

**OPEN SOURCE VOTING SYSTEM
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

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



**ELECTIONS COMMISSION
*City and County of San Francisco***

Don Chan, Secretary

September 6, 2018

To: Elections Commission

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

RE: OSVTAC Report #4 (September 2018)

This is the fourth 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 the last report dated May 8, 2018. Prior reports to the Commission are available at <https://osvtac.github.io/communications>.

Meetings

Since its last report, the TAC has had four regular meetings and one special meeting, all of which were held at City Hall:

- Wednesday, May 9 at 6pm in Room 421
- Friday, June 8 at 2pm in Room 48 (special meeting)
- Thursday, June 14 at 6pm in Room 479
- Tuesday, July 10 at 6pm in Room 479
- Monday, August 27 at 6pm in Room 421

During the special meeting, the TAC was given a tour of the Department of Elections, observed ballot processing activities for the June 5 election, and afterwards submitted to the Department a list of questions for the Department to answer about the process.

The minutes for these and all previous meetings can be found at <https://osvtac.github.io/past-meetings>.

Committee composition

On May 16, the Elections Commission voted to reappoint Chris Jerdonek, Carl Hage, Roan Kattouw and Tony Wasserman to a second one-year term ending in May 2019. Larry Bafundo had chosen not to apply for a second term, and he left the committee after his 3-month holdover ended on August 16. The Commission has authorized Chris Jerdonek to open a search for a new member. The TAC, having lost its Vice Chair, elected Roan Kattouw as its new Vice Chair at its August 27 meeting.

Member activities

On May 6, the California Clean Money Campaign organized an event kicking off their efforts to support the open source voting project. Chris Jerdonek was scheduled to speak at this event, and Roan Kattouw attended.

On June 5, Chris Jerdonek and Roan Kattouw served as poll workers in the primary election.

Discussion of Slalom report

The TAC has continued to analyze and discuss the Slalom report. At its June 14 meeting, the TAC sent a statement to the Commission expressing concerns with *“certain inaccuracies and basic omissions”* in the report, and recommended *“not relying on it for determining the future direction of the project.”* The TAC's full statement can be found on our website here (called “Statement on Slalom Report”): <https://osvtac.github.io/communications>.

Discussion of Civil Grand Jury Report

At its July 10 meeting, the TAC discussed the Civil Grand Jury (CGJ) report called “Open Source Voting in San Francisco” and how the Commission should respond to the report. The TAC voted proactively to create and maintain a page on TAC's website to fulfill Recommendation 3 of the CGJ Report:

R3. Recommends the Election Commission's OSVTAC should organize and maintain a website to serve as an informational portal on the OSV project. This should include links to (and summaries of) all reports written on the subject (including by the SoS, EC, OSVTAC, CGJ, Slalom, BoS). This resource should be completed by October, 1 2018, and be updated consistently. (F2, F3)

The Commission adopted a response to the report at its July 18 meeting.

Voting system component development

At its April 12 meeting, the TAC tasked Carl Hage with starting a proof of concept implementation of an open source election results reporter: software that takes an election result and generates reports in HTML, PDF, XLS and other formats. Chris Jerdonek subsequently joined in assisting him. At its June 14 meeting, Carl Hage and Chris Jerdonek demonstrated progress on the project so far and gave an overview of the architecture. The TAC voted to adopt this as an official project of the TAC (conditional on the answer to a certain legal copyright question), and to start hosting this software on GitHub under TAC's organizational account. Over the course of the following months, Carl Hage and Chris Jerdonek have continued development on this project. The repository can be found on GitHub here: <https://github.com/osvtac/osv-results-reporter>

At its July 10 meeting, the TAC voted to create three additional repositories on GitHub under its organizational account, to supplement and be used with the results reporter repository:

- A repository to contain example demonstrations of OSVTAC's results reporter component (e.g. past San Francisco elections): <https://github.com/OSVTAC/osv-results-demo>
- A “data” repository to store various real-world election data (e.g. San Francisco election data): <https://github.com/OSVTAC/osv-sample-data>
- A repository to house various code to support converting election data to and from different formats (e.g. from San Francisco's raw data files): <https://github.com/OSVTAC/osv-data-converter>

Also to aid in this project, the TAC voted at its May 9 meeting to request scanned copies of marked ballots from the June 5 election. At the August 27 TAC meeting, Chris Jerdonek reported that he had received these scanned ballots from the Department of Elections, and he would add them to TAC's “data” repository.

Development of 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>.

In the second four months of 2018, the TAC continued to flesh out the pros and cons of various choices in the “key decisions” sections, but mostly focused on the other activities described above.