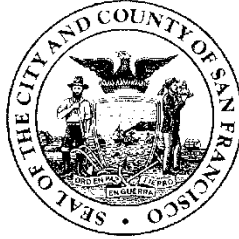


Elections Commission
City and County of San Francisco

Roger Donaldson, President
Viva Mogi, Vice President
Christopher Jerdonek
Charles Jung
Jill Rowe
Charlotte Hill



Don Chan, Secretary

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

June 1, 2018

To: San Francisco Mayor Mark E. Farrell
San Francisco Board of Supervisors, Budget and Finance Committee Chairperson Malia Cohen
San Francisco Committee on Information Technology (COIT) Members

RE: Request for \$4M Funding in 2018-2019 Budget for Open Source Voting System development

Dear Honorable Mayor Farrell, Honorable Supervisor Cohen, Members of COIT,

With the release of the Mayor's budget, I am writing on behalf of the San Francisco Elections Commission to renew our request that \$4M of funding be included in the in the FY2018-2019 budget for the development of publicly owned open source voting system to process voter marked paper ballots. Background and additional details are described below.


Reference:

- In June 2011, The San Francisco Voting System Task Force, formed under Ordinance No. 268-08 delivered its [Recommendations on Voting Systems for the City and County of San Francisco](#) with the elements needed to develop an open source voting system.
- 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...](#)"
- On 21 February 2017, the San Francisco Election Commission [approved the Department of Elections budget with the request that \\$4M](#) be added for the FY 2018-2019 budget year.
- In March 2018 Slalom delivered its [Open Source Voting System Feasibility Assessment](#) establishing a basis for the next stages of an open source voting system project with risks and cost ranges.
- In March 2018, the San Francisco Open Source Voting Technical Advisory Committee provided it's [OSVTAC Recommendation re: Initial Project Funding](#) to the San Francisco Election Commission on a practical approach for San Francisco to develop an open source voting system.

In FY 2017-2018 San Francisco spent \$175,000 to conduct a feasibility study. In FY 2018-2019 the Mayor's proposed budget provides incremental funding of \$300,000 for further studies. The recommendations of the OSVTAC provide a practical approach to developing the open source voting system taking into account practices that are already widely used to develop information technology solutions. While it is prudent and necessary to plan for the development of this system, a lack of the full \$4M requested in FY2018-2019 further delays the benefits to voting integrity and reduced cost that will be provided by an open source voting system.

In summary, funding for development of an open source voting system in the amount of \$4M in FY 2018-2019 is a commitment to both the integrity of our elections and fiscal responsibility.

Sincerely,



Roger D. Donaldson, President
San Francisco Election Commission

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