SAN FRANCISCO ELECTIONS COMMISSION

2017 ANNUAL REPORT

January 1, 2017 – December 31, 2017

Christopher J. Jerdonek
President

Approved by the Commission on:

September 18, 2019

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1. Introduction

This is the 2017 Annual Report of the San Francisco Elections Commission, prepared in accordance with the Bylaws of the Elections Commission:

> ARTICLE IV. COMMISSION'S POWERS AND DUTIES.
>
> M. The Commission shall prepare an annual report describing its activities and shall file such report with the Mayor and the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors consistent with the Commission's duties under Section 4.103 of the San Francisco Charter and Sections 1.56 and 8.16 of the Administrative Code. This annual report shall cover the calendar year from January 1 through December 31.

See Appendix A for a copy of all sections of the Bylaws relating to the annual report.

2. Overview

Below is a list of selected events of interest that occurred during the 2017 calendar year. Commission membership related events are listed in Table 4 in Section 3.

Date	Description
April	The Department posted the job posting for the 1823 Senior Administrative Analyst position to assist with the Open Source Voting Project.
April 10	First day for new Commission Secretary Don Chan.
April 19	The Commission adopted bylaws for the Commission's Open Source Voting System Technical Advisory Committee ("TAC") and appointed President Jerdonek Chair.
April 19	The Commission adopted its "Resolution on Internet Voting."
April 26	Application period for TAC members was opened.
May 17	The Commission appointed the four remaining members to TAC.
June	The Department posted on OCA's website the RFP for the writing of the "business case" for the Open Source Voting System Project (with $175K allotted for the writing).
July 26	TAC held its first meeting.
August 16	The Commission adopted its "Resolution on Accessible Voting Education."
September	The consulting firm Slalom was selected as the winner of the RFP for the business case.
November 15	The Commission completed its annual performance evaluation of the Director of Elections.

Table 1: Timeline of selected events in 2017

3. Commission Membership

The following two tables (Tables 2 and 3) list the membership of the Commission and the Commission's Budget & Oversight of Public Elections Committee (BOPEC), as of January 1, 2017.

Name	Position	Term Ends	Appointed By
Jill Rowe	President	1/1/2021	Public Defender
Christopher Jerdonek	Vice President	1/1/2019	Board of Supervisors
Roger Donaldson		1/1/2020	City Attorney
Charles Jung		1/1/2018	Mayor
Dominic Paris		1/1/2018	Board of Education
Rosabella Safont		1/1/2019	Treasurer
Winnie Yu		1/1/2017	District Attorney

Table 2: Commission Membership as of January 1, 2017

Name	Position
Christopher Jerdonek	Chairperson
Dominic Paris	
Rosabella Safont	

Table 3: BOPEC Membership as of January 1, 2017

The following table (Table 4) lists membership changes that occurred during the course of the year. In addition, Appendix B includes a chart of meeting attendance for both the full Commission and BOPEC.

Date	Description
January 18	The Commission elected Commissioner Jerdonek President (succeeding President Rowe).
January 18	The Commission elected Commissioner Paris Vice President (succeeding Vice President Jerdonek).
January 26	President Jerdonek named Commissioner Donaldson BOPEC Chairperson (succeeding himself).
March 2	Commissioner Yu vacated the District Attorney seat after holding over for the maximum of 60 days after the end of her term.
April 13	Viva Mogi assumed the District Attorney seat.

Table 4: Timeline of Commission membership events

4. Commission Meetings

This section includes information about Commission meetings during the 2017 calendar year.

Regular Commission meetings were held on the third Wednesday of each month in Room 408 of San Francisco City Hall.

The Commission continued to have one committee, the three-member Budget and Oversight of Public Elections Committee (BOPEC). Regular BOPEC meetings were held on the first Wednesday of each month in Room 421 of City Hall.

BOPEC met four times in 2017.

- In February, it reviewed the Department's proposed budget and the Department's Open Source Voting Project.
- In May, it reviewed the Department's progress on the Open Source Voting Project.
- In September, it reviewed the Department's progress on the Open Source Voting Project again, and discussed the procedures the Commission should use for the Commission's annual performance evaluation of the Director of Elections.
- In November, it discussed open source voting as well as the Department's plan to acquire an interim replacement voting system while the open source system is being developed.

Date	Type	Duration
January 4	BOPEC	
January 18	Commission	1 hr, 44 min
February 1	BOPEC	46 min
February 15	Commission	1 hr, 43 min
March 1	BOPEC	
March 15	Commission	1 hr, 35 min
April 5	BOPEC	
April 19	Commission	3 hr, 6 min
May 3	BOPEC	21 min
May 17	Commission	1 hr, 18 min
June 7	BOPEC	
June 21	Commission	1 hr, 20 min
July 5	BOPEC	
July 19	Commission	
August 2	BOPEC	
August 16	Commission	1 hr, 50 min
September 6	BOPEC	32 min
September 20	Commission	1 hr, 23 min
October 4	BOPEC	
October 18	Commission	37 min
November 1	BOPEC	35 min
November 15	Commission	49 min
December 6	BOPEC	
December 20	Commission	

Table 5: 2017 Commission and BOPEC Meetings
(An empty gray box means no meeting was held.)

5. Director of Elections

John Arntz continued to lead the Department of Elections as the Director of Elections.

5.1. Annual Performance Evaluation of the Director of Elections

At its August meeting, the Commission began discussing making changes to its annual process of evaluating the Director of Elections' performance, including how and whether to solicit feedback from Department employees (e.g. how many employees, whether it should be in person or using a written survey, and whether or not it should be anonymous).

Commissioner Donaldson later reached out to the City's Department of Human Resources to learn about other possible processes the Commission could use (e.g. a retrospective review combined with a prospective goal-setting procedure as used to evaluate some other Department heads). The Commission decided to use its current process this year but without interviewing employees, and to work on changing its process for the future after this year's evaluation.

At the Commission's November meeting, the Commission completed its annual performance evaluation of the Director.

6. Commission Administration

6.1. Commission Secretary

The Commission did not have a Commission Secretary at the beginning of the year.

At its February meeting, the Commission interviewed three applicants for the Commission Secretary position. At the March meeting, it was announced that Don Chan had been hired for the position and would start April 10. Secretary Chan served as Commission Secretary for the remainder of the year and continued after.

6.2. Deputy City Attorney

Joshua White served as the Commission's Deputy City Attorney.

6.3. Commission website

The Commission's website was located at https://sfgov.org/electionscommission.

The Commission continued to post announcements and upcoming meetings on its website home page. The Commission also continued posting the audio of all Commission and BOPEC meetings on its YouTube channel.

The "Past Meetings" page continued to include, for each past meeting, the meeting's agenda, the

meeting's minutes, and a link to the audio for the meeting on YouTube. See the image below for a screenshot of how this looked on the Commission's Past Meetings page.

Wed, November 15, 2017	Commission	Agenda | Packet	Minutes	49:24 (YT)
Wed, November 1, 2017	BOPEC	Agenda | Packet	Minutes	34:48 (YT)
Wed, October 18, 2017	Commission	Agenda | Packet	Minutes	37:24 (YT)
Wed, October 4, 2017	BOPEC	No meeting		

Illustration 1: A screenshot of part of the table of past meetings on the "Past Meetings" page of the Commission's website

The Commission's website also continued to list Commission and BOPEC attendance. See Appendix B for a screenshot of the attendance for 2017, at the conclusion of the year.

6.4. Social media

As of January 27, 2017, the Commission's social media following was as follows:

- The Commission's Twitter account (@SFElectionsComm) had 82 followers. In comparison, the Department of Elections' Twitter account (@SFElections) had 1,142 followers at that time.
- The Commission's YouTube channel had 10 subscribers.

7. Open Source Voting

Starting with the Commission's February meeting, the Commission had an agenda item on Open Source Voting during every monthly meeting. Moreover, starting with the March meeting, the item was scheduled at or near the beginning of each meeting (e.g. right before or after General Public Comment). This made it easier for members of the public to comment on the topic, since the topic of open source voting was popular relative to other agenda item topics.

The following were some of the members of the public that commented publicly during an open source voting agenda item during the year (in order of their first comment during the year): Alec Bash, Brent Turner (California Association of Voting Officials), Jim Soper (Voting Rights Task Force), David Cary, Amee LeCheminant, Alex Rattray, Catherine Bruce, Mirka Morales, Pedro Hernandez (Deputy Director of FairVote California), John O'Duinn, Tim Mayer (California Association of Voting Officials), Tony Wasserman, Barbara Simons (Verified Voting), and Thomas Busse.

7.1. Business Case RFP, 1823 Senior Administrative Analyst, and the Search for Funding

Before the Commission's February meeting, President Jerdonek and Commissioner Donaldson met with Mayor Ed Lee's Budget Director Melissa Whitehouse and Kenneth Bukowski, the

Interim Executive Director of the Department of Technology and Interim Chief Information Officer of San Francisco, to discuss San Francisco funding the open source voting project. At the meeting, the Commissioners learned that the Mayor's Office was still deciding whether the City should pursue an open source voting system. This was despite the amount of support in the City, like the San Francisco Board of Supervisors' unanimous December 9, 2014 resolution in support of the creation of open source voting systems (File No. 141105, Resolution No. 460-14).

Starting in February, Director Arntz worked with the Mayor's Office to develop a job posting for an 1823 Senior Administrative Analyst position to assist with the open source voting project. The salary range for the position was between $89,000 and $108,000. The analyst would assist the Department in drafting an RFP for a contractor to prepare a "business case" for developing the system. The business case would be a justification for the project and enumerate the initial steps to take to develop the system.

In early March, the Mayor's Office approved the analyst position. Phase 1 of the Open Source Voting System Project, the assessment of steps to develop and implement the open source voting system, began in February 2017. Phase 2 would start no later than January 2018 and would begin development of the first components of the system. This would include issuing RFP's to identify contractors to development distinct components. Phase 3 would include issuing RFP's for any remaining components and would integrate already-developed components. Phase 4 would include submitting an application to the California Secretary of State to approve the system, for pilot use in several precincts during the November 2019 election, and as a complete system beginning with the June 2020 election.

Also in March, the Department included $4 million for the project in its proposed budget to San Francisco's Committee on Information Technology (COIT). This was later reduced to a $2 million request for the next fiscal year.

In April, the Department posted the job posting for the 1823 Senior Analyst / Project Lead position for the open source voting project.

At the May BOPEC meeting, the Committee learned that the $2 million requested for the next fiscal year was not allocated for the open source voting project. Rather, COIT wanted to wait for the business case to be completed (using the $300K already allocated) so that a concrete project could be considered during next year's budget discussions for the next fiscal year (FY 2018-19).

In June, the RFP for the business case was finally posted on the website of the San Francisco Office of Contract Administration (OCA). The RFP stated that $175K was available for the project.

In September, the Commission learned that the consulting firm Slalom had been selected. Also in September, Director Arntz informed the Commission that the 1823 position would not be filled after failing to find satisfactory candidates.

In October, President Jerdonek met with the Slalom team to discuss the open source voting system project.

8. Open Source Voting System Technical Advisory Committee ("TAC")

In 2017, the Commission created an Open Source Voting System Technical Advisory Committee (OSVTAC, or "TAC") to advise the Commission on San Francisco's open source voting system project. The TAC is made up of one Commissioner (the Chair) and four members of the public.

8.1. Creation of TAC

At the Commission's February and March meetings, the Commission discussed the possibility of forming a citizen's advisory committee (CAC) on the topic of open source voting. After the March meeting, Deputy City Attorney White, working with President Jerdonek, drafted proposed bylaws for an Open Source Voting Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). At the April meeting, the Commission voted (1) to approve the draft TAC bylaws (with some amendments), (2) to select President Jerdonek to chair the committee, and (3) to empower President Jerdonek to set up an application process for the four remaining members, review the applicants, and to come back to the next meeting with a recommendation. See Attachment 1 for the approved bylaws.

President Jerdonek initiated the application process on April 26. See Attachment 2 for the application announcement. At the May meeting, the Commission had ten applications for the four TAC positions. President Jerdonek met with all ten applicants before the meeting and shared with the Commission his recommendation of the following four: Larry Bafundo, Tony Wasserman, Roan Kattouw, and Carl Hage. The Commission voted 5-2 in favor of choosing these four candidates, pending Commissioner Rowe evaluating an Advanced Written Determination (AWD) from Carl Hage for the possibility of incompatible activities due to his employment by the League of Women Voters.

8.2. TAC Written reports

The TAC's Bylaws require TAC to provide the Commission with a written report at least once every four months. See Attachments 3 and 4 for the TAC's first two written reports (September 2017 and January 2018).

8.3. TAC web presence

The TAC maintained its own website separate from the Commission's website at https://osvtac.github.io.

The TAC's website has TAC's meeting agendas, minutes, links to the audio of each meeting hosted on YouTube, member information and bios, member attendance, TAC's open source voting recommendations, and TAC's written reports to the Elections Commission.

The website and code for the website is hosted on GitHub, a popular platform for sharing open source code. TAC's GitHub account can be viewed at https://github.com/OSVTAC.

8.4. Meetings

The TAC met once per month, with the first meeting in July. See the table below for the dates of the meetings in 2017.

Date	Duration
Wed, July 26	1 hr, 57 min
Wed, August 30	3 hr, 7 min
Thurs, September 21	3 hr, 49 min
Thurs, October 19	2 hr, 23 min
Thurs, November 16	3 hr, 23 min
Thus, December 14	3 hr, 20 min

Table 6: 2017 TAC Meetings

8.5. Members and member bios

The table below lists the initial TAC membership and their positions. Member Bafundo was selected as Vice Chair at the first TAC meeting.

Name	Position	Date appointed
Christopher Jerdonek	Chair	April 19, 2017
Larry Bafundo	Vice Chair	May 17, 2017
Carl Hage		May 17, 2017
Roan Kattouw		May 17, 2017
Tony Wasserman		May 17, 2017

Table 7: 2017 TAC Membership

Brief bios of each TAC member are below.

Larry Bafundo

Larry Bafundo is a product strategist with broad experience delivering digital solutions for the public and private sectors. He is currently a product manager at 18F, a consultancy within the federal government that helps agencies modernize their digital services, and is working with the FBI to deliver an open source solution that improves access to the nation's crime statistics. Prior to joining government he helped design a new voting system for Los Angeles County and led the planning and delivery of several digital products for Fortune 500 companies.

Carl Hage

Carl Hage has been an independent consultant for more than 25 years, primarily working in the area of Electronic Design Automation (EDA/CAD) and Internet technology. Since 1996 he has been the primary developer of Smartvoter.org (now merged with VotersEdge.org), a non-profit, non-partisan voter information system operated by the League of Women Voters, with an online sample ballot lookup for contest, candidate, and election results. He has participated in standards committees on EDA, electronic business data interchange, and election information data.

Christopher Jerdonek

Christopher Jerdonek has served on the San Francisco Elections Commission since 2014 and served as President in 2015 and 2017. He has been active in election reform for over fifteen years, including drafting Oakland's ranked-choice voting charter amendment that passed in 2006. He has served as a polling place inspector in San Francisco seventeen times. He works as a software developer by day and recently co-founded a start-up. He has contributed code to many open source projects including Python, Django, Mercurial, and WebKit. He has an A.B. in mathematics from Harvard and a Ph.D. in mathematics from the University of California, Davis.

Roan Kattouw

Roan Kattouw is a professional software engineer. He has contributed to open source software in his free time since 2007, and professionally since 2009. Roan works at the Wikimedia Foundation, the non-profit organization that operates Wikipedia and its sister projects. All software developed at Wikimedia is open source, with both volunteers and paid staff contributing.

Roan has spoken at well-known open source conferences like OSCON, Linux.conf.au and LibrePlanet. He has an M.S. in Computer Science from Stanford University, and a BSc in Computer Science from the University of Groningen.

Tony Wasserman

Anthony I. (Tony) Wasserman is a Professor in the Software Management program at Carnegie Mellon University's Silicon Valley campus. His research is focused on evaluation and adoption

of open source software. He was previously founder and CEO of Interactive Development Environments (IDE), creator of the innovative multiuser Software through Pictures development platform.

Tony has a Ph.D. in computer sciences from the University of Wisconsin - Madison and a B.A. in mathematics and physics from the University of California, Berkeley. He is a Life Fellow of the IEEE and a Fellow of the ACM, honored for his contributions to integrated software engineering environments. He served on the Board of Directors of the Open Source Initiative (OSI) from 2010-16, and is Chair of an International Working Group on Open Source. More information at http://linkedin.com/in/tonywasserman.

9. AB 668 – Voting Modernization Bond Act of 2018

At the Commission's April meeting, the Commission discussed AB 668. AB 668 was a bond measure to provide matching funds to counties for voting systems and other technologies at a ratio $2 or $3 of state money for each $1 of county money. The measure would go before California voters at the June 2018 primary. When the Commission discussed the bill, the development and certification of open source voting systems were not eligible for these funds.

At the April meeting, the Commission voted to empower President Jerdonek to work with Deputy City Attorney White to draft amendments to the bill for San Francisco's State Legislation Committee, including providing for a $4 to $1 match on open source systems.

The Commission also authorized President Jerdonek to contact members of the Legislature as early as the night of that Commission meeting, if possible, given that feedback was due to the Assembly Elections Committee by that day or the following day at 5 p.m. President Jerdonek emailed the State Legislature by the next day, with a more formal letter following shortly after. See Attachment 5 for a copy of the letter. The amendments that were requested appeared in the bill analysis. Sometime after the meeting, President Jerdonek learned that the Commission needs to go through the City's State Legislation Committee (SLC) before contacting the Legislature on state bills so the City can speak with "one voice."

Also after the meeting, President Jerdonek worked with Deputy City Attorney White to submit a Legislative Proposal Form to the State Legislative Committee. President Jerdonek appeared before the SLC to answer questions with Director Arntz and Deputy City Attorney White present. The SLC accepted the proposal and adopted a position of "support and seek amendments" on the bill.

With the help of the Mayor's Office, President Jerdonek participated in a conference call with the bill author regarding the amendments that the Commission requested. This process resulted in "one and a half" out of the four amendments the Commission requested being incorporated into the bill text, and more technical of the amendments rather than the more substantial ones.

10. Internet Voting

At its April meeting, the Commission had two invited speakers on the subject of internet voting: Mr. Jim Soper (Co-Chair, Voting Rights Task Force) and Dr. David Jefferson (Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and Verified Voting). The speakers also discussed AB 1403, which was a bill that would permit military and overseas voters to return ballots by email (a form of internet voting).

After their presentations and a discussion, the Commission voted unanimously (6-0) to adopt a "Resolution on Internet Voting." The resolution began with the text, "Resolution opposing internet and email voting in local, state, and federal elections." See Attachment 6 for the full resolution. The initial draft was authored by President Jerdonek.

The Commission also voted to authorize President Jerdonek to draft a statement from the Commission opposing AB 1403 and related internet voting laws. President Jerdonek drafted and sent a letter to the State Legislature (see Attachment 7 for the letter). Subsequently, however (as with AB 668), President Jerdonek learned that the Commission needs to go through the City's State Legislation Committee first so that the City can speak with "one voice."

11. Resolution on Accessible Voting Education

At its August meeting, the Commission had Mr. Fred Nisen (Supervising Attorney for Voting Rights, Disability Rights California) as an invited speaker on the subject of accessible voting. After the presentation and discussion, the Commission voted unanimously (7-0) to adopt a "Resolution on Accessible Voting Education." The resolution began with the text, "Resolution supporting informing all voters of the options for accessible voting." See Attachment 8 for the full resolution. The initial draft was authored by Mr. Nisen, working with President Jerdonek.

12. Department Warehouse Relocation

In 2017, the Department took steps to relocate its warehouse from Pier 48 to Pier 31. The Department developed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Public Works, and the Department secured through the City's budget process $2.1 million of reserve funds for the relocation.

13. SB 450 and the Vote Center Model

At its June meeting, the Commission discussed the topic of whether the Department should adopt the vote center model allowed by SB 450 (2015-2016). Director Arntz felt that the City shouldn't try to adopt it until after the 2020 election and after he could learn more from the experiences of other counties.

14. San Francisco Civil Grand Jury Report (2016-2017)

In June, the San Francisco Civil Grand Jury issued a 2016-2017 report on the San Francisco Retirement System that requested responses from the Elections Commission about Voter Information Pamphlets.

At its June meeting, the Commission voted to respond to the report by saying that the respondent (the Commission) disagrees wholly with the finding because the Commission lacks the knowledge to assess whether the Voter Information Pamphlet's For Retroactive Retirement Benefits Increase Proposition between 1996 and 2008 did or did not provide voters with complete estimate of the proposition's costs. With respect to the recommendations, the Commission decided to respond by saying that the recommendations will not be implemented because the Commission lacks the authority to do what is requested.

15. Appendices

A. Commission Bylaws relating to the Annual Report
B. Commission Meeting Attendance

16. Attachments

1. TAC Bylaws, April 19, 2017, 5 pages.
2. TAC Application Announcement, April 26, 2017, 2 pages.
3. TAC Report #1 (without attachments), September 2017, 4 pages.
4. TAC Report #2 (without attachments), January 2018, 3 pages.
5. Commission Letter requesting amendments to AB 668, April 21, 2017, 2 pages.
6. Elections Commission "Resolution on Internet Voting," April 19, 2017, 5 pages.
7. Commission Letter opposing AB 1403, April 20, 2017, 1 page.
8. Elections Commission "Resolution on Accessible Voting Education," August 16, 2017, 2 pages.

Appendix A

Commission Bylaws relating to the Annual Report

This appendix includes for convenience those sections of the Elections Commission Bylaws that mention the Commission Annual Report:

SAN FRANCISCO ELECTIONS COMMISSION BYLAWS

ARTICLE IV, COMMISSION'S POWERS AND DUTIES

M. The Commission shall prepare an annual report describing its activities and shall file such report with the Mayor and the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors consistent with the Commission's duties under Section 4.103 of the San Francisco Charter and Sections 1.56 and 8.16 of the Administrative Code. This annual report shall cover the calendar year from January 1 through December 31.

ARTICLE V, OFFICERS

Section 2. The President

E. As soon as reasonably practicable following completion of each calendar year, the President who served at the conclusion of that calendar year shall present a draft annual report to the full Commission. An annual report shall be approved by the full Commission as soon as reasonably practicable following submission of the draft annual report.

ARTICLE XI, COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT

Section 1. Each year, the Commission President shall cause to be bound the "Commission Annual Report."

Section 2. The Commission Annual Report shall contain the President's report of the activities of the Commission during the previous year, as well as any other information the President deems significant and of likely assistance to subsequent Commissions.

Section 3. It is the intent to preserve and pass on to successive Commissions relevant information so as to make more effective subsequent Commission tenures by providing institutional memory to assist in resolution of recurring Commission problems.

The Commission Bylaws were last amended on June 19, 2013.

Appendix B

Commission Meeting Attendance

The picture below shows Commissioner attendance for the Commission and BOPEC meetings held in 2017, as a screenshot from the attendance page of the Commission's website.

2017

Date	Meeting Type	BE	BS	CA	DA	Ma	PD	Tr
December 20, 2017	Commission (Canceled)	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
December 6, 2017	BOPEC (Canceled)	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
November 15, 2017	Commission	EL	P	EL	P	P	P	P
November 1, 2017	BOPEC	P	–	P	–	–	–	P
October 18, 2017	Commission	P	P	P	P	P	EA	P
October 4, 2017	BOPEC (Canceled)	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
September 20, 2017	Commission	P	P	P	EA	P	EL	P
September 6, 2017	BOPEC	P	–	P	–	–	–	P
August 16, 2017	Commission	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
July 5, 2017	BOPEC (Canceled)	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
June 21, 2017	Commission	EL	P	EL	P	P	P	P
June 7, 2017	BOPEC (Canceled)	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
May 17, 2017	Commission	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
May 3, 2017	BOPEC	P	–	P	–	–	–	P
April 19, 2017	Commission	P	P	EL	EL	P	EA	P
April 13, 2017	*Viva Mogi (DA) assumed office.*							
April 5, 2017	BOPEC (Canceled)	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
March 15, 2017	Commission	P	P	P	V	EA	P	EA
March 2, 2017	*Winnie Yu (DA) left office (due to term ending).*							
March 1, 2017	BOPEC (Canceled)	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
February 15, 2017	Commission	P	P	P	P	P	EA	P
February 1, 2017	BOPEC	P	–	P	–	–	–	P
January 26, 2017	*President Jerdonek (BS) appointed Roger Donaldson (CA) to replace himself as BOPEC Chair.*							
January 18, 2017	Commission	P	P	EL	EA	P	EL	P
January 4, 2017	BOPEC (Canceled)	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
January 1, 2017	*BOPEC membership: Christopher Jerdonek (BS), Dominic Paris (BE), and Rosabella Safont (Tr).*							
January 1, 2017	*Commission membership: Roger Donaldson (CA), Christopher Jerdonek (BS), Charles Jung (Ma), Dominic Paris (BE), Jill Rowe (PD), Rosabella Safont (Tr), and Winnie Yu (DA).*							

Illustration 2: Commissioner attendance in 2017

The following table shows what each column header represents.

Abbr.	Appointing Authority
BE	Board of Education
BS	Board of Supervisors
CA	City Attorney
DA	District Attorney
Ma	Mayor
PD	Public Defender
Tr	Treasurer

Table 8: Key for column header abbreviations

The following table shows what the abbreviations in each cell of the grid means.

Abbr.	Attendance Status
EA	Excused Absence
EL	Excused Late
P	Present
V	Vacant

Table 9: Key for cell content abbreviations

San Francisco Elections Commission
Open Source Voting System Technical Advisory Committee

BYLAWS

(Adopted by the Elections Commission on April 19, 2017)

Section 1. Name
There is hereby established an Open Source Voting System Technical Advisory Committee ("TAC").

Section 2. Duties and Responsibilities
The TAC shall provide technical guidance, ideas, and support to the Elections Commission ("Commission") on ways to improve and help ensure the success of the City and County of San Francisco's open source voting system project.

To carry out its duties and responsibilities, the TAC is encouraged to consult with experts in the community.

The TAC shall provide the Commission with at least three written reports per year (at least one in every four-month period), but preferably one written report every two months. The reports shall describe the TAC's activities, respond to any questions posed by the Commission, provide any recommendations, advice, and feedback, and include any other information and/or documents the TAC deems relevant to the performance of its duties. Advice can be in areas including but not limited to requirements-gathering, design, architecture, development, documentation, security, testing, certification, manufacturing, deployment, and system maintenance. Other topics for advice include strategies for procurement; project management; and managing interaction with the public around the open source software code (e.g. dealing with feedback, bug reports, and contributions).

The first report shall be due three months after the TAC is fully constituted.

At least one TAC member other than the Chair shall attend each Commission meeting and be available during the relevant agenda items to respond to questions posed by Commissioners. All TAC members are encouraged to attend Commission meetings.

Section 3. Membership
The TAC shall be comprised of five members. The officers of the TAC shall consist of a Chair and Vice Chair. The duties and responsibilities of the Chair and Vice-Chair are set forth in Section 6 of these Bylaws.

One of the members shall be a San Francisco Elections Commissioner ("Commissioner"), who shall be the Chair of the TAC. The Chair shall be selected by the Commission to serve a term of one calendar year that begins from the date of selection. The same Commissioner may serve multiple terms, and there is no limit to the number of terms a Commissioner may serve.

The remaining four TAC members shall be selected by the Commission to serve terms of one calendar year, which begin from the date of selection. The same TAC member may serve multiple terms, and there is no limit to the number of terms a TAC member may serve.

Each of these four TAC members shall have a minimum of two years of professional experience in at least one of the following categories, with at least two satisfying the first category:

1) Software engineering (including contributing to open source software projects),
2) Hardware engineering,
3) User experience (UX) or human-computer interaction (HCI),
4) Project management of software or hardware projects, and
5) Using agile methods in government procurement of technology.

Greater preference should be given to applicants with more years of relevant experience, including computer security and elections experience.

The tenure of a member of the TAC, including the Chair, shall terminate no later than 90 days after the expiration of the member's term, unless the member is re-appointed. A member may not hold-over for more than 90 days after the expiration of his or her term.

The TAC shall elect a Vice-Chair.

Section 4. Application Process
The Commission shall use an application that is substantially the same as the one attached hereto, which is hereby incorporated into these bylaws.

Members of the TAC who wish to re-apply for an additional term need not submit a new application, but rather, may inform the Commission or its designee in writing that they wish to re-apply.

TAC applications shall be public records, but shall be subject to any exemptions provided by law, including the Sunshine Ordinance, as it may be amended from time to time.

Section 5. Duration
The TAC shall exist until such time as the Commission votes to dissolve it.

Section 6. Officers

Chair. The Chair shall preside at all meetings of the TAC, and shall be responsible for submitting any documents and materials to the Commission. Unless another member is otherwise designated, the Chair shall be the spokesperson for the TAC representing the views of this body.

Vice-Chair. The Vice-Chair shall perform the duties of the Chair in the absence or incapacity of the Chair. The Vice-Chair shall be selected by the TAC to serve a term of one year. The same member may serve as Vice-Chair for multiple terms.

Section 7. Meetings and Attendance
The TAC shall meet at least once every two months. TAC members shall endeavor to attend every TAC meeting. The Chair shall notify any member who misses two meetings in any 12 month period that if a third absence occurs, the Chair shall notify the Commission regarding the member's lack of attendance.

Three members shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of conducting the TAC's business, exercising its powers and for all other purposes. An affirmative vote by three members shall be required for approval of any question brought before the TAC. When a quorum is not present, the other members shall adjourn a meeting until a quorum is obtained.

Section 8. Compliance with Open Meeting and Public Records Laws
The TAC shall comply with all applicable laws, including but not limited to the Sunshine Ordinance, the Public Records Act, and the Brown Act.

Section 9. Agendas
Agendas shall be posted on the Commission's website, outside the Department of Elections, and at the San Francisco Public Library.

Section 10. Website
The TAC may, but is not required to, create and maintain a website that includes agendas, minutes, and other documents and things related to the TAC's work and the development of an open source voting system in San Francisco.

Section 11. Commission Secretary
The Commission Secretary shall attend each TAC meeting and, upon request by the TAC Chair, prepare and post agendas. The Commission Secretary shall, upon request by the TAC Chair, prepare the minutes after each meeting. The Commission Secretary may perform other administrative duties for the TAC at the TAC's request and subject to the Commission's approval.

Section 12. Statement of Incompatible Activities
Each member of the TAC shall comply with the Statement of Incompatible Activities ("SIA") applicable to the San Francisco Elections Commission, as that SIA may be amended from time to time.

Open Source Voting System Technical Advisory Committee Application

Name _____ Date _____

Home address _____

Phone number _____ Email Address _____

Date of birth _____

Please respond to the following questions (either in this document or on a separate one):

1. Why do you want to be on the TAC?

2. What relevant skills and experience would you bring to the TAC?

3. Why do you believe it is important for San Francisco to develop an open source voting system?

4. Have you reviewed the TAC's bylaws? Do you agree to abide by them?

Please list at least two references:

Name _____ Name _____

Position_____ Position _____

Company_____ Company _____

Contact Information_____ Contact Information _____

Additional Requirements

When you submit this application, please provide an up-to-date resume. As an alternative, you may provide a printout of or link to your LinkedIn profile, so long as it contains a complete and accurate summary of your relevant experience.

Applicants are encouraged but not required to provide links to projects they have contributed to or otherwise participated in – e.g. GitHub or Bitbucket repositories in the case of category (1) and online portfolio in the case of category (3). Software engineer applicants should also provide their GitHub and/or Bitbucket usernames.

By signing below, I certify all information in this application and any attachments I submit herewith is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

_____   _____
SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT   DATE

I hereby acknowledge that if I become a member of the TAC, I am precluded from serving as a consultant to or employee of the City and County of San Francisco to play any role in the development of the City's open source voting system.

_____   _____
SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT   DATE

**This application and any attachments submitted with it are subject to
San Francisco's Sunshine Ordinance, Administrative Code Ch. 67.**

Date: April 26, 2017

Open Source Voting System Technical Advisory Committee

Now Accepting Applications

Help guide San Francisco's open source voting system project.

Application Deadline: Tues, May 9, 2017 at 5:00pm

The San Francisco [Elections Commission](#) is now accepting applications to serve on San Francisco's Open Source Voting System Technical Advisory Committee ("TAC").

The Committee's responsibility is to "provide technical guidance, ideas, and support to the Elections Commission on ways to improve and help ensure the success of the City and County of San Francisco's open source voting system project."

For complete details about serving on the Committee, read the [TAC Bylaws](#).

Application Instructions

E-mail your application to elections.commission@sfgov.org by Tuesday, May 9, 2017 at 5:00pm. Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit their applications early.

In the body of your e-mail, include the following information about yourself:

- Name
- Home address
- Phone number
- Date of birth

Either in the body of your e-mail or as an attachment, respond to the following questions:

1. Why do you want to be on the TAC?
2. What relevant skills and experience would you bring to the TAC?
3. Why do you believe it is important for San Francisco to develop an open source voting system?
4. What ideas do you have for making the TAC more effective in fulfilling its duties?
5. Have you reviewed the TAC's bylaws? Do you agree to abide by them?

In the body of your e-mail, include at least two professional references, with the following information for each:

- Name
- Position
- Company
- Contact Information

Additional Requirements

Also provide an up-to-date resume. As an alternative, you may provide a printout of or link to your LinkedIn profile, so long as it contains a complete and accurate summary of your relevant experience.

Applicants are also encouraged but not required to provide links to projects they have contributed to or otherwise participated in--e.g. GitHub or Bitbucket repositories in the case of category (1) in the Bylaws, or an online portfolio in the case of category (3) in the Bylaws. Software engineer applicants should also provide their GitHub and/or Bitbucket usernames.

Finally, please include a completed Application Acknowledgment Form, which is available here as both a PDF and Word file.

Your application and any attachments submitted with it are subject to San Francisco's Sunshine Ordinance, Administrative Code Ch. 67.

OPEN SOURCE VOTING SYSTEM
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Christopher Jerdonek, Chair
Larry Bafundo, Vice Chair
Carl Hage
Roan Kattouw
Tony Wasserman

ELECTIONS COMMISSION
City and County of San Francisco
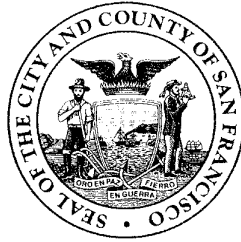
Don Chan, Secretary

September 5, 2017

To: Elections Commission

From: Open Source Voting System Technical Advisory Committee (OSVTAC)

RE: OSVTAC Report #1 (September 2017)

This report is the first written report of the Open Source Voting System Technical Advisory Committee (OSVTAC, or TAC) to the Elections Commission.

The TAC Bylaws say, "the first report shall be due three months after the TAC is fully constituted." Since the Commission finalized the appointment of the TAC's fifth member on June 2, 2017, this report was due September 2, 2017 (which falls on a Saturday of Labor Day weekend).

Below is a description of the TAC's activities during the period covered by this report, which is up to and including the TAC's second meeting. Since the Committee approved this report during its second meeting, the report does not fully cover the second meeting. More information on the second meeting can go in the Committee's next report.

Meetings

The TAC has had two meetings so far: Wednesday, July 26 at 6:00 p.m. and Wednesday, August 30 at 6:00 p.m.

The approved minutes for the July 26 meeting are attached to this report.

Sunshine Ordinance

At the first meeting, Deputy City Attorney Joshua White presented an overview of the Sunshine Ordinance to the Committee members.

TAC Website

The TAC now has its own website separate from the Commission's website. It is located at: https://osvtac.github.io. The site is hosted on the popular open-source developer website GitHub (https://github.com), which hosts most open source projects in the world.

Using GitHub has a number of advantages. It gives the TAC more freedom to try new things and use modern tools. It makes the TAC (and consequently also San Francisco's open source voting project) more visible to the wider open source community. It is also more transparent as the "code" for the site is public and can be commented on.

A screenshot of the home page is attached to this report.

Email Addresses

Most of the TAC members elected to receive and use an SFGov email address for TAC-related business.

Vice Chair

At its first meeting, the TAC elected Larry Bafundo to be Vice Chair.

"Recommendations" Document

At its second meeting, the TAC approved the first version of its "Open Source Voting System Project Recommendations" document. This is included as an attachment to this report.

This document is a "living" document that the TAC will work on over time and that members of the public will be able to contribute to and provide feedback on. The model that TAC is using to work on the document is similar in certain ways to how open source software projects are conducted.

The document will be written incrementally and in public view. Just as TAC's website is hosted on GitHub, the Recommendations document will also be stored as its own project on GitHub. The TAC will also experiment with using GitHub's project management tools to solicit feedback and contributions from the public, namely its "issues" tracker and "pull request" workflow.

More information about this is included in the introductory sections of the Recommendations document.

Attachments

1. Screenshot of TAC website home page
2. Approved Minutes for TAC's July 26, 2017 Meeting
3. Approved "Open Source Voting System Project Recommendations" document (dated September 5, 2017)

Attachment 1

Screenshot of TAC website home page: https://osvtac.github.io

SF Open Source Voting TAC

Official home page of the San Francisco Open Source
Voting System Technical Advisory Committee

The San Francisco Open Source Voting System Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) was formed
in April 2017 by the San Francisco Elections Commission.

Site Contents

- About
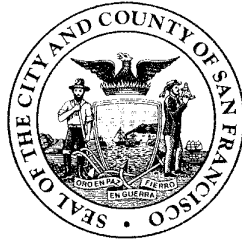- Past Meetings
- Member Attendance

Next Meeting

Date	Time	Location	Agenda & Packet
Wed, August 30, 2017	6:00PM	City Hall, Room 421	HTML / PDF

**OPEN SOURCE VOTING SYSTEM
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Christopher Jerdonek, Chair
Larry Bafundo, Vice Chair
Carl Hage
Roan Kattouw
Tony Wasserman

ELECTIONS COMMISSION
City and County of San Francisco

Don Chan, Secretary

January 5, 2018

To: Elections Commission

From: Open Source Voting System Technical Advisory Committee (OSVTAC)

RE: OSVTAC Report #2 (January 2018)

This is the second report of the Open Source Voting System Technical Advisory Committee (OSVTAC, or TAC) to the Elections Commission.

Below is a description of the TAC's activities since its last update on September 5, 2017. Prior updates to the Commission are available at: https://osvtac.github.io/about.

Meetings

Since its last report the TAC has had four meetings, all of which were held at 6:00 p.m. in City Hall:

- Thursday, September 21;
- Thursday, October 19;
- Thursday, November 16; and
- Thursday, December 14.

The minutes for the above meetings can be found at: https://osvtac.github.io/past-meetings.

Developments in Election Technology Modernization

The TAC has been monitoring developments in the election technology landscape, particularly when open source is being used to modernize elections systems. Colorado is conducting a risk-limiting audit using an open source solution to recount a statistical sample of ballots. Similarly,

Los Angeles County is designing a custom made voting booth and has submitted a portion of its tally system for state certification; although it is unclear if any part of its voting system will be made open source. Due to the lack of a complete combination of RFP responses, Travis County, Texas abandoned its pursuit of an open source voting system.

Building Awareness for the SF Open Source Voting Effort

At the October meeting, the TAC unanimously adopted a policy that TAC members are encouraged to make others, including the wider open source community, aware of the San Francisco open source voting project, via conferences and other venues.

Various members of the TAC attended or spoke at conferences in their personal capacities to help educate the public around the value of open source and build awareness around the modernization effort in San Francisco. Member Kattouw attended the 2nd Annual "Take Back the Vote!" National Election Integrity Conference in Berkeley, CA on October 7-8 that Chair Jerdonek spoke at. Member Bafundo spoke with Slalom, a consulting firm that is working with the City to assess the feasibility of an open source system, about how governments have used modular procurement techniques to deliver solutions with less risk.

In his personal capacity, Member Hage is participating in the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Voting Interoperability Public Working Group, which is developing election data standards for the next version of the Election Assistance Commission's (EAC's) Voluntary Voting System Guidelines (VVSG).

At the October meeting, the TAC voted to authorize two members to speak at conferences about the open source voting project as TAC members: Member Kattouw at LibrePlanet 2018 in March 2018 in Cambridge, MA and Member Wasserman at OSCON 2018 in July 2018 in Portland, OR.

Evolving Recommendations Document

The TAC continues to work on a recommendations document that is aimed at providing guidance to the City for developing an open source voting system. The document is being developed iteratively and in public view on GitHub in the same way that open source projects are developed. The current version of the document is included at the end of this report as an attachment, and future updates can be found on TAC's website here: https://osvtac.github.io/recommendations.

At the November meeting, the TAC voted to license the document under a Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International License (CC BY-SA 4.0), as well as to license code used to generate the document under the GNU General Public License version 3 or later (GPL-3.0+). This matches the TAC's recommendations for the open source voting project itself.

Presentation by 18F on Modular Procurement

Ms. Jessie Posilkin, an innovation specialist at 18F (a consultancy within the federal government that helps agencies modernize their digital services) was invited by Member Bafundo to present to the TAC on the value of modular procurement. Ms. Posilkin leads 18F's state and local practice and shared some of her experiences helping governments adopt more agile ways of buying and developing technology. She describes an approach where governments define what they hope to achieve in terms of broad "capabilities," rather than as specific features or functionality, and engage with vendors to deliver solutions iteratively, through small and independent "modules," rather than a single contract.

Modular procurement minimizes risk to software projects in several ways. It creates flexibility for the "highest value solution" to emerge based on what is learned through development and the timeline and budget available, rather than specifying everything in a request for proposal (RFP). The latter approach often leads to unexpected costs and delays as more is learned about the problem space and the feasibility of specific aspects of the solution. A modular approach also provides the buyer with greater control over project costs and direction, as the solution is delivered iteratively, allowing for teams to demonstrate progress with stakeholders and course correct if necessary.

Applying these principles to San Francisco's open source voting effort is encouraged and the TAC plans to incorporate them in its recommendation document to the Commission. It will require a high-level vision for the new voting system, in terms of key capabilities and components, and a perspective on how the various modules to be delivered should be sequenced. This may also represent an organizational and cultural shift for the City's technology and contracting teams, as it will require greater "product ownership" as the modules are delivered iteratively from various vendors and contracts.

Attachments

1. Approved "Open Source Voting System Project Recommendations" document (dated January 2, 2018)

ELECTIONS COMMISSION
City and County of San Francisco

Christopher Jerdonek, President
Dominic Paris, Vice President
Roger Donaldson
Charles Jung
Viva Mogi
Jill Rowe
Rosabella Safont
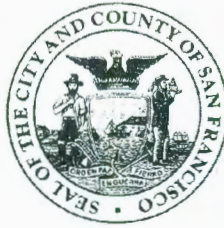
Donald Chan, Secretary

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

April 21, 2017

To: Assembly Elections & Redistricting Committee
        Mr. Ethan T. Jones, Chief Consultant

1020 N Street, Suite 365
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 668 – Amendment Request

Dear Members of the Assembly Elections & Redistricting Committee:

I am writing on behalf of the San Francisco Elections Commission to request amendments to AB 668 ("The Voting Modernization Bond Act of 2018"), the $450 million bond to assist counties in the purchase of voting equipment.

Below is a high-level description of our requested amendments. The Commission voted unanimously to request these amendments at its April 19, 2017 meeting. We will propose exact language in the next couple weeks.

First, the bill should also match costs associated with the <u>development and certification of open source voting systems,</u> and at a <u>higher</u> ratio of one dollar ($1) of county moneys for every four dollars ($4) of fund moneys. By "open source," we mean systems for example whose software is licensed under OSI-approved software licenses and whose documentation, etc. is openly licensed.

The bill should support the development and certification of open source voting systems because such work benefits not just a single county but the entire State of California. It fosters innovation in voting technology and would make available to all jurisdictions systems that are more transparent, more affordable, and more flexible than proprietary

systems. The higher matching ratio is also justified because counties undertaking such beneficial development would be bearing costs and risks not borne by other counties.

This request is very similar to language that was already adopted in October 2013 as part of then-Senator Padilla's SB 360 ("Certification of voting systems"). That bill allowed funds to be used for the "research and development of [new voting systems that use] only nonproprietary software and firmware with disclosed source code" (which is a weaker form of software openness).

The City and County of San Francisco has already begun a project to develop and certify an open source voting system. Moreover, both the San Francisco Board of Supervisors and the San Francisco Elections Commission have passed unanimous resolutions in support of open source voting systems. Last year the Mayor and Board of Supervisors allocated $300,000 towards the planning phase of the project.

Second, the bill should establish a set-aside of $2 million (amounting to less than one half of one percent of the total bond funds) to cover the cost of certifying open source voting systems. This would allow open source systems developed anywhere in the country (e.g. San Francisco; Los Angeles County; Travis County, TX; Florida or elsewhere) to be certified and thenceforth usable by any jurisdiction within the State.

Third, the bill should match not just the purchase but also the leasing of new voting systems certified by the Secretary of State. Leasing can make it more cost-effective for counties to "upgrade" their systems over time because counties wouldn't have to purchase an entirely new system to gain improvements. Moreover, when its current voting system contract ends, the San Francisco Department of Elections is planning to lease a new voting system on a short-term basis as an "interim" system while it works on developing an open source voting system. Having to purchase a new system for this potentially short period of time could be cost-prohibitive or wasteful when compared with leasing.

Thank you for considering these amendments. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about this request.

Sincerely,

Christopher Jerdonek, President
San Francisco Elections Commission

cc: Assemblymember Lorena Gonzalez Fletcher
        Assemblymember David Chiu
        Assemblymember Phil Ting
        Senator Scott Wiener
        Secretary of State Alex Padilla
        The Honorable Edwin M. Lee, Mayor of San Francisco
        San Francisco Board of Supervisors
        Mr. John Arntz, San Francisco Director of Elections
        San Francisco Elections Commission

1   SAN FRANCISCO ELECTIONS COMMISSION

2   **RESOLUTION ON INTERNET VOTING**

3   (Adopted by the San Francisco Elections Commission (6-0) on April 19, 2017.)

4

5   **Resolution opposing internet and email voting in local, state, and federal elections.**

6

7   WHEREAS, The San Francisco Elections Commission ("Elections Commission") on

8   August 20, 2008 adopted a "Policy on Favoring Paper Balloting over Other Forms," stating in

9   part that—

10   (a) "[direct-recording electronic] (DRE) voting systems capture a vote and store it on a

11   memory card rather than mark a paper ballot"; and that

12   (b) "significant numbers of voters continue to have misgivings about votes not being

13   cast on a paper ballot, believing that it provides inferior security and inferior ability to

14   conduct a meaningful recount if one is necessary"; and adopting as policy that

15   (c) "the San Francisco Department of Elections shall operate in all its functions so as to

16   prefer the use of paper ballots (either marked by hand with the current system or

17   marked with the assistance of a machine designed for disabled access in future

18   systems) over the use of DRE voting," consistent with any legal requirements;

19   WHEREAS, Internet voting systems, including returning marked ballots by email, do

20   not involve casting paper ballots, meaning there is no meaningful or independent way to

21   audit, recount or correct results in the case of electronic error or tampering;

22   WHEREAS, Internet voting is fraught with even more risk than DRE voting, because it

23   exposes local election jurisdictions to foreign governments, potential adversaries, and

1   malicious actors located anywhere in the world—enabling large-scale, sophisticated,

2   automated, undetectable, and uncorrectable vote tampering;

3   WHEREAS, The San Francisco Voting Systems Task Force, in its June 2011 report,

4   concluded in part that—

5   (a) "anyone anywhere with Internet access has the ability to target remote digital voting

6   systems in order to carry out the same type of Internet-based attacks that have

7   succeeded against several organizations with security expertise that far exceeds that

8   of any voting system vendor or election jurisdiction—including Google, Adobe, RSA

9   Security, and dozens of other large corporations"; and that

10   (b) "the use of remote digital voting—especially the digital return of voted electronic

11   ballots with no audited paper ballots—is far too insecure in public elections application

12   for the foreseeable future"; and that

13   (c) "the official 'ballot of record' should be a paper artifact";

14   WHEREAS, The Elections Commission on November 18, 2015 adopted a resolution

15   "that it be the position of the Elections Commission that open voting systems <u>using paper</u>

16   <u>ballots</u> have the potential to provide the greatest degree of accessibility, accuracy,

17   transparency, security, auditability, affordability, and flexibility in elections, and so would best

18   serve the voters of San Francisco";

19   WHEREAS, Reports of the hacking of major corporate and government computer

20   networks are a regular occurrence in the news—affecting the networks of organizations

21   including JP Morgan, Bank of America, Wells Fargo, Charles Schwab, Visa, Mastercard,

22   Yahoo, Symantec, the CIA, the FBI, the Pentagon, INTERPOL, and NATO—not to mention

23   incidents that go unreported due to being undetected or not disclosed;

WHEREAS, Voting differs fundamentally from banking and other types of transactions because in banking customers can check transactions and have mistakes corrected; whereas with voting, a ballot cannot be linked back to the voter once it has been cast;

WHEREAS, Last year, the Democratic National Committee's email system and the voter registration systems of Illinois and Arizona were hacked, leading the FBI to publish a security alert and the Department of Homeland Security to declare our election infrastructure to be a "critical infrastructure subsector";

WHEREAS, Fully protecting an election management system or voting system from insider or outsider attacks by hackers, programmers, or election administrators is not possible in the foreseeable future;

WHEREAS, Protecting the average voter's computer, be it a desktop or smartphone, from an endless and ever-evolving array of malware, fake apps and malicious websites is not possible in the foreseeable future;

WHEREAS, In just thirty-six hours a team of University of Michigan computer scientists penetrated an internet voting system about to be used by Washington DC; and in doing so obtained control of every part of the system—including votes, vote totals, passwords, tabulator, encryption codes, databases, voter records, and cameras—causing officials to cancel the project;

WHEREAS, No national standards exist for internet voting systems, and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) has stated that "Internet voting systems cannot currently be audited with a comparable level of confidence in the audit results as those for polling place systems. Malware on voters' personal computers poses a serious threat that could compromise the secrecy or integrity of voters' ballots. And, the United States currently

1   lacks a public infrastructure for secure electronic voter authentication";

2   WHEREAS, Sections 19205 and 19295 of the California Elections Code forbid

3   connecting any part of a voting or ballot marking system to the Internet, or to a wireless,

4   phone, or other external network;

5   WHEREAS, Democracy advocates, joined in the past by Secretary of State Debra

6   Bowen, defeated at least three previous attempts in the California legislature to introduce

7   some form of internet voting to California's elections, including SB 908 (2011-12); AB 19

8   (2013-2014); and AB 887 (2015-16);

9   WHEREAS, AB 1403 (2017–18), "Military and overseas voters: return of ballot by

10   email," represents yet another attempt to introduce internet voting into California's elections;

11   WHEREAS, In Canada, where internet voting is being tried in some municipal elections

12   in Ontario for example, British Columbia's Independent Panel on Internet Voting conducted a

13   review and issued its "Recommendations Report to the Legislative Assembly of British

14   Columbia – February 2014," recommending not to implement universal internet voting and

15   concluding in part that—

16   (a) "research suggests that Internet voting does not generally cause non-voters to vote.

17   Instead, Internet voting is mostly used as a tool of convenience for individuals who

18   have already decided to vote"; and that

19   (b) "Internet voting is most popular among middle-age voters and least popular among

20   youth and therefore reflects traditional voter turnout demographics. These findings run

21   contrary to the widely expressed belief that Internet voting will lead to increased

22   participation by youth";

23   WHEREAS, The seeming convenience of internet voting is overshadowed by the fact

1 that votes cast by computer and transmitted over the internet are especially vulnerable to

2 being changed or eavesdropped upon, subverting both voter intent and ballot secrecy and so

3 the integrity of the ballot itself;

4   WHEREAS, The integrity of our country's elections depend on the integrity of ballots,

5 election technology and processes used not just locally but across the country;

6   WHEREAS, In July 2015, a team of election officials, computer security experts, and

7 experts in disability, usability, auditing, testing, and legal issues published a thorough,

8 136-page report entitled, "The Future of Voting: End-to-End Verifiable Internet Voting

9 (E2E-VIV) – Specification and Feasibility Study," which in part—

10   (a) defined "end-to-end verifiable" as, "First, every voter can check that his or her ballot

11   is cast and recorded as he or she intended. Second, anyone can check that the system

12   has accurately tallied all of the recorded ballots";

13   (b) contained an extensive and rigorous set of requirements that any internet voting

14   system should satisfy; and

15   (c) concluded by saying, "It is currently unclear whether it is possible to construct an

16   E2E-VIV system that fulfills the set of requirements contained in this report"; now,

17   therefore be it

18   RESOLVED, That it be the policy of the Elections Commission to oppose allowing

19 votes in United States local, state, and federal elections to be cast over the internet, including

20 by email.

ELECTIONS COMMISSION
City and County of San Francisco

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

Donald Chan, Secretary

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

April 20, 2017

To: Members of the Assembly Committee on Veterans Affairs
John Spangler, Chief Consultant

1020 N Street, Room 389
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: AB 1403 – Oppose

Dear Members of the Assembly Committee on Veterans Affairs:

I am writing to communicate the San Francisco Elections Commission's opposition to AB 1403 ("Military and overseas voters: return of ballot by email").

The Commission voted unanimously at its April 19, 2017 meeting to oppose AB 1403. In a related vote at this meeting, the Commission voted unanimously to adopt a resolution opposing internet and email voting. See attached for a copy of that resolution.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Christopher Jerdonek, President
San Francisco Elections Commission

encl: San Francisco Elections Commission – Resolution on Internet Voting
cc: San Francisco Elections Commission

SAN FRANCISCO ELECTIONS COMMISSION

RESOLUTION ON ACCESSIBLE VOTING EDUCATION

(Adopted by the San Francisco Elections Commission (7-0) on August 16, 2017.)

Resolution supporting informing all voters of the options for accessible voting.

WHEREAS, The San Francisco Elections Commission ("Elections Commission")

supports the rights of all voters to vote independently and privately;

WHEREAS, People with non-visible disabilities (e.g. people with low vision who

do not use a white cane or seeing-eye dog; people with learning, developmental, or

intellectual disabilities that are not apparent; and people with dexterity disabilities such

as arthritis that affect their hands) may need to use accessible voting equipment;

WHEREAS, Many voters may not realize that they can use and benefit from

accessible voting equipment, even if they do not consider themselves to be disabled,

such as seniors, people who have a temporary disability such as one resulting from

surgery or wearing a cast, and people who cannot fully engage with a paper ballot such

as when carrying a young child;

WHEREAS, San Francisco is a county that provides all voters with paper ballots;

WHEREAS, All of San Francisco's polling places provide all voters with

accessible voting equipment; and

WHEREAS, All San Francisco voters with disabilities will have the option to

receive an accessible vote-by-mail ballot by email, that voters can then mark using

1   digital tools, print, and return in the mail to the Department of Elections; now, therefore

2   be it

3   RESOLVED, That it be the policy of the Elections Commission to support all

4   voters being informed of the opportunities available to them to vote using accessible

5   ballots or voting equipment, including when voting by mail.