

THE FUTURE OF ELECTION TECHNOLOGY

What if there was a different way—a better way—to design, build, and pay for election technology?

The Election Technology Trust is an ambitious, long-term effort to collectively modernize the development and procurement of U.S. election technology. In conjunction with jurisdictions across the country, we're working together to build and share innovative, cost-effective election technology. This collaborative approach allows us to share both the costs and the benefits of an improved voting experience nationwide.

OUR VISION

We envision a robust democracy powered by reliable, cost-effective, and secure publicly-owned election systems. Bringing this vision to life required the founding of the Election Technology Trust, a new effort that goes beyond just one jurisdiction and exceeds the ability of any existing government entity to develop new technology.

THE ELECTION TECHNOLOGY TRUST

The Election Technology Trust (ETT) is a nonpartisan, democratically-controlled membership organization for election administrators dedicated to modernizing the development and procurement of election technology. The ETT will harness the collective power of many jurisdictions to provide better technology at a better price, while also promoting innovative solutions and best practices nationwide.

Membership will provide local and state administrators with a platform of tools that have been developed by officials across the country, along with:

- ▶ Engineering resources to maintain and upgrade the tools over time,
- ▶ Documentation and training necessary to deploy the tools in new places, and
- ▶ Support for jurisdictions that use the tools.

The ETT will also provide resources and training to help election administrators improve their procurement processes, including opportunities for collective procurement, information about common business requirements for various tools, etc.

Over time, the trust will evolve to fit the needs of the election administration community, but could eventually include many or all of the following:

- ▶ Becoming an information conduit about what low-cost public solutions are already available for interested election administrators
- ▶ Providing resources and assistance on how to design open source or multi-jurisdictional RFPs for new technology
- ▶ Creating a home for collaborative election software to ensure that it is held in the public trust for perpetuity, that appropriate software licenses are maintained, and that iterations to code are properly documented
- ▶ Helping jurisdictions modify or augment existing open source software to meet the needs of their jurisdiction, whether that is through advising them on vendors, or by providing direct consulting and technical services
- ▶ Creating new software solutions when market-based solutions are prohibitively expensive or are failing to meet demand
- ▶ Organizing interest groups of election administrators whose needs overlap, collaborating on funding, building, deploying, or requesting proposals for new technology
- ▶ Educating government stakeholders on the necessary regulatory changes required for deploying or funding collaborative technology
- ▶ Bringing new sources of funding into the space; matchmaking funders with projects
- ▶ Nurturing an ecosystem of public election technology developers
- ▶ Developing and promulgating open data standards and the common data format

ABOUT DEMOCRACY WORKS

WHO WE ARE

Democracy Works is a nonpartisan, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to the idea that voting should fit the way we live. We're a team of software developers, public policy wonks, and civic organizers building the tools needed to upgrade the infrastructure of our democracy and improve the voting experience for voters and election officials alike.

Our vision is straightforward: make voting a simple, seamless experience for all Americans so that no one misses an election. We serve as the organizational home for the ETT.

OUR PROCESS

We rely on the knowledge and experience of dedicated elections professionals to produce simple, useful, and even beautiful tools. To that end, Democracy Works partners directly with state and local offices to design, test, and implement new programs.

This collaborative process ensures that stakeholders have the opportunity to shape the projects from start to finish, and allows us to accommodate the wide variety of legal, policy, and technological constraints in different offices.