



SHAMANN WALTON
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*****PRESS RELEASE*****

*****BOARD OF SUPERVISORS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVES OPEN SOURCE
VOTING PILOT IN SAN FRANCISCO*****

SAN FRANCISCO, CA – On Tuesday, January 25, 2022, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors unanimously approved Board President Supervisor Shamann Walton’s [ordinance](#) to authorize an Open Source Voting Pilot in San Francisco for the November 2022 General Election. This ordinance will allow the Department of Elections to submit a pilot for review with the California Secretary of State before February 8, 2022, in the hopes of implementing a small pilot in the November 2022 General Election.

Over the past 15 years, former San Francisco Supervisors Tom Ammiano, Chris Daly, and Scott Wiener have previously passed resolutions in support of Open Source Voting, and former Supervisors Malia Cohen and Scott Wiener have held hearings on the feasibility of Open Source Voting. The passage of this ordinance will allow San Francisco to conduct the first pilot of its kind in California.

Currently, the voting systems in use across the United States are not open source. Instead, their source code, or inner workings, is secret and proprietary. In contrast, an open source voting system is a voting system whose source code is open to public inspection and free for anyone to use. It adds more transparency and affordability, and is easier to request and make improvements.

“This effort has been a long time coming, and San Francisco has been an innovative leader when it comes to setting standards for fair and transparent elections,” said Board President Shamann Walton. “I’m excited that San Francisco can finally make Open Source Voting a reality in our upcoming November election and hope that other cities can follow.”

“I appreciate the efforts of President Walton, and the advocates that have come together to pass this ordinance.” said District 5 Supervisor Dean Preston. “Open source voting will provide



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additional security, accountability and transparency in our elections, while also saving the city money.”

“Open source voting increases transparency and affordability, and makes it easier for the City to adopt election improvements,” said San Francisco Elections Commissioner Chris Jerdonek.

“Today’s legislation makes long-awaited progress on an issue that has been important to the City and the Elections Commission for fifteen years now, namely adding transparency and openness to our City’s voting system technology.”

“The adoption today of President Walton’s open-source voting pilot legislation was a major step in leading the nation towards more transparent, secure, and less costly voting systems everywhere,” said Trent Lange, President of the California Clean Money Campaign. “We look forward to continuing to engage with the Mayor and Supervisors, the Department of Elections, and Secretary of State Shirley Weber to approve the necessary regulations for the pilot to go forward in next November’s election.”

The pilot is limited to testing open source ballot-marking devices (BMD’s) at the City Hall Voting Center during the November 2022 election. One or two open source BMD’s will be deployed alongside the traditional, non-open source BMD’s. BMD’s provide an accessible voting option to supplement hand-marked paper ballots, useful especially for voters with disabilities, while still printing a paper ballot that is actually counted. To participate in the pilot, anyone will be able to go to the City Hall Voting Center during the November 2022 election and choose to vote using the open source ballot-marking device. VotingWorks, the nonprofit working with the Department of Elections on the pilot, will also be doing a demo and collecting feedback in the months leading up to the election.

The Mayor will have until Friday, February 4, 2022 to officially sign this ordinance into law.

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