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CITY OF VALLEJO PRESENTS PROCLAMATION TO STANFORD UNIVERSITY FOR CYCLE 2 PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING PARTNERSHIP

On Tuesday, October 14, the City of Vallejo presented a proclamation to Stanford University for their innovative contributions to the Cycle 2 Participatory Budgeting process. Proclamations were presented by Councilmembers Dew-Costa and Miessner.

For the Cycle 2 vote, held September 27 through October 6, the City of Vallejo partnered with the Crowdsourced Democracy Team of Stanford University to provide a convenient and secure digital voting platform, as an alternative to traditional paper ballots. Led by Professor Ashish Goel and supported by Tanja Aitamurto, Anilesh Krishnaswamy and Sukolsak Sakshuwong, the digital platform was used at every Project Expo and at most satellite locations. Nearly a quarter of the 3,744 residents who voted in Vallejo cast their ballot using the digital platform. On September 10, an electronic sample ballot was posted on the PB Website to acclimate voters with the digital interface and encourage electronic voting.

“Our mission is to scale up collaboration and decision-making,” said Professor Goel. “The Participatory Budgeting process in Vallejo is a glowing example of democracy at its best, and we feel privileged to help in a small way.”

There are several beneficial features to the digital platform, including automatic tabulation of votes and automatic randomization of the order of projects for each unique voter. Voters also had the choice to complete an optional activity for Stanford’s research purposes, which asked voters to compare projects based on the voters’ perception of the community benefit the project would provide.

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