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March 1, 2016

The Honorable Edwin M. Lee, Mayor of San Francisco, and
The San Francisco Board of Supervisors
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 48
City Hall
San Francisco, CA 94102

RE: Open Source Voting System Project - SUPPORT

Dear Mayor Lee and Members of the Board,

Dear Mayor Lee and Members of the Board of Supervisors:

On behalf of California Common Cause and our members, I am writing to express our support for the proposal to fund, in this year's budget, the start of a project to develop and certify an open source voting system for use in San Francisco starting in June 2020.

Common Cause supports the development and adoption of open source voting systems. Open source systems are more transparent, more adaptable to voting system, presentation, and procedural changes, and can be a long-term cost-savings. Common Cause supports a similar effort in Los Angeles County.¹

San Francisco has long been a national leader in policy and good governance innovation, and this project is in keeping with that tradition. With success, this project has the potential to improve not just San Francisco elections, but also those of other California counties.

For these reasons, Common Cause supports the funding of this project. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at nheidorn@commoncause.org or 510-798-3425.

Sincerely,

Nicolas Heidorn
Policy and Legislative Counsel
California Common Cause

¹ Available at: <http://www.lavote.net/vsap/>.