

Brent Turner SF Elections Commission statement 10/17/18-

Dear Commissioners-

I tender this statement due to continuing adverse circumstances that could gravely affect the security of future San Francisco and United States election systems.

In the past I have been warned against making direct statements regarding Microsoft and their lobbying efforts against open source software election systems.

Recently former CIA Director James Woolsey joined CAVO to publish a NY Times Op/ed requesting Microsoft “ and those who bob in their wake “ to stand down from their position of “shareholder protection” for the sake of our national security. Hopefully the commissioners fully appreciate the gravity of the former CIA Director’s words. <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/08/03/opinion/open-source-software-hacker-voting.html>

Microsoft, Oracle, OSET ,Verified Voting and many others are now focused on San Francisco County’s to block / delay pioneering efforts toward safe and secure elections. We must note Oracle and OSET employees / associates now sit on the San Francisco Elections Commission.

CAVO was initially supported by Supervisors Tom Ammiano and Chris Daly to form the San Francisco Voting System Task Force. This successful effort showed the need for immediate action, and that immediate action has taken over a decade to accomplish. We have been unanimously supported by The Board of Supervisors and the Mayors and have survived the gauntlet of LAFCO / COIT and numerous studies. Recently Mayor Breed acknowledged my efforts as the catalyst for the open source voting project and Supervisor Cohen coined me as “ The Godfather of open source voting “. Recently I successfully encouraged the Clean Money Campaign to join our fight for open source elections. I have worked pro bono on this issue since 2000.

Unfortunately California Association of Voting Officials (CAVO) has endured a decade long smear campaign of false accusations by Microsoft associated “ activists” (locally James Soper / Lowell Findlay etc) propping up smear websites and even making false criminal charges (including destruction of property etc) . Though it is bizarre, we must acknowledge these activities to fully grasp the environment of the battle for secure elections. Mr. Soper has impersonated the websites of the open source voting pioneer Alan Dechert of Open Voting Consortium and Mr. Findlay wrote letters to San Francisco County falsely warning about CAVO being an “internet voting company “ . I am abbreviating the extent of this smear campaign so as not to further empower it, but we must acknowledge the existence of corporate forces that continue to plague the effort toward open source voting systems.

With this lurid background acknowledged we request a future agenda item to bring forward the circumstances surrounding previously failed open source voting projects in Texas and Los Angeles. In Texas, Verified Voting was involved against our direction and the project was destroyed. In Los Angeles , Mitch Kapor’s OSET has been involved and the project is no longer open source as promised. Both aforementioned projects started off based on our concept but eventually were manipulated by

proprietary business interests. We MUST NOT allow this to happen again, especially not in San Francisco.

San Francisco has the technology and the architectural design capability to move forward with a GPL open source voting system. Alan Dechert is regarded as the father of the open source voting movement and is available to the project. CAVO's Dr. Gilbert has deployed (New Hampshire) prototypes and CAVO's Brian Fox (Bash shell etc) is also available to the county.

Simply restated, the San Francisco open source voting system should necessarily be General Public License (GPLv3) and should not be allowed to be manipulated like the other previously referenced failed projects. CAVO is formed and uniquely positioned to serve purpose as an eco-system monitor when requested.

Best regards,

Brent Turner

Secretary

CAVO

www.cavo-us.org

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/California_Association_of_Voting_Officials