors; Wong, Linda (BOS)
Subject: FW: support for a new open-source voting system for San Francisco

From: pbstark@gmail.com [mailto:pbstark@gmail.com] **On Behalf Of** Philip B. Stark
Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 12:51 PM
To: Lee, Mayor (MYR) <mayoredwinlee@sfgov.org>; Board of Supervisors, (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>
Cc: Jerdonek, Chris (REG) <chris.jerdonek@sfgov.org>; Arntz, John (REG) <john.arntz@sfgov.org>; Commission, Elections (REG) <elections.commission@sfgov.org>
Subject: support for a new open-source voting system for San Francisco

Dear Mayor Lee and Members of the Board of Supervisors:

I encourage you to fully fund in this year's budget the start of a project to develop an open source voting system for use in San Francisco starting in June 2020, as described in the San Francisco Elections Commission's unanimous November 18, 2015 resolution.

I am the originator of risk-limiting post-election audits and a proponent of "evidence-based elections."

In collaboration with local election officials and the Secretary of State of California and the Secretary of State of Colorado, I helped conduct risk-limiting audits in about 20 counties, primarily in California.

San Francisco did not end up participating in the pilot, but I had several conversations with Director John Arntz about auditing a mayoral contest. Ultimately, the limitations of SF's current election equipment made auditing the contest impractical--an unfortunate situation that an open-source system could correct.

My election auditing methods are embodied in laws in California and Colorado, including California AB2023, SB360, and AB44, to all of which I contributed language. I am also on the STAR-Vote team for Travis County, Texas, that is developing an open-source voting system. I am on the Board of Directors of Verified Voting. I won the John Gideon Award for Election Integrity from the Election Verification Network, and the UC Berkeley Chancellor's Award for Research in the Public Interest for my work on election auditing.

San Francisco is in a perfect position to develop and deploy an open-source system, which could improve election accuracy, transparency, and auditability and reduce acquisition and maintenance costs.

While Travis County, TX, and Los Angeles County, CA, have projects underway (from which SF might borrow components and ideas), LA's system is far from a complete specification and Travis County's system is rather more complex than San Francisco needs. San Francisco could lead the nation--and help improve the functioning of our democracy--by developing, certifying, and deploying an open-source voting system.

I would be eager to help if you decide to fund this important project.

Sincerely,

Philip B. Stark

Philip B. Stark | Associate Dean, Mathematical and Physical Sciences | Professor, Department of Statistics |
University of California
Berkeley, CA 94720-3860 | 510-394-5077 | statistics.berkeley.edu/~stark |
@philipbstark

From: Board of Supervisors, (BOS)
To: BOS-Supervisors
Subject: FW: Budget Support for Open Source Voting System Project

-----Original Message-----

From: Peter Ogilvie [mailto:peter.ogilvie@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, February 08, 2016 12:22 PM
To: Lee, Mayor (MYR) <mayoredwinlee@sfgov.org>; Board of Supervisors, (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>
Cc: Jerdonek, Chris (REG) <chris.jerdonek@sfgov.org>
Subject: Budget Support for Open Source Voting System Project

Dear Mayor Lee and Members of the Board of Supervisors:

We strongly support the development and adoption of an open source voting system. Such a system would not only be more transparent. It would also be more affordable and more flexible. Elections are public processes and the foundation of our democracy. It makes sense for our voting equipment to be a shared and fully transparent public resource.

We encourage you to fully fund open source voting in this year's budget.

Best Regards,
Sara & Peter Ogilvie

From: Board of Supervisors, (BOS)
To: BOS-Supervisors; Wong, Linda (BOS)
Subject: FW: Budget Support for Open Source Voting System Project

From: Jesse Biroscak [mailto:jesse@codeforsanfrancisco.org]
Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 9:47 PM
To: Lee, Mayor (MYR) <mayoredwinlee@sfgov.org>; Board of Supervisors, (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>
Cc: Jerdonek, Chris (REG) <chris.jerdonek@sfgov.org>; Commission, Elections (REG) <elections.commission@sfgov.org>; Arntz, John (REG) <john.arntz@sfgov.org>; maddie <maddie@codeforsanfrancisco.org>
Subject: Budget Support for Open Source Voting System Project

Dear Mayor Lee and Members of the Board of Supervisors:

I am writing to encourage you to fully fund in this year's budget the start of a project to develop and certify an open source voting system for use in San Francisco starting in June 2020, as described by the San Francisco Elections Commission's unanimous November 18, 2015 resolution.

The Board of Supervisors already supports open source voting systems. In December 2014 the Board unanimously passed a resolution supporting the creation of an open source voting system. Thank you to the Board for its past leadership on this issue.

I am Executive Director of Code for San Francisco, an organization of over 2,300 people including software developers, UX/UI designers, community organizers, marketers, and non-profit leaders. Code for SF aims to create a San Francisco where people of all types come together to work on civic technology, building relationships and making the lives of fellow San Franciscans better in the process. Chris Jerdonek, VP of the SF Elections Commission, is a long-standing contributor and member of the organization.

I strongly support the development and adoption of an open source voting system. Such a system is directly in line with Code for San Francisco's philosophy and would not only be more transparent, but would also be more affordable and more flexible than systems from private vendors. Elections are public processes and the foundation of our democracy. It makes sense for our voting equipment to be a shared and fully transparent public resource.

We at Code for SF have followed the trajectory of the open source voting system for over a year and could not be more excited that the effort has come this far. **We look forward to regularly contributing to the security and transparency of the open source voting system.**

San Francisco is a leader in public policy and good government, and the San Francisco Bay Area is a world-wide center for technology and innovation. Open source voting is at the intersection of both of these areas.

San Francisco has a tremendous opportunity through this project to improve not just San Francisco elections but to benefit the entire country as a whole. San Francisco's voting system would be open and affordable to all jurisdictions in the country.

Again, I whole-heartedly encourage you to fully fund open source voting in this year's budget.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jesse Biroscak
Captain
Code for San Francisco

From: Board of Supervisors, (BOS)
To: BOS-Supervisors
Subject: FW: Budget Support for Open Source Voting System Project
Attachments: oss_voting_letter.pdf

-----Original Message-----

From: Philip Neustrom [mailto:philipn@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, February 08, 2016 10:17 AM
To: Lee, Mayor (MYR) <mayoredwinlee@sfgov.org>; Board of Supervisors, (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>
Cc: Jerdonek, Chris (REG) <chris.jerdonek@sfgov.org>; Commission, Elections (REG) <elections.commission@sfgov.org>;
Arntz, John (REG) <john.arntz@sfgov.org>
Subject: Budget Support for Open Source Voting System Project

Please see the attached letter in support of funding an open source voting system project in this year's budget. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Philip Neustrom

City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 48
San Francisco, CA 94102

February 6, 2016

To: The Honorable Edwin M. Lee, Mayor of San Francisco
San Francisco Board of Supervisors

RE: Budget Support for Open Source Voting System Project

Dear Mayor Lee and Members of the Board of Supervisors:

I am writing to encourage you to fully fund in this year's budget the start of a project to develop and certify an open source voting system for use in San Francisco starting in June 2020, as described by the San Francisco Elections Commission's unanimous November 18, 2015 resolution.

I work as a Software Engineer here in San Francisco, and I'm proud to have called the city my home for nine years. In my mind, two of the greatest things about San Francisco are that we regularly lead on important policy, and that we are a nexus for technological innovation. Developing and certifying an open source voting system sits at the intersection of these two worlds. This is an opportunity for San Francisco to lead the nation.

The Board of Supervisors already supports open source voting systems. In December 2014 the Board unanimously passed a resolution supporting the creation of an open source voting system. Thank you to the Board for its past leadership on this issue.

I strongly support the development and adoption of an open source voting system. Such a system would not only be more transparent. It would also be more affordable and more flexible. Elections are public processes and the foundation of our democracy. It makes sense for our voting equipment to be a shared and fully transparent public resource.

San Francisco has a tremendous opportunity through this project to improve not just San Francisco elections but to benefit the entire country as a whole. San Francisco's voting system would be open and affordable to all jurisdictions in the country.

Again, I encourage you to fully fund open source voting in this year's budget.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Philip Neustrom

Cc: Christopher Jerdonek, Elections Commission Vice President
San Francisco Elections Commission
John Arntz, Director of Elections

From: Board of Supervisors, (BOS)
To: BOS-Supervisors; Wong, Linda (BOS)
Subject: FW: Budget Support for Open Source Voting System Project

From: Patrick Masson [mailto:masson@alumni.ucdavis.edu] **On Behalf Of** Patrick Masson
Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 7:12 PM
To: Lee, Mayor (MYR) <mayoredwinlee@sfgov.org>; Board of Supervisors, (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>
Cc: Jerdonek, Chris (REG) <chris.jerdonek@sfgov.org>; Commission, Elections (REG) <elections.commission@sfgov.org>; Arntz, John (REG) <john.arntz@sfgov.org>; OSI Board of Directors <board@opensource.org>
Subject: Budget Support for Open Source Voting System Project

Dear Mayor Lee and Members of the Board of Supervisors:

The Open Source Initiative (OSI) was very happy to discover the City and County of San Francisco's recent resolution on "Open Source Voting Systems" <<http://sfgov.org/electionscommission/motions-and-resolutions>> which states, "The Department of Elections should give strong preference to a voting system licensing structure that gives San Francisco all of the rights provided by a license approved by the Open Source Initiative (OSI)." Indeed, OSI Approved Licenses are recognized internationally as the standard for certifying software as open source. These licenses create a nexus of trust around which developers, users, corporations and governments can organize open source cooperation.

Building on the success of your resolution, the OSI is reaching out to encourage you to fully fund in this year's budget the start of a project to develop and certify an open source voting system for use in San Francisco starting in June 2020, as described by the San Francisco Elections Commission's unanimous November 18, 2015 resolution.

The San Francisco Board of Supervisors already supports open source voting systems. In December 2014 the Board unanimously passed a resolution supporting the creation of an open source voting system. Thank you to the Board for its past leadership on this issue.

As the steward of the Open Source Definition, the OSI is recognized internationally as the sole standards body for certifying open source licenses. The OSI works to raise awareness and adoption of open source software and build bridges between communities of practice through education, infrastructure and collaboration.

The OSI strongly supports the development and adoption of open source software for voting systems. Such systems would not only be more transparent but would also be more affordable and flexible. Elections are public processes and the foundation of democracy throughout the U.S. and world. It makes sense for the voting equipment used by your constituents to be a shared and fully transparent public resource.

San Francisco is a leader in public policy and good government, and the San Francisco Bay Area is a world-wide center for technology and innovation. Open source voting is at the intersection of both of these areas.

San Francisco has a tremendous opportunity through this project to improve not just San Francisco elections but to benefit the entire country, and even elections internationally.

Again, we encourage you to fully fund open source voting in this year's budget and we applaud your ongoing work to increase the use and development of open source software. We would be happy to assist you in any way in the future.

Thank you for your consideration,
Patrick Masson

--
|| | | ||| || | ||| || | |||

Patrick Masson
General Manager & Director
Open Source Initiative
855 El Camino Real, Ste 13A, #270
Palo Alto, CA 94301
United States
OSI Phone: (415) 857-5398
Direct Phone: (970) 4MASSON
Skype: massonpj
Em: masson@opensource.org
Ws: www.opensource.org

160127

Introduction Form

By a Member of the Board of Supervisors or the Mayor

Time stamp
or meeting date

I hereby submit the following item for introduction (select only one):

- 1. For reference to Committee. (An Ordinance, Resolution, Motion, or Charter Amendment)
- 2. Request for next printed agenda Without Reference to Committee.
- 3. Request for hearing on a subject matter at Committee.
- 4. Request for letter beginning "Supervisor [] inquires"
- 5. City Attorney request.
- 6. Call File No. [] from Committee.
- 7. Budget Analyst request (attach written motion).
- 8. Substitute Legislation File No. []
- 9. Reactivate File No. []
- 10. Question(s) submitted for Mayoral Appearance before the BOS on []

Please check the appropriate boxes. The proposed legislation should be forwarded to the following:

- Small Business Commission Youth Commission Ethics Commission
- Planning Commission Building Inspection Commission

Note: For the Imperative Agenda (a resolution not on the printed agenda), use a Imperative Form.

Sponsor(s):

Wiener

Subject:

Open Source Voting

The text is listed below or attached:

Hearing on San Francisco's efforts to fund, design, and implement an open source voting system, including budget costs and projected roll-out schedule.

Signature of Sponsoring Supervisor: Scott Wiener

For Clerk's Use Only: