



Response to TAC

Recommendations of Next Steps for the Open Source Voting System Project

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Prepared by the Department of Technology



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1. Project Website

- Post Project Information
- Monthly status reports
- Current project plans
- Information about RLA pilot project with code links
- Any products such as white papers and reports

We can do this! Currently this information is in the Election Commission reports and it can be consolidated on the website.

2. Project Plans

- Develop and keep project plans for various funding scenarios to help advocates request funding at the state and attract partners.

What we know – a complete system will cost \$24-35M + ongoing support

What we don't know:

- *Does a partner exist?*
- *What would a partner provide: code, resources, funding?*
- *What compromises will the city make to lower cost?*
- *Will the city change business processes to use a system?*
- *Will the State certify the system?*
- *How will the system be maintained?*
- *What is the total cost of ownership over 10 years?*



3. Prioritizing Components

Prioritizing working on system components that are essential and would replace proprietary, non-OS voting components.

- *The Dominion system has been certified by SOS as a single system. Components cannot be added or removed without requiring re-certification by Dominion.*
- *We are working on Open Source components that can be used with any system so taxpayer dollars are not wasted while we investigate partners.*

This includes:

1. *Conducted a pilot and will complete the RLA product which can be used with any system*
2. *Research and pilot OS identity management for disabled voters as requested by Mayor's Disability Council*

4. Hire a Technical Lead

Hire a new technical resource with experience in developing open source projects.

We can do this! When we have a partner and funding for a system development project, we will hire staffing to do the engineering, design, build, testing, support, documentation, training and project management.

To help manage current projects, DT Technical Project Managers are assisting at a minimal level on tasks which lowers cost.

5. Dialogue with TAC.

Allow a representative of DT or Elections to discuss technical issues with TAC on a regular basis.

- *DT has prepared, for the Elections Commission and TAC, monthly status reports with findings and completed actions.*
- *DT has consistently included members of TAC when technical information or considerations were discussed.*
- *DT is not part of the TAC's software programming effort for a report writer.*
- *At this point in time and in agreement with Elections, DT is proceeding with completing the RLA and beginning the pilot of identity management for disabled voters.*

6. Pilot open source RCV tabulator.

Pilot using the OS RCV tabulator that was federally certified and used 11/2019 in Eastpointe, Michigan.

As described before, the Dominion system was certified as a complete system and a different tabulation tool cannot be integrated without support from Dominion and re-certification from the SOS.

*The owner of the Tabulator might want to move this process forward by:
Submit to State of CA for certification*

- Design/engineer the data integrations to determine if security can be maintained*
- Document the integration functional design and requirements*

7. Open source RCV tabulator certification.

Work with the Secretary of State to see what it would take to get the open source tabulator certified for use.

See answer to #6.

8. Pilot open source results reporter.

Pilot using TAC's open source results reporter in the Nov 2020 election.

The Secretary of State has certified the Dominion software which includes a results reporter. A different report writer would have to be incorporated into the Dominion system and gain re-certification.

TAC could use the post election data files to present the results in the Reporter. This is similar the process used by the RLA pilot which used data files after the election for testing. What was learned is that there is much more work to do to use RLA for precinct ballots and the system must be user friendly for a non-programmer to use.

If the Results Reporter has been tested on election results and there are lessons learned for full implementation that should be documented and level of effort determined for development planning and completion.

9. Open source software contest.

Using the set of ballot card pictures from the Nov 2019 election, conduct a contest to develop open source software to check the vote totals.

A contest to develop vote checking software is possible. Currently DT is working on the RLA project as a verification tool for ballot counting.