1   [Supporting California State Assembly Bill No. 1784 (Santiago, Chiu, and Gonzalez) - Secure the VOTE Act]

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3   **Resolution supporting California State Assembly Bill No. 1784, authored by Assembly**

4   **Members Miguel Santiago, David Chiu, and Lorena Gonzalez, with principal co-author**

5   **Senator Scott Wiener, the "Secure the VOTE Act," to authorize the Secretary of State to**

6   **award up to $16 million in matching funds, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to**

7   **counties for the development of open-source paper ballot voting systems.**

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9   WHEREAS, In 2019 the U.S. Department of Homeland Security revealed that the

10 Russian government likely targeted election infrastructure in all 50 states in the 2016

11 presidential election; and

12 WHEREAS, Proprietary voting systems lack transparency and have proven vulnerable

13 to security threats, and the 2017 DEF CON Hacking Conference testing current proprietary

14 voting systems concluded that such systems are a "national security threat", and that "every

15 piece of equipment … was effectively breached in some manner"; and

16 WHEREAS, Publicly owned open-source paper ballot voting systems would be openly

17 licensed and therefore available for public inspection, allowing for a transparent examination

18 of public code to find possible security flaws and other issues, and allowing claims about

19 security and accuracy to be independently verified; and

20 WHEREAS, The Department of Defense uses open-source for security purposes, and

21 its manual states that "Making source code available to the public significantly aids defenders

22 and not just attackers. Continuous and broad peer-review, enabled by publicly available

23 source code, improves software reliability and security through the identification and

24 elimination of defects that might otherwise go unrecognized by the core development team.";

25 and

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1   WHEREAS, In 2014 the San Francisco Board of Supervisors unanimously voted in

2   favor of a resolution declaring support for open-source voting systems; and

3   WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco has already allocated an initial

4    $1.55 million to the Department of Technology, which is working with the Department of

5   Elections, the Elections Commission, the Mayor's Office, and other stakeholders to start

6   development of local open-source voting; and

7   WHEREAS, California State Assembly Bill No. 1784, the "Secure the Voter-verified

8   Open-source paper ballot Transparent Elections (VOTE) Act", authored by Assembly

9   Members Miguel Santiago, David Chiu, and Lorena Gonzalez, with principal co-author

10   Senator Scott Wiener, would authorize the Secretary of State to award up to $16 million total

11   in matching funds to counties to speed the development, certification, governance, and

12   distribution of open-source paper ballot voting systems that all counties would be able to

13   freely use and modify based on their needs; and

14   WHEREAS, The "Secure the VOTE Act" would provide up to $8 million in matching

15   funds that San Francisco could use for any open-source voting systems it develops and uses

16   at least on a pilot basis by the November 2024 election, if San Francisco meets all of the

17   following requirements: 1) All of the system's software developed at least in part using state or

18   county funds pursuant to Section 19504 of AB 1784 must be licensed exclusively under the

19   GNU Affero General Public License 3.0 or later; 2) All of the system's software components

20   must be open source during development, using a process that is open to public feedback.

21   Development must be carried out in public repositories by January 1, 2021; and 3) All of the

22   system's software components eligible for an award of matching funds pursuant to this

23   subdivision must be certified or conditionally approved by the Secretary of State, or approved

24   by the Secretary of State as part of a pilot program pursuant to Section 19209, for use during

25   the November 5, 2024, general election; and

1 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Elections Commission unanimously voted to request

2 that San Francisco support the "Secure the VOTE Act"; and

3 WHEREAS, Expeditiously completing the open-source voting system will save San

4 Francisco significant funds by allowing the City to be eligible to receive matching funds for its

5 voting systems, and will give voters more confidence in the security and transparency of vote

6 counting; and

7 WHEREAS, After San Francisco certifies its open-source voting system, every county

8 in the state and nation will be able to use and build on it for free, significantly increasing the

9 confidence in the security and transparency of vote-counting across the country; now,

10 therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco urges the California State

12 Legislature, Secretary of State Alex Padilla, and Governor Gavin Newsom to support and

13 pass California State Assembly Bill No. 1784, the "Secure the VOTE Act", and to allocate the

14 $16 million in matching funds to implement AB 1784; and, be it

15 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco hereby directs the

16 Clerk of the Board to transmit copies of this Resolution to the California State Legislature, to

17 Secretary of State Alex Padilla, and to the Office of the Governor of California.

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