

**CES Forum Next Steps- Equal Vote
7/8/20 Agenda - Zoom Meeting**

Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82767887822?pwd=MEtOQ1JXSHBablp6OEZHVEITS0Vmdz09>

7:30pdt Welcome to zoom. Self-muting, tricks of the trade, etc. Lets keep this to an hour if possible or under 2 tops.

Volunteers needed for this meeting:

- **Host/Chair (Reading agenda and calling on people):** Sara
- **Note-taking (In line on the agenda here, and also make sure to copy/paste the zoom chat log in this doc at the end):**
- **Facilitator (no hogging the mic or long-winded tangents!):**

Attendance: (in order of introduction):

- * Sara Wolk sara@equal.vote
- * Keith Edmonds keith@equal.vote
- * Rob Brown, rjbrown@gmail.com
- * (latecomer 7:33pm PDT): Rob Lanphier robla@robla.net
- * Jonathan Bright brightj@gmail.com
- * David Hinds, deh9999@gmail.com
- * (latecomer 7:38pm PDT - attended for 10-15 minutes): Felix Sargent - not speaking as a board member

7:35 or 7:40 at the latest. Meet and Greet: Name, 3 sentences about why you're here, tops!

Brainstorm and list intentions: What do we want this forum to accomplish?

- **Sara:** Equal Vote is willing to step up here because this community is valuable and the need for a scientific and unbiased space is key to the future of this movement. To the extent we host Equal Vote will take a light-handed approach and encourage the forum and election science community to step up collectively to lead on this project for its own benefit.
- **Popcorn list of goals/intentions for the forum:**

- * Sara Wolk sara@equal.vote
- * Keith Edmonds keith@equal.vote
- * Rob Brown rjbrown@gmail.com
- * Rob Lanphier robla@robla.net
- * Jonathan Bright brightj@gmail.com
- * David Hinds deh9999@gmail.com
- * Felix Sargent felix.sargent@gmail.com

Motion to create an interim council for the forum and elect the meeting participants from this meeting - (Felix nominated but not in attendance) Passed by consensus!

Sara's Motion: Create a new autonomous forum governed by a community board and mission statement, working in coalition with Equal Vote, and linked from the Equal Vote website. (It could be linked from other websites as well.) Consensus passed!

Rob Brown's Motion: To take on hosting a NodeBB forum on Heroku. It would be an autonomous coalition partner of Equal Vote. The rules for moderation and "passing the keys" to the next generation of maintainers will be decided and stated up front. Sara Wolk to help set up the formalities of the organization and the partnership to Equal Vote. Consensus with Rob Lanphier abstaining.

Motion: to do due diligence and apply best practices to protect and minimize the storage of PII of users, with these responsibilities explicitly delegated to specific responsible individuals trusted by the council/board. Consensus vote

Next week: Same time same link, Tuesday the 14th:

Rob Brown will write up a summary post on the CES forum.

Sara will write up draft bylaws for the Forum organization to use as a starting point:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1obwaF82x5022V_K-gifdv7Why-O5LzqFAiB_d4EwqAw/edit?usp=sharing

Join the STAR Voting slack!

https://join.slack.com/t/starvoting/shared_invite/zt-f7g77njl-QRmLd7lQCGo_IMYxl~uNCg

#Forum

Volunteer to work on Archive migration or at least preserving a static version of the archive at the old site.

Options: Can we preserve the archives? Can we continue the Discourse CES forum if desired? Sara has reached out to the CES board officers and the preliminary answer felt like a no.

- **Considerations:** Cost, admin workload, (could that money or time be better spent elsewhere,) continuity, desired features, login needed?

- **Popcorn list desired features:** Nested threads, low cost, low maintenance, convenient photo and file uploads, organization/separation of topics/threads/conversations
- ns, easy searchability, no login ... list others.
- **Felix:** Any updates?
- **Reddit:** Sara/Equal Vote created a Reddit [r/ElectionScience](#). The intention is to keep that non-partisan and to hold space on a free platform for the next steps on this project.
- **Rob Brown:** Rob has offered to run or help run open-source forum software (NodeBB?) on an app hosting service (Heroku?), keeping open future options such as the ability to build in voting widgets/visualizers/simulators, etc. .
- **Rob Lanphier (RobLa from electowiki/Electorama):** when RobLa set up Electorama.com back in 2003, he hoped to provide a platform for voting widgets/visualizers/simulators. It would still be possible to "host" a new forum at forum.electorama.com, but that's merely the domain name. There are a *lot* of moving pieces (and legal requirements) to hosting a website with open signups. If RobLa had to decide today, he would use Quora Spaces (e.g. [the Electorama space on Quora](#))
- **Other suggestions and discussion on options?**
 - Loomio is expensive but great.
 - Slack/Discord are better at messaging/teamwork, not focused discussion.
 - Facebook groups work great and have the most accessibility in the STAR Voting project's experience, but it's facebook.
 - Quora "Spaces" (see the [Spaces FAQ](#)) may offer a reasonably-mainstream way to keep our discussions from becoming an echo chamber, and offer more people the opportunity to join us.
 - [Discourse self-hosting](#)? \$150 one-time installation and then \$5 per month

Can we find consensus and/or vote on the platform today or would we like to move to the Reddit while we take more time to decide?

- **Discuss and hope for a quick consensus.**
- **Decide Today v. Decide Later:** Vote using Approval.
- **If we vote today, let's try and narrow it down to two options with consensus or else vote using STAR if that's okay with the group:** Vote

Volunteer Action Items:

*** Investigate export of Discourse data:**

<https://meta.discourse.org/t/archive-an-old-forum-in-place-to-start-a-new-discourse-forum/13433/10>

List Delegated Tasks Here:

NEXT MEETING:

Next Steps/Future Agenda Items:

- **Talk about how the forum will be managed:** Options: Equal Vote Admins or Co-Admins with CES, find moderators representing STAR, Score, Approval, Ranking, Etc, Elect admins using some voting method, This could get meta.
- **Talk about potential areas of concern and things to prevent or insure against:**
- **Moderation Goals:** Has the forum needed much or any moderation in the past? Is there a need for more or different moderation? What standards do we want to uphold and how strict would we like moderation to be.
 - **Sara:** I'd like to see moderation only as needed and only to correct blatant disrespect or intentional or ongoing misinformation. I'd like to see moderators reach out to commenters if needed, not delete or block unless absolutely necessary.
- **Selecting/Electing Moderators:**

Felix stating some understanding of the CES position. He cannot make a statement for CES.

- **Primary concerns are with the legal details of the transfer of data**
 - **Personally Identifiable Information is stored on the server**
 - **The details of the chats could be considered intellectual property**
- **CES does not seem to want any information removed from public view**

Equal vote statement on if they will take on the forum project

- **Equal vote would prefer to not have total ownership**
- **Bylaws have coalition section**
 - **Forum would be a perfect coalition member**

Center for Election Science meeting:

Fargo's First Approval Voting Election: Live Discussion

Where: Online via Zoom Conference

Date: July 14th, 2020

Time: 7pm ET/ 6pm CT/ 5pm MT/ 4pm PT

RSVP at the following link:

<https://www.electionscience.org/fargos-first-approval-voting-election-live-discussion/>

Zoom chat

- From Sara Wolk- Equal Vote Coalition to Everyone: 07:30 PM
 - Agenda:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1IYPoPOE00Uwt0rtWs-rWnaY_S-gZ8vNxPTOmXv5vdcA/edit?usp=sharing
- From Sara Wolk- Equal Vote Coalition to Everyone: 07:36 PM
 - Zoom link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82767887822?pwd=MEtOQ1JXSHBablp6OEZHVEITS0Vmdz09>
- From Jonathan Bright to Everyone: 07:50 PM
 - https://www.reddit.com/r/Archiveteam/comments/hg09hi/the_ces_forum_is_shutting_down_so_grab_your/
- From Felix Sargent to Everyone: 07:51 PM
 - <https://meta.discourse.org/t/archive-an-old-forum-in-place-to-start-a-new-discourse-forum/13433/10>
- From David Hinds to Everyone: 07:59 PM
 - It looks like someone in the past have asked about trying to copy a discourse forum, but the responses were all pessimistic about the possibility
 - <https://meta.discourse.org/t/clone-an-existing-discourse-forum-without-access-to-the-server-itself/49110/8>
- From Rob Lanphier's computer to Everyone: 07:59 PM
 - which electowiki: electowiki.miraheze.org or wiki.electorama.com ?
- From Keith to Everyone: 08:01 PM
 - Your project is electowiki.org
 - If you want to be a coalition partner talk with sara
- From Sara Wolk- Equal Vote Coalition to Everyone: 08:44 PM
 - Join the STAR Voting slack!
https://join.slack.com/t/starvoting/shared_invite/zt-f7g77nj1-QRmLd7lQC_Go_IMYxl~uNCg
 - #Forum