



CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
DEPARTMENT OF ELECTIONS

John Arntz, Director

Memorandum

To: Elections Commission
From: John Arntz, Director
Date: January 16, 2018
RE: Director's Report: January 17, 2018, Elections Commission Meeting

Following is a brief listing of the work and related information in which the Department of Elections (Department) has been engaged since the previous Elections Commission meeting on November 15, 2017.

- I. **In consideration of the City reviewing the feasibility of the City's options to develop a highly accessible, open source voting system, and other voting system matters:**
 - A. Slalom Consulting, the contractor preparing the business case assessing the feasibility of the City's options to develop an open source voting system expects to complete the document by January 26, 2018.
 - B. Related to the application that Los Angeles County (LA) submitted to the Secretary of State's Office (SOS) on September 29 for approval of its VSAP Tally Version 1.0, LA issued a request for proposals (RFP) to develop the system: http://vsap.lavote.net/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/RFP_PHASE_2.pdf. Pages 1 – 19 provide a description of the project and the timeline for the project.
 - C. LA has yet to finalize the software license to apply to the voting system although the county discusses licensing on Page 19, see Attachment 1. LA does indicate it intends to retain ownership of the software code and will comply with the state election code's Disclosed Source requirements allowing the software to be reviewed upon request.
- II. **The Department continued planning for upcoming requirements:**
 - A. **Non-Citizen Voting:** The Charter amendment that Supervisor Fewer introduced for the June, 2018, ballot, will be heard in the Board of Supervisors' Rules Committee on Wednesday, January 17. The new amendment sets a deadline, no later than 270 days before an election, by which the Board of Supervisors must approve an ordinance authorizing non-citizens to vote in Board of Education elections. If the newly introduced amendment is approved by voters, the deadline will have passed, and the Department would not implement Prop N for the November, 2018, election.
 - B. **Voting System Replacement:** The Department expects to issue the RFP the week of January 22 to identify a voting system to lease beginning in January, 2019. Bids will be due in mid-February, 2018.
 - C. **Budget Preparations:** The Department's Administration division has been working with Division Managers to prepare the budget for FY2018-19 and FY2019-20. The Department will prepare the budget in time for the Elections Commission's February 7 meeting of the Budget and Oversight of Public Elections Committee and prior to the Department submitting the budget to the Mayor's Budget Office later in the month.
 - D. **June 5, 2018 Election.** The filing period has closed for the contests for Mayor and the District 8 seat for the Board of Supervisors. Eight candidates for Mayor's and three for the District 8 seat will have their names printed on the on the ballot. The public examination period of materials associated with the candidates' nominations ends on January 20.

- III. **To provide voters with information about the Department's services, the Department continued engaging potential registrants and voters to promote their participation in elections:**
- A. The Department continued to attend now monthly (two sessions within the same day) USCIS ceremonies serving approximately 1,000 new citizens at each ceremony to provide information about registration and voting rights, and to respond to election-related questions.
 - B. The Department and the Director of the Mayor's Office of Disability organized and hosted a Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee on January 9. The topics included discussion on the implementation of the remote accessible vote-by-mail system and identifying methods to provide election-related information and notices to people with disabilities.
 - C. The Department will host a Language Accessibility Advisory Committee next week on January 23 in City Hall Room 305 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Among the topics on the agenda will be implementing Prop N regarding certain non-citizen voters voting in School Board elections and methods to provide election-related information and notices to people with limited English-language skills.

Attachments

Attachment 1: Section 4.0, Licensing, Request for Proposals, Phase 2, Voting System for All People, Los Angeles County.

This section describes Los Angeles County's considerations regarding the software license for the voting system the county is developing.