

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF AN OPEN SOURCE VOTING SYSTEM FOR SAN FRANCISCO

WHEREAS, elections are a public process at the core of our democracy and so demand the highest levels of transparency, accessibility, security, and integrity; and

WHEREAS, proprietary voting software and hardware are hidden from public view, lead to private vendor lock-in, and result in perpetual software licensing fees and service contracts that are expensive to taxpayers without investing in a lasting public good; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors unanimously passed a resolution authored by Supervisor Scott Wiener supporting the creation of an open source voting system running on commodity hardware, a system whose software would be free for anyone to view, use, and improve, and so be 100% transparent to the public, more affordable, more adaptable, and would benefit not just San Francisco but election jurisdictions across the United States.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee (DCCC) finds the objectives of an open source voting system to be central to the Democratic Party's core values of active and transparent voter participation and therefore supports the creation and use of a paper-ballot open source voting system that can run on inexpensive, commercially available hardware; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the DCCC join the San Francisco Elections Commission, California Common Cause, the Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF), Code for San Francisco, and many other individuals and organizations in urging the Mayor and Board of Supervisors to champion and fully fund, starting with the upcoming 2016-2017 fiscal year, the development and certification of an open source voting system for San Francisco to use starting with the June 2020 election.

Sponsor: Joshua Arce, Rebecca Prozan