

**OPEN SOURCE VOTING SYSTEM  
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Christopher Jerdonek, Chair  
Roan Kattouw, Vice Chair  
Carl Hage  
Brandon Philips  
Tony Wasserman



**ELECTIONS COMMISSION  
*City and County of San Francisco***

Don Chan, Secretary

January 10, 2019

To: Elections Commission

From: Open Source Voting System Technical Advisory Committee (OSVTAC)

RE: OSVTAC Report #5 (January 2019) **\*\*\*[DRAFT]\*\*\***

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This is the fifth report of the Open Source Voting System Technical Advisory Committee (OSVTAC, or TAC) to the Elections Commission, which TAC's Bylaws say TAC shall provide to the Commission at least once in every four-month period.

Below is a description of the TAC's activities since the last report dated September 6, 2018. Prior reports to the Commission are available at <https://osvtac.github.io/communications>.

### **Meetings**

Since its last report, the TAC has had five regular meetings, all of which were held at City Hall:

- Thursday, September 13, 2018 at 6pm in Room 421
- Thursday, October 11, 2018 at 6pm in Room 421
- Thursday, November 8, 2018 at 6pm in Room 421
- Thursday, December 6, 2018 at 6pm in Room 479
- Thursday, January 10, 2019 at 6pm in Room 421

The minutes and YouTube recordings for these and all previous meetings can be found at <https://osvtac.github.io/past-meetings>.

Starting with the September 13 meeting, the YouTube recordings were posted as video rather than audio.

## **Committee composition**

At its Wednesday, October 17 meeting, the Elections Commission voted unanimously to appoint Brandon Philips to fill TAC's lone vacancy. There were seven applicants for the seat. Member Philips's first TAC meeting was on November 8.

## **Written Statements**

At its September 13 meeting, the TAC voted unanimously to adopt two statements, both of which were sent to the Elections Commission on September 18. They were on the topics of—

- “Project Manager Hiring”
- “Project Ownership and Project Management”

The two statements are included as attachments to this document and can also be found on TAC's website here: <https://osvtac.github.io/communications>.

## **Project Manager Hiring**

At its October 11 meeting, TAC learned that no TAC member would be allowed to participate in the interview process for the Project Manager position. As a result, TAC instead came up with five questions for the hiring committee to ask the candidates. TAC voted on and approved unanimously. The questions were—

1. List some open source projects you've contributed to and your involvement in them. This can include contributing or reviewing code, filing issues, participating in discussion forums, or project leadership.
2. Tell us specific agile practices you've used, and which ones you would consider using for this project and why.
3. If the project were developed incrementally using multiple sources (e.g. vendors, internal developer teams, open source projects, etc), how would you coordinate the development to ensure that the deliverables will integrate well and resolve issues between the various suppliers?
4. In your previous project management experience, describe some of the problems you've had to handle concerning changes in requirements, non-delivery of components, personnel, etc. and how you've addressed or responded to them.
5. How would you involve the public in the design, development, testing, and documentation of San Francisco's project?

The questions were sent to Director Gerull shortly after TAC's meeting.

## **Discussion with Director Gerull**

Executive Director of the Department of Technology and City CIO Linda Gerull attended TAC's November 8 meeting to discuss the Department of Technology's current plan for the Open Source Voting System Project. The discussion was productive, and TAC looks forward to continuing the dialog with Director Gerull and her team.

## **Open Source Voting System Development**

The TAC continued work on its open source, proof-of-concept work on voting system components. This includes work on an open source election results reporter ("ORR") and code to convert San Francisco election data into a form useable by ORR.

Member Philips also began exploring using machine learning to interpret digital images of hand-marked paper ballots.

TAC's GitHub repositories can be found under its GitHub account here:

<https://github.com/OSVTAC>

## **Contributor License Agreements (CLA's)**

TAC began a more detailed discussion of Contributor License Agreements (CLA's) and the related concept of Developer Certificates of Origin (DCO's). CLA's and DCO's are both mechanisms related to copyright over open source work.

TAC would like to resolve this issue before starting to accept open-source contributions from the public. This is also an issue that the City's larger project will need to resolve and make a decision on. Chair Jerdonek began discussing the issue with the Commission's Deputy City Attorney to make sure that any legal agreements that TAC chooses would work for the City and County.

## **Development of recommendations document**

The TAC continues to work on its recommendations document. The current version can be found here: <https://osvtac.github.io/recommendations>.

## **Member activities**

Chair Jerdonek and Member Kattouw both observed the Logic and Accuracy (L&A) Testing of the Optech Insight machines at Pier 48, Shed B.

Member Kattouw and Member Wasserman both observed the Department of Elections' random selection of precincts for the 1% Public Manual Tally.

Chair Jerdonek also served again as a polling-place inspector.

**Attachments**

1. "Statement on Project Manager Hiring"
2. "Statement on Project Ownership and Project Management"