



**DIRECTOR OF ELECTIONS TO ESTABLISH AN OPEN SOURCE VOTING SYSTEM  
TASK FORCE**

**DEPARTMENT OF ELECTIONS  
City and County of San Francisco**

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***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

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**San Francisco, Friday, January 19, 2007 - SAN FRANCISCO, January 19, 2007** – The San Francisco Department of Elections supports Secretary of State Debra Bowen’s goal of increasing voters confidence in the integrity of the voting process in California, San Francisco will create a task force on the subject of source code review, made up of software and system security experts as well as representatives from San Francisco's voting system provider. The Task force will advise the Department of Elections on how to establish a more transparent method of reviewing the software code for any voting system used in the City and that is secure from tampering. This task force will also be asked to provide a security analysis of San Francisco’s voting system. The task force will inform the public of its findings on the trustworthiness and security of San Francisco’s voting system and make recommendations for creating a more transparent voting system.

One of San Francisco’s goals is to have a review of its existing voting system that will set the foundation for transparent operation of all voting systems. A second goal is for the review process to result in becoming the cornerstone in the development of security standards applicable to all voting systems.

The San Francisco Department of Elections will take the following steps:

- Secure cooperation of San Francisco's voting system vendor
- Seek technical expertise of the Secretary of State’s office
- Continue consultations with the Open Voting Consortium
- Appoint a Task Force comprised of experts in software development and system security; San Francisco's voting system provider; and representatives from the Secretary of State's office
- Work with the Task Force to develop procedures and methods to use in reviewing the existing voting system
- Require Task Force to issue a report on the review that includes recommendations for voting system review and a list of best practices
- Set date for voting system vendor to respond to the review of the existing system and the Task Force report