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# Assembly California Legislature

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## CO-AUTHOR REQUEST Open Source Software For Election AB 2097 GOLDBERG

**The vote counting process is supposed to be public!** Currently, the ability of the public to scrutinize the process is being curtailed by secrecy. AB 2097 will require that all technical details, including computer source code (instructions programmers write), of computerized vote tabulating systems be publicly disclosed by June 30, 2007.

Even with very limited access to voting machine testing, independent testers have found serious flaws in them. Opening up the system will mean more scrutiny, better quality, and improved public confidence that votes are being properly counted.

Goldberg's ACR 242 in 2004 asked the Secretary of State to investigate the feasibility of using open source software and issue a report on that by January 1, 2006. The report includes this:

*Dr. Michael Shamos, Co-Director of the Institute for eCommerce and Director of the Center for Privacy Technology at Carnegie Mellon University participated in the Security/Paper Trails/Accountability Panel and offered his viewpoint that "all voting system software should be disclosed to the public."*

Sometimes experts refer to "open source" meaning software that is licensed under one of the free software licenses. Technically, this bill would make the software code "disclosed," but not truly "open source" in this technical sense. Vendors would grant rights enabling public inspection and testing, but retain all other proprietary rights to the software.

The distribution of the software and specifications (via Internet) would be handled by the Secretary of State as part of the state's voting system certification process.

Sponsored by Open Voting Consortium

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YES ! I WANT TO CO-AUTHOR AB 2907

Print Name

Signature

Please return this form to Bob Reid, Office of Assemblymember Jackie Goldberg. Room 2003 or fax it to 319-2145