

To: Elections Commission
From: Commissioner Jerdonek

Date: October 16, 2021

Subject: Open Source Voting News / Updates

This document includes some updates about open-source voting that aren't directly related to the pilot proposal.

1. Former Governor Jerry Brown Endorses Open Source Voting

Former Governor Jerry Brown endorsed open source voting at a live event at KQED's headquarters in San Francisco on Friday, October 1, 2021. The event was a discussion with California Secretary of State Shirley Weber, Former Governor Brown, and a KQED moderator called, "[Shirley Weber & Jerry Brown on Securing the Vote.](#)"

You can watch a video of Brown's statement here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5u9nsJY73yk&t=4849s>

Here is what he said—

Governor Brown: [1:20:49] Look, there is a risk with all this cyber power. They can turn off—they can start a nuclear bomb attack. They can turn off your hospital, and the power. Can they change the election? It's all secret, secret, but it may be that people can do that. So these voting machines have to be squeaky clean, perfect, open to observation. We gotta know. There can be no obscurity here—nothing, nothing hidden. That's what open source means. I'm all for it.

2. New City Attorney David Chiu's Support for Open Source Voting

On September 29, 2021, [Mayor London Breed announced](#) she will be appointing San Francisco Assemblyperson David Chiu to succeed Dennis Herrera as City Attorney. Assembly Member Chiu has been a major champion of open-source voting for San Francisco. In 2019, he introduced [AB 1784](#) ("the Secure the VOTE Act"), along with Assembly Members Santiago (Los Angeles) and Gonzalez (San Diego). AB 1784 would have provided \$16 million in matching funds to counties for the development of open-source paper ballot voting systems. AB 1784 was also coauthored by Senator Scott Wiener in the State Senate. AB 1784 passed in the Assembly but wasn't able to advance in the Senate.

3. San Francisco Risk-Limiting Audit Project

I learned from Director Arntz that the funding for San Francisco's Risk-Limiting Audit (RLA) tool for RCV contests is around \$125K. An RLA pilot for RCV contests was piloted in San

Francisco in November 2019. Another pilot will be done in November 2022 and possibly in June 2022. However, when these pilots are done, the tool will not be approved by the Secretary of State like [VotingWorks' RLA tool](#) Arlo [currently is](#). (VotingWorks has offered, for free, to add RCV functionality to its Secretary of State approved tool and to help San Francisco use it for an RCV contest in November 2022 as part of an SB 360 pilot.)

4. Major Voting System Vendors and Voluntary Voting System Guidelines (VMSG) 2.0

On September 8, 2021, the US Election Assistance Commission (EAC) hosted an event called [“Moving VMSG 2.0 Forward”](#) featuring a panel discussion with all of the voting system vendors. The Voluntary Voting System Guidelines (VMSG) 2.0 are the new voting system standards that upgrade the EAC's previous VMSG 1.0 standards that the EAC adopted in 2005.

At the event, all of the major vendors said they likely wouldn't start submitting new voting systems for certification to the VMSG 2.0 standards until after the November 2024 election. This means their systems won't be certified until 2025 at the earliest. They referenced an FAQ document that can be found here:

<https://unisynvoting.com/security/faq-about-the-vmsg-2-0/>

The FAQ says—

When will manufacturers have complete VMSG 2.0 systems ready for testing and certification?

While you will need to work directly with your election system provider to determine the optimal timelines for your jurisdiction and your systems, it is likely that full VMSG 2.0 systems will be submitted for testing soon after the 2024 general elections. Once submitted, the entire testing process will take several months to complete at the federal level. Upon completion of the federal test process, manufacturers will then begin the process of obtaining state approvals.

The FAQ was signed by: Dominion Voting Systems, ES&S, Hart InterCivic, MicroVote, Smartmatic, and Unisyn Voting Solutions.