

# California Legislature

STATE CAPITOL  
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA



April 13, 2018

The Honorable Phil Ting  
Chair, Assembly Budget Committee  
State Capitol, Room 6026  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Holly Mitchell  
Chair, Senate Budget Committee  
State Capitol, Room 5019  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Jim Cooper  
Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee #4  
State Capitol, Room 6026  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Richard Roth  
Chair, Senate Budget Subcommittee #4  
State Capitol, Room 5109  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## ***RE: Request for Support of Open-Source Voting Systems***

Dear Chairs Ting, Mitchell, Cooper and Roth:

We write to respectfully request \$8 million in matching funds for counties to develop and certify publicly owned, open-source paper ballot voting systems. Open source voting systems can significantly reduce costs associated with replacement and maintenance, and will provide counties with a more transparent, secure, and fair election process.

The Governor's proposed budget includes \$134.3 million in General Funds for replacement of aging voting systems. This funding is critical for the necessary replacement of hardware, software, and initialing licensing for voting systems and technologies in all 58 counties. However, this funding only covers a portion of the funds needed to replace the entirety of California's voting equipment. Additional funding would allow the Secretary of State's office to administer a matching program, where interested counties would receive resources needed to develop, certify, and implement open-source platforms.

As former members of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, we committed the City and County to work with other jurisdictions and organizations to create new voting systems using open-source software. In 2016, San Francisco allocated \$300,000 to the planning phase of an open-source project.

State funding to this project would provide benefits throughout California. These systems would be developed under general public licenses to ensure they are freely available to any county to use and modify based upon their individual needs. This modest investment will save California and its counties a

The Honorable Phil Ting, Holly Mitchell, Jim Cooper and Richard Roth

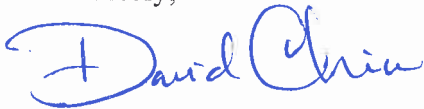
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significant amount of resources that would otherwise go to the replacement of their current proprietary voting systems.

We respectfully urge you to consider this request, and include this funding in the 2018-2019 budget. Your attention and consideration of this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



**David Chiu**

Assemblymember, 17<sup>th</sup> District



**Scott Wiener**

Senator, 11<sup>th</sup> District

Cc:

Assemblymember Phil Ting, Assembly Budget Chair  
Members, Assembly Budget Subcommittee #4  
Honorable Alex Padilla, California Secretary of State  
Senator Holly Mitchell, Senate Budget Chair  
Members, Senate Budget Subcommittee #4