SAN FRANCISCO ELECTIONS COMMISSION

Open Source Voting Systems Resolution #2

(Adopted by the San Francisco Elections Commission (6-0) on June 20, 2018.)

(Amended by the San Francisco Elections Commission (X-X) on July 18, 2018.)

The Commission is adopting this resolution to supplement (and not replace) its first Open Source Voting Systems Resolution, adopted on November 18, 2015, since many events have transpired since that time.

WHEREAS, The San Francisco Elections Commission ("Elections Commission") on November 18, 2015 unanimously passed an Open Source Voting Systems Resolution that, in part—

(a) Encouraged the Mayor and Board of Supervisors to initiate and fund a project to develop and certify an open source voting system; and

(b) Outlined several key project characteristics, and encouraged the Mayor and Board of Supervisors to consider incorporating them; and

(c) Established a policy for the San Francisco Department of Elections to support and work towards the adoption of an open source voting system;

WHEREAS, Mayor Ed Lee in the 2016 budget process allocated $300,000 towards a planning and assessment phase for the project, approximately half of which was allocated for a "business case" to assess the feasibility of the project, including informing the City and County of San Francisco ("San Francisco") of the associated costs, timelines, options, and possible next steps;

WHEREAS, The Elections Commission on April 19, 2017 established an Open
FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Commission ask the Mayor and Board of Supervisors that the project be funded and developed incrementally, so that San Francisco can support a robust development schedule in FY2018-19 that—

(a) Develops and uses some open source voting system components sooner and more cost-effectively, without necessarily having to first fund the entire project; 

(b) Develop cost estimates and project management approaches for later stages of the project by learning from real-world experience, as opposed to planning abstractly on paper; and 

(c) More effectively attract and recruit project collaborators, by being able to show real progress using innovative approaches; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Elections Commission ask the Mayor and Board of Supervisors to name the Department of Elections as the owner of the project. That it be the policy of the Department of Elections and the Elections Commission that the Department of Elections is the owner of San Francisco’s project to develop and certify an open source voting system, so that the Elections Commission and the public can, through the authority and meetings of the Elections Commission, have oversight over and regular visibility into this fundamental matter pertaining to elections; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That it is be the policy of the Department of Elections and the Elections Commission that the open source voting system project should be led by a dedicated project director / project manager who reports to the Director of Elections; who has experience in agile methods, open source development, elections and voting systems, and the management of technical projects; and who will—

(a) Work with the Director and other stakeholders in San Francisco; 

(b) Use TAC and other Departments among their resources, including learning