

From: Commissioner Jerdonek
 Date: September 20, 2022

Open Source Voting History in San Francisco “At a Glance”

The purpose of this document is to provide a concise, birds-eye view of the history of open-source voting in San Francisco — while also including key details and pointers to further information. It does this using the format of a “by-the-numbers” chart.

Hopefully this overview also provides a sense of the strength of support for this issue, both in depth and across time, as well as the scale of time and effort that has been expended so far.

6	Number of legislative actions the SF Board of Supervisors has taken to advance open-source voting, starting 15 years ago: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2007 Resolution #330-07, File #70865¹ (Tom Ammiano): Passed 10 – 0 2. 2008 Ordinance #268-08, File #81227² (Tom Ammiano): 7 – 4 3. 2014 Resolution #460-14, File #141105³ (Scott Wiener): 10 – 0 4. 2018 Hearing, File #180341⁴ (Malia Cohen) 5. 2019 Resolution #377-19, File #190816⁵ (Rafael Mandelman): 11 – 0 6. 2022 Ordinance #12-22, File #211303⁶ (Shamann Walton): 11 – 0
7	Number of resolutions the SF Elections Commission has adopted in support of open source voting, starting 15 years ago: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. May 16, 2007 – Policy on Transparency and Security: Passed 6 – 0 2. Nov. 18, 2015 – Open Source Voting Systems Resolution: 6 – 0 3. March 21, 2018 – Support for \$4 million and matching funds: 4 – 0 4. June 20, 2018 – Open Source Voting Systems Resolution #2: 6 – 0 5. Nov. 17, 2021 – Open Source Voting Pilot Resolution: 4 – 0 6. Dec. 15, 2021 – OSV Pilot Legislation Resolution: 5 – 0 7. June 15, 2022 – Resolution on Dominion Voting Contract: 5 – 0
9	Number of members of SF's Voting Systems Task Force (VSTF) ⁷ , which the Board of Supervisors established in 2008 to develop voting system recommendations for San Francisco, and which met for two years from 2009 to 2011.

¹ <https://sfgov.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=480559&GUID=477CF22F-A4C6-4C0E-ABB7-A711D8EA9208>

² <https://sfgov.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=482591&GUID=EB20560E-E9DD-43FD-B397-181204298CBD>

³ <https://sfgov.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=1946783&GUID=0725E575-B05E-4137-B771-E8BFD5B98237>

⁴ <https://sfgov.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=3470262&GUID=0DCE7F8F-CFB4-47D9-A6A5-C60BB9A840F8>

⁵ <https://sfgov.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=4071898&GUID=913574DB-920A-485A-AFBC-D565AC8AEAF5>

⁶ <https://sfgov.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=5363338&GUID=17F649C5-8994-4B55-BC46-BEF731449C51>

⁷ <https://sfgov.org/ccsfgsa/voting-systems-task-force>

8	<p>Number of individuals and organizations that have presented to the Elections Commission over the years that either developed or were offering to help SF develop an open-source voting system:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At October 21, 2015 Commission Meeting: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mr. Brent Turner, California Association of Voting Officials (CAVO) 2. Mr. Alan Dechert 3. Digital Foundry and IDEO 4. Dr. Joe Kiniry, Galois 5. Dr. Juan E. Gilbert, University of Florida 6. Mr. Gregory Miller, Open Source Election Technology Foundation • At January 15, 2020 Commission Meeting: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. David Henkel-Wallace, Open Source Election Systems (OSES) • At September 22, 2021 Commission Meeting: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Matt Roe, VotingWorks
6 reports (266 pages)	<p>Number of SF-commissioned reports (and pages) to research and evaluate open-source voting over the 10 years from 2011 to 2020:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. June 2011 – “Recommendations on Voting Systems for the City and County of San Francisco” by SF Voting Systems Task Force (57 pages). 2. October 23, 2015 – “Study on Open Source Voting Systems” by SF Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) (39 pages). 3. March 14, 2018 – “Open Source Voting System Feasibility Assessment” by Slalom (consulting firm hired by Department of Elections) (65 pages). 4. June 29, 2018 – “Open Source Voting in San Francisco” by San Francisco Civil Grand Jury (48 pages). 5. December 2019 – “Los Angeles County Voting Solutions for All People (VSAP) Overview” by Gartner (consulting firm hired by Department of Technology) (14 pages). 6. January 2020 – “State of the Art Briefing on Open Source Voting Systems and Projects” by SF Department of Technology (43 pages).
53	<p>Number of Commission (or BOPEC) meetings from 2015 to 2022 in which open-source voting was an agenda topic of discussion: 3 in 2015, 1 in 2016, 13 in 2017 (4 BOPEC), 13 in 2018 (4 BOPEC), 11 in 2019, 4 in 2020, 4 in 2021, and 4 in 2022.</p>
37 (101 hours)	<p>Number of times (and total hours) the Commission’s 5-member Open-Source Voting System Technical Advisory Committee (OSVTAC) met from 2017 to 2020 to support the Commission’s efforts on open-source voting.</p>

2,125+	Number of SF residents that have signed petitions in support of open-source voting in San Francisco over the years (this is a minimum).
28+	Number of organizations that have passed resolutions or signed on in support of open-source voting in San Francisco (this is a minimum). These include the San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee (DCCC), various Democratic Clubs, California Common Cause, the California Clean Money Campaign, Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF), Verified Voting, FairVote, Open Source Initiative (OSI), etc.
16+	Number of articles in the media from 2015 to 2022 that have covered the effort to adopt open-source voting in San Francisco (this is a minimum). This includes TV coverage by NBC Bay Area News, radio coverage by KQED, and pieces in the San Francisco Chronicle, StateScoop, Quartz, and many pieces in the SF Examiner over the years, including a full front-page cover story on November 26, 2015, Thanksgiving Day called, "San Francisco sets sights on open source voting by November 2019."
AB 1784 (2019-2020)	California state bill that would have provided up to \$16 million in matching funds for open-source voting. Introduced by SF Assemblymember David Chiu (and others), co-authored by SF Senator Scott Wiener, and supported unanimously by the SF Board of Supervisors (and Elections Commission). It passed the Assembly but didn't advance in the Senate.
\$1.68 million	Amount San Francisco allocated to open-source voting between 2016 and 2018.
\$30.4 million	Amount San Francisco has paid to Dominion Voting Systems from 2008 to 2022 to use its proprietary voting system (approx. \$2.03 million per year).