[Supporting California State Assembly Bill No. 1784 (Santiago, Chiu, and Gonzalez) - Secure the VOTE Act]

Resolution supporting California State Assembly Bill No. 1784, authored by Assembly Members Miguel Santiago, David Chiu, and Lorena Gonzalez, with principal co-author Senator Scott Wiener, the "Secure the VOTE Act," to authorize the Secretary of State to award up to $16 million in matching funds, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to counties for the development of open-source paper ballot voting systems.

WHEREAS, In 2019 the U.S. Department of Homeland Security revealed that the Russian government likely targeted election infrastructure in all 50 states in the 2016 presidential election; and

WHEREAS, Proprietary voting systems lack transparency and have proven vulnerable to security threats, and the 2017 DEF CON Hacking Conference testing current proprietary voting systems concluded that such systems are a "national security threat", and that "every piece of equipment … was effectively breached in some manner"; and

WHEREAS, Publicly owned open-source paper ballot voting systems would be openly licensed and therefore available for public inspection, allowing for a transparent examination of public code to find possible security flaws and other issues, and allowing claims about security and accuracy to be independently verified; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Defense uses open-source for security purposes, and its manual states that "Making source code available to the public significantly aids defenders and not just attackers. Continuous and broad peer-review, enabled by publicly available source code, improves software reliability and security through the identification and elimination of defects that might otherwise go unrecognized by the core development team."; and

WHEREAS, In 2014 the San Francisco Board of Supervisors unanimously voted in favor of a resolution declaring support for open-source voting systems; and

WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco has already allocated an initial $1.55 million to the Department of Technology, which is working with the Department of Elections, the Elections Commission, the Mayor's Office, and other stakeholders to start development of local open-source voting; and

WHEREAS, California State Assembly Bill No. 1784, the "Secure the Voter-verified Open-source paper ballot Transparent Elections (VOTE) Act", authored by Assembly Members Miguel Santiago, David Chiu, and Lorena Gonzalez, with principal co-author Senator Scott Wiener, would authorize the Secretary of State to award up to $16 million total in matching funds to counties to speed the development, certification, governance, and distribution of open-source paper ballot voting systems that all counties would be able to freely use and modify based on their needs; and

WHEREAS, The "Secure the VOTE Act" would provide up to $8 million in matching funds that San Francisco could use for any open-source voting systems it develops and uses at least on a pilot basis by the November 2024 election, if San Francisco meets all of the following requirements: 1) All of the system's software developed at least in part using state or county funds pursuant to Section 19504 of AB 1784 must be licensed exclusively under the GNU Affero General Public License 3.0 or later; 2) All of the system's software components must be open source during development, using a process that is open to public feedback. Development must be carried out in public repositories by January 1, 2021; and 3) All of the system's software components eligible for an award of matching funds pursuant to this subdivision must be certified or conditionally approved by the Secretary of State, or approved by the Secretary of State as part of a pilot program pursuant to Section 19209, for use during the November 5, 2024, general election; and

WHEREAS, The San Francisco Elections Commission unanimously voted to request that San Francisco support the "Secure the VOTE Act"; and

WHEREAS, Expeditiously completing the open-source voting system will save San Francisco significant funds by allowing the City to be eligible to receive matching funds for its voting systems, and will give voters more confidence in the security and transparency of vote counting; and

WHEREAS, After San Francisco certifies its open-source voting system, every county in the state and nation will be able to use and build on it for free, significantly increasing the confidence in the security and transparency of vote-counting across the country; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco urges the California State Legislature, Secretary of State Alex Padilla, and Governor Gavin Newsom to support and pass California State Assembly Bill No. 1784, the "Secure the VOTE Act", and to allocate the $16 million in matching funds to implement AB 1784; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco hereby directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit copies of this Resolution to the California State Legislature, to Secretary of State Alex Padilla, and to the Office of the Governor of California.

City and County of San Francisco
Tails
Resolution

City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

File Number: 190816 **Date Passed:** July 30, 2019

Resolution supporting California State Assembly Bill No. 1784, authored by Assembly Members Miguel Santiago, David Chiu, and Lorena Gonzalez, with principal co-author Senator Scott Wiener, the "Secure the VOTE Act," to authorize the Secretary of State to award up to $16 million in matching funds, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to counties for the development of open-source paper ballot voting systems.

July 30, 2019 Board of Supervisors - AMENDED, AN AMENDMENT OF THE WHOLE BEARING SAME TITLE

Ayes: 11 - Brown, Fewer, Haney, Mandelman, Mar, Peskin, Ronen, Safai, Stefani, Walton and Yee

July 30, 2019 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED AS AMENDED

Ayes: 11 - Brown, Fewer, Haney, Mandelman, Mar, Peskin, Ronen, Safai, Stefani, Walton and Yee

File No. 190816

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED AS AMENDED on 7/30/2019 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

Unsigned

London N. Breed
Mayor

8/9/2019

Date Approved

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution, not being signed by the Mayor within the time limit as set forth in Section 3.103 of the Charter, or time waived pursuant to Board Rule 2.14.2, became effective without her approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter or Board Rule 2.14.2.

Regga Nevin
for Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

8/9/19
Date