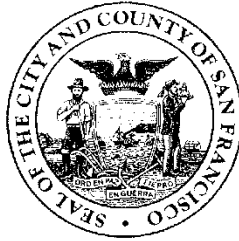


Elections Commission
City and County of San Francisco

Roger Donaldson, President
Viva Mogi, Vice President
Christopher Jerdonek
Charles Jung
Jill Rowe
Rosabella Safont



Don Chan, Secretary

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

March 28, 2017

To: San Francisco Mayor Mark E. Farrell
San Francisco Board of Supervisors, Budget and Finance Committee Chairperson Malia Cohen

RE: Request for letter supporting State matching funds for Open Source Voting System development

Dear Honorable Mayor Farrell and Honorable Supervisor Cohen:

I am writing on behalf of the San Francisco Elections Commission to humbly ask that you send a letter to certain members of the State Legislature in support of matching funds in the State's budget for the development of an open source voting system. Background and additional details are described below.

On December 9, 2014, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors unanimously passed Resolution 460-14, a "[Resolution committing the City and County of San Francisco to work with other jurisdictions and organizations to create new voting systems using open source software...](#)" On November 18, 2015, the San Francisco Election Commission unanimously passed a "[Resolution to support the development and certification of an open source voting system...](#)" This month the consulting firm Slalom delivered its [Open Source Voting System Feasibility Assessment](#) laying the groundwork of next steps for San Francisco to develop such a system.

As the State of California prepares its budget, there is an opportunity for the State to include in its FY 2018-19 budget matching funds for the development of an open source voting system by a California county. The California Clean Money Campaign is leading this effort, and San Francisco would be eligible to apply for these funds.

On 21 March 2018, the Election Commission unanimously approved a motion to request that the Mayor and Chair of the Budget Committee of the Board of Supervisors send a letter in support of this budget request. The letter should be sent to the Chairs of the Budget Committee of each house of the California Legislature (Assemblymember Philip Ting and Senator Holly Mitchell).

The terms of matching for such a project are suggested to be 2-to-1 initially – matching up to \$4M of County funds with \$8M in State funds. The \$12M total is consistent with the range of estimates provided by potential third-party

development respondents to the Department of Elections Request for Information issued August 6, 2015 and also falls within some of the ranges of Slalom's report.

Such a match would reduce the financial burden and accelerate the development of an open source voting system vital to ensuring the integrity of the vote, which is a foundation of our democracy. Ultimately this will not only reduce the cost of the project, but also the cost of future elections run on the resulting system. More importantly, it will ensure a system which can be transparently developed, deployed, and used; ensuring the highest integrity of elections and benefiting all citizens and jurisdictions using the system. The rest of the Commissioners and I urge that you send a letter to request these matching funds at your earliest opportunity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roger D. Donaldson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Roger D. Donaldson, President
San Francisco Election Commission

Cc: San Francisco Elections Commission
Mr. John Arntz, San Francisco Director of Elections