



Tuesday, November 17, 2009

TrustTheVote

Stakeholder Community

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Greetings Collaborators,

We at the Open Source Digital Voting Foundation (OSDV) are writing today to announce the formalization of our **Stakeholder Community** for the **TrustTheVote Project**. To this point, you have graciously offered us your advice and counsel on various architectural, technical, and policy aspects of our project to develop publicly owned open source voting technology. We deeply appreciate your generous contributions of time and thought leadership. Through your assistance we have been able to accomplish much this year, and in particular, an elections systems framework and technology road map.

With the 4th quarter well underway, and the high level system architecture stabilized, we're turning our attention to **[a]** prototyping system components and **[b]** establishing a regular channel of communication with you through a group eMail list first, and a new online community by year end. We've also made substantial progress on our voter registration system components, having taken the citizen facing registrar into production and deployed it nation-wide with one of our collaborators, Rock The Vote.

This formalized Stakeholder Community will be the driving force behind all of the results of the TrustTheVote Project. While you represent essentially the "founding group," the Volunteer Stakeholder Community is open to anyone who has domain expertise in voting systems and elections management, and we particularly encourage and welcome elections administrators, managers and officials from each of the States and Territories. So, we encourage you to inform anyone who fits this description about our effort to build a framework of open, accurate, transparent, trustworthy and secure voting technology — freely available to any elections jurisdiction to adopt and deploy.

This framework has been likened to *critical democracy infrastructure*. However, for it to be "adoptable" and put into production by elections jurisdictions (*let alone certifiable*), your input is imperative, and we appreciate whatever involvement you decide. We also understand that different parts of this work will interest you more or less, depending on your agenda.

We're excited by the progress our Core Team has made on the framework, and we look forward to engaging your input with their design efforts. Our process for that is principally through review and comment on our work. That work is documented through several types of content: **[1]** White Papers; from which come **[2]** Request for Comments (RFCs); from which are derived **[3]** Design Specifications. There are also ad-hoc content types including Core Team Position Statements, Blog Posts, and Discussion

Group “threads” (*postings, musings, and online conversations under specific topical headings*). We’re asking you to *please* comment and contribute to any and all of this content.

Initially and for the rest of this year, we will these eMail broadcasts to the group list “stakeholders@osdv.org,” which will provide links to quickly access project work, documents, and related content and may include attachments in the form of PDF documents (*free readers are widely available on the Web*). Importantly, your participation gives you *direct* access to the Technology Development Core Team members; without any filters or relays — *something unique to the TrustTheVote Project, and unheard of in traditional commercial software development*.

The OSDV Foundation TrustTheVote Project is for your benefit, and ultimately the integrity of our democracy; that is the charge of our non-profit charter. So, let’s get busy — there is much to do. You will shortly receive copies of current documents to start reviewing and more information soon thereafter on process. In the mean time, please visit the project site at wiki.trustthevote.org to familiarize yourself with the work and resources.

We are honored to have your input in driving our technical work. We warmly welcome you aboard this imperative public digital works project, which is gaining momentum and traction daily.

Sincerely,

Gregory Miller, Co-Executive Director & Chief Development Officer

John Sebes, Co-Executive Director & Chief Technology Officer