

Quick Facts

- ✓ **Do you want to know** exactly how your votes have been counted? How were the machines tested? *It's none of your business*, say the corporate vendors. It is their trade secret.
- ✓ **Secretary of State Bowen's Top-to-Bottom Review** is scathing. Conclusions regarding Sequoia are typical: "...lacks effective safeguards against corrupted or malicious data injected...The software suffers from numerous programming errors, many of which have a high potential to introduce or exacerbate security weaknesses.... in every case we examined the cryptography is easily circumvented. Many cryptographic functions are implemented incorrectly, based on weak algorithms with known flaws...."
- ✓ **Poor quality comes at a high price.** Parts and service available only from the original corporate vendor. No after-market competition. Touchscreen voting machines costing \$4000 or more each scrapped after only a few election cycles.
- ✓ **Open Voting** means you vote with a paper ballot that remains secret, but all rules and procedures – including automated ones – are open to public scrutiny. Voting technology shall be publicly owned, non-proprietary: free open source software used with inexpensive common hardware.
- ✓ **Stated purpose** of OVC: "develop and make available an open voting system for use in public elections."
- ✓ **Major demonstrations**
 - ◆ 2004 April – San Jose CA, County Government Center; gained favorable publicity coast-to-coast
 - ◆ 2008 January – San Luis Obispo Dem. Party Straw Poll
 - ◆ 2008 August – LinuxWorld, San Francisco
 - ◆ 2009 September 27th – California Democratic Council, San Diego CA, Executive Board Elections
- ✓ **LinuxWorld** demonstration voting system in San Francisco involved forty volunteers over the 4-day event, Aug 4-7 2008. Our 900 sq. ft. space had 17 voting booths, including one for disabled access. An average of eight volunteers were working at any given time. Conference attendees came from many countries all over the world.
- ✓ **Policy Successes:**
 - ◆ 2004 Assembly Concurrent Resolution 242, California State Legislature – called for Secretary of State report on Open Source for Elections by 1/1/2006.
 - ◆ 2008 New York State Board of Elections adopted a policy to underwrite software certification costs for voting systems based on open source software.
- ✓ **OVC is membership based.** We expect providers of Open Voting technology to join – users of the technology, too.

Endorsements / Testimonials

Brian Newby

Election Commissioner, Johnson County, Kansas

I think we have to realize a vision where elections software is ubiquitous and interoperable between hardware vendors. Voting equipment providers today utilize proprietary software, effectively locking in the vendor for the foreseeable future.



Eva Patterson

President, Equal Justice Society

Eva Jefferson Paterson has campaigned for civil rights with passion, courage and tenacity for more than three decades. She said, "It is imperative that OVC succeeds. We will help you get this done."



Dennis Kucinich

U.S. Congress

Thus the Open Voting Consortium proposal would provide a voting system that:

- Stops Secrecy in Vote Tabulation
- Provides a Voter-verifiable Paper Trail
- Is Scientifically Verifiable at all stages
- Saves Money:
- Provides for Multi-lingual, Handicap Accessible Voting:
- Can be deployed on non-networked, locked down, standardized personal computers and printers.



I join in supporting my colleague in the House of Representatives, Rep. Maxine Waters; peace and civil rights activists such as Medea Benjamin, and many other supporters, in endorsing the work of the Open Voting Consortium.

Mark Shuttleworth

Entrepreneur, Open Source Advocate

I will contribute \$5,000 personally, and you are welcome to use that endorsement to help raise additional funding.



OVC needs money to sustain and build the Open Voting movement. Privatization is still a popular notion in government: Go against private interests? The ETC estimates \$4 million for certification of a new voting system – seems risky to major investors.

OVC presentations and demos are effective and necessary. Large ones take a lot of time and resources to prepare for. Smaller ones still involve a lot of travel expenses. If you don't contribute, who will?

Checks welcome, and PayPal @OVC site. Other? Ask.



Chronology / Milestones

Nov 2000 – U.S. Pres. Elections reveals deep flaws in system. Alan Dechert has idea and begins discussions of his proposal.

Jan 2001 – Dechert attends the CA State Assembly's Elections Committee hearing, "Could California be Another Florida."

Feb 13, 2001 – Dechert presents his proposal to the Sacramento County Registrar of Voter's office, with Chris Reynolds of the Secretary of State's office in attendance.

Mar 22, 2001 – Supervisor Mike Antonovich of Los Angeles writes a memo to Registrar Recorder Conny McCormack asking her to investigate the feasibility of Alan Dechert's proposal.

Apr 2001 – CA Senate President John Burton advises Dechert to partner with UC Berkeley political scientists on a proposal for CA. Over two years, many more proposals are prepared and presented to elected officials, election officials, and foundations around CA.

Mar 2003 – Dechert begins discussions with many more academics, including David Dill, Doug Jones, and Arthur Keller.

May 2003 – Ed Cherlin & Arthur Keller: "build it with volunteers"

Jul 2003 – OVC discussion email list started

Oct 26, 2003 – E-voting forum at UC Santa Cruz includes panelist Alan Dechert of the Open Voting Consortium.

Dec 12, 2003 – OVC officially incorporated, web site established

Apr 1, 2004 – First demo of OVC prototype. Rave reviews!

Aug 2004 – OVC-sponsored ACR 242 passes State Legislature. Senator Bowen takes an interest in OVC and our initiative. Soon after, she decides to run for Secretary of State.

Jul 2005 – SoS McPherson reminded: ACR 242 report due soon..

Oct 2005 – OVC prominently cited in US GAO report on e-voting.

Feb 2006 – OVC-sponsored AB 2097 introduced. Elections Chair, Senator Bowen holds hearings that McPherson refused to hold. McPherson opposes open voting while Bowen supports it.

Nov 2006 – Bowen elected California Secretary of State

Aug 2007 – Bowen's top-to-bottom review of corporate proprietary voting systems concludes they are wide-open to hacking.

Mar 7, 2008 – State Legislature joint hearing investigates botched February primary in Los Angeles County.

Mar 21, 2008 – OVC begins series of meetings with Los Angeles

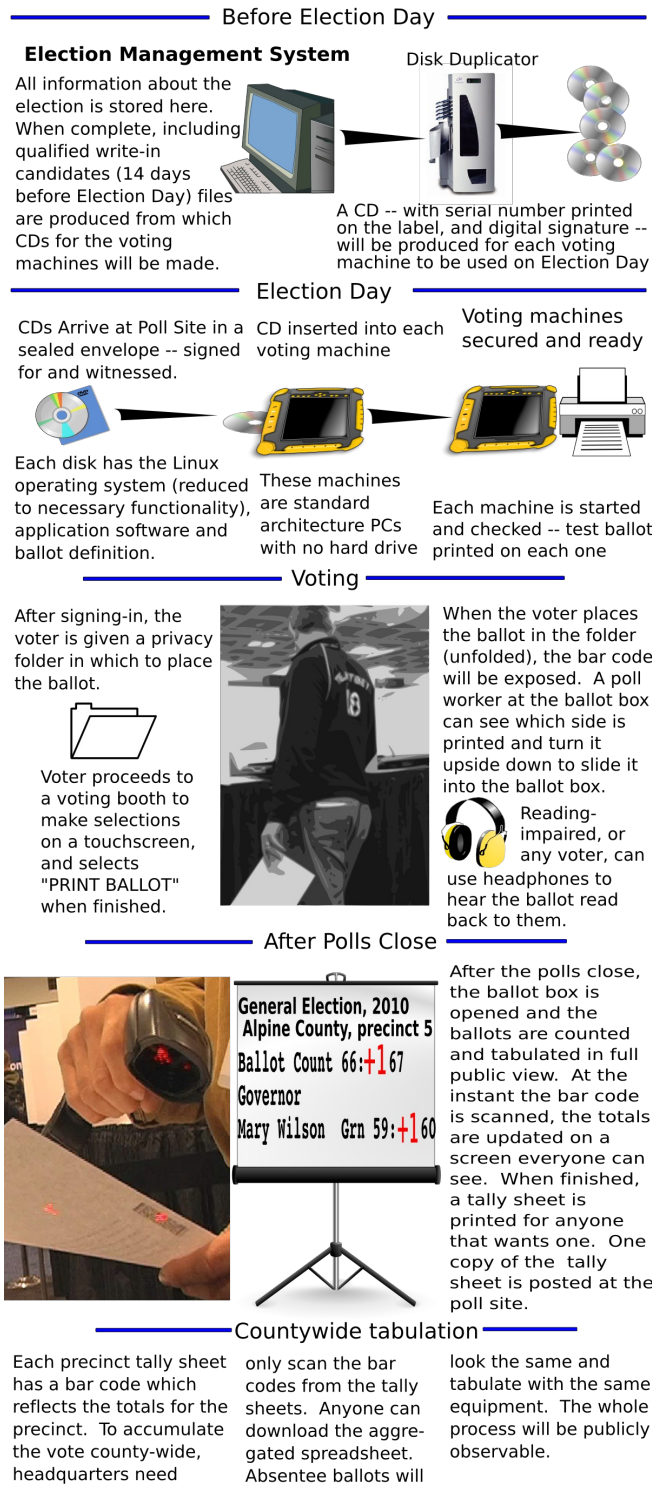
Dec 2008 – First governmental membership, Johnson Co., KS.

Apr 2009 – OVC responds to Apr 14 ETC paper on open source.

Aug 2009 – OVC launches Clear Count grassroots campaign

See <http://openvoting.org/ad/selectedlinks.html> for more

Diagram of OVC System



Frequently Asked Questions

1) What is the "Clear Count" campaign?

Clear Count is a house-to-house, person-to-person campaign of the Open Voting Consortium (OVC). We seek to build consensus and support for establishing a statewide voting system based on the OVC system.

2) Since Debra Bowen is now (and has been for the past 2.5 years) our Secretary of State, would it not make sense to shift your efforts from being an activist to working inside the system in Debra's office?

No. OVC is not inside Secretary Bowen's office, and is very unlikely to ever work "inside the system" there. Some public-private partnerships have worked before in various fields, and we agree with your logic to a degree. However, Secretary Bowen has made it clear she feels she cannot favor one organization's solution over another (whether that organization is nonprofit or for-profit). Secretary Bowen is fostering an environment in which OVC can succeed. We don't expect any more than that.

3) Who are the people behind OVC?

We are comprised of computer scientists, engineers, voting experts, voting rights activists, and concerned citizens. We also have some government officials and business people helping out. Our engineers include some of the most accomplished people in the open source world. Brian Behlendorf founded Apache, the most widely used web server software in the world (used on 106 million servers worldwide compared to Microsoft's 67 million). Our lead developer, Brian Fox, is the original author of the Bash shell. Many of our supporters also serve as election officials or observers.

4) What does Open Voting Consortium do?

- We develop open source voting software
- Demonstrate our system
- Promote public policy favorable to open voting and work against policies unfavorable to open voting (such as Holt's HR 2894)
- Educate election officials, elected officials and the general public regarding what's happening

5) Aren't you inviting hackers by making it open?

No. Somewhat paradoxically, open systems tend to be more secure. Key reason: they are peer-reviewed.

6) Could this go nationwide or even worldwide?

Absolutely. Once established in California, it could spread quickly because it is an excellent system and very inexpensive. We are already in active discussions with jurisdictions around the world including Africa.