



followmyvote.com

Press Kit

2016

Follow My Vote is pioneering Blockchain Technology by developing the world's first open-source end-to-end verifiable blockchain-based voting system for use in elections worldwide.



About Us:

Follow My Vote is a nonpartisan public benefit corporation born on the 4th of July, founded on the principles of freedom, as a tribute to the Founding Fathers of the United States. A public benefit corporation is a new legal tool to create a solid foundation for long-term mission alignment and value creation.

Our Mission:

Follow My Vote's mission is to promote truth and freedom by empowering individuals to communicate effectively and implement non-coercive solutions to societal problems.

Our Focus:

As a first step towards fulfilling our mission, Follow My Vote is taking on the challenge of improving the integrity standards of voting systems used in elections worldwide.



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Faces & Minds Behind Follow My Vote

Adam Kaleb Ernest | Founder & CEO

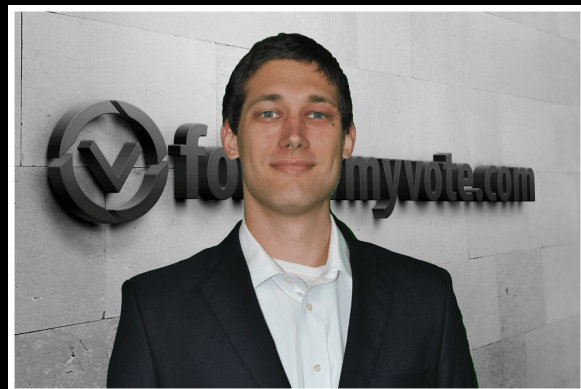
Adam has a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Business Administration from Virginia Tech. Majoring in Marketing Management, Adam has acquired over 12 years of experience in marketing, digital media, operations, management, and leadership, owning a critical role in the development of an industry leading internet marketing agency, MediaWhiz Holdings, LLC, and subsequent sale to Matomy Media Group Ltd. Adam has a proven track record of effectively leading and managing professionals on a large scale and has been highly recommended by his peers and employees alike. Adam founded Follow My Vote hoping to bring his skills to Blacksburg and fulfill his dream of cultivating his own startup in the vibrant college town and tech community surrounding his alma mater.



Adam is currently leading the conversation with respect to blockchain based voting systems, having been featured in publications such as the Roanoke Times, The Independent Voter Network, and Bitcoin Magazine.

Nathan Hourt | Founder & CTO

Nathan has a Master's of Science Degree in Computer Science from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, as well as a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Computer Science from Harding University. While attending college, Nathan contributed to research projects in software obfuscation and reverse engineering, data compression, and randomized algorithms. Nathan also collaborated with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Lincoln Laboratory on the development of a next-generation computer networking protocol. Nathan has over five years of experience developing cross-platform software, running the gamut from kernel-level C to Javascript and GUI. Nathan is one of two chief architects that designed and developed the Graphene Blockchain Framework, which is the foundation upon which [Muse](#), [BitShares](#), and [Steem](#) built their blockchains.



The Follow My Vote Story

Adam Kaleb Ernest founded Follow My Vote on July 4, 2012, after conceiving an idea for the development of a mobile app that would allow citizens to compare what they believed against the records of how elected officials were actually voting. The objective being to facilitate civic engagement in an effort to ensure that the government became more representative of the people over time. Ernest would later move the company to Blacksburg, VA to be closer to other collaborators and a friendly start-up environment.

In early 2014, Follow My Vote was awarded a dedicated working space at NuSpark, a startup space sponsored by the Virginia Tech Foundation. Later in 2014, the company began collaborating with [BitShares](#) and relocated to a shared office space in the Virginia Tech Corporate Research Center, thus “graduating” the NuSpark space. In collaborating with BitShares, Follow My Vote committed to developing a blockchain-based voting solution that will be integrated with the BitShares blockchain. From there, Follow My Vote and BitShares worked directly together to develop a new proof of concept for the voting platform.

In 2015, Nathan Hourt came on as the CTO and Co-founder of Follow My Vote. Previously Hourt was one of the chief blockchain architects and core developers for BitShares.

Since then, with a completed proof of concept, Follow My Vote has been working to build awareness and a network of supporters. Their blockchain voting system offers end-to-end verifiability, making it an ideal solution for any use case where accusations of illegitimacy are persistent, such as government-sponsored elections, political primaries, proxy voting, and verified polls. Therefore, Follow My Vote is targeting both the public and private business sectors while actively exploring opportunities to implement their online voting solution at home and abroad.

Follow My Vote intends to keep pushing for transparency in elections within these countries by encouraging legislators and election officials to enact legislation that will allow their solution to be piloted and subsequently adopted. In the meantime, Follow My Vote has shifted its main focus to exploring opportunities in the private sector.

In the beginning of 2016, Follow My Vote converted to a public benefit corporation in an effort to create a solid foundation for long-term mission alignment and value creation.

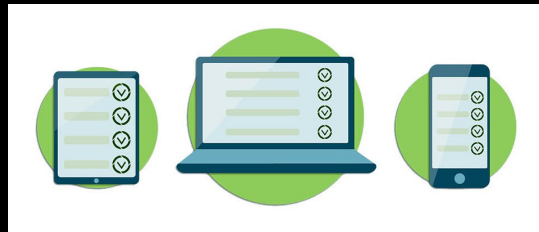
The Follow My Vote voting software will launch in 2016 leading to a global demo. To demonstrate the power and convenience of blockchain voting, Follow My Vote will host a parallel election alongside the 2016 US Presidential Election. The company is currently letting people sign up to participate [on their website](#).

Vision

Transparency = Verifiability



Online | Blockchain Voting



Open Source = Integrity



Accurate Results



Ballot Box Auditing

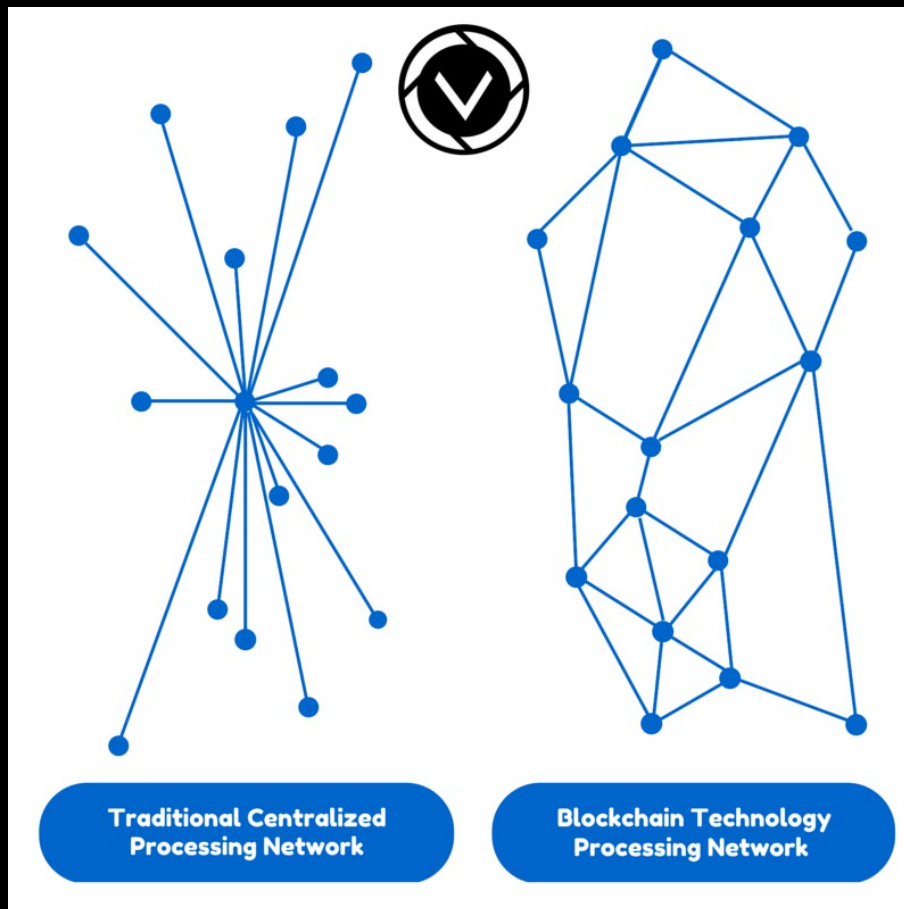


Privacy



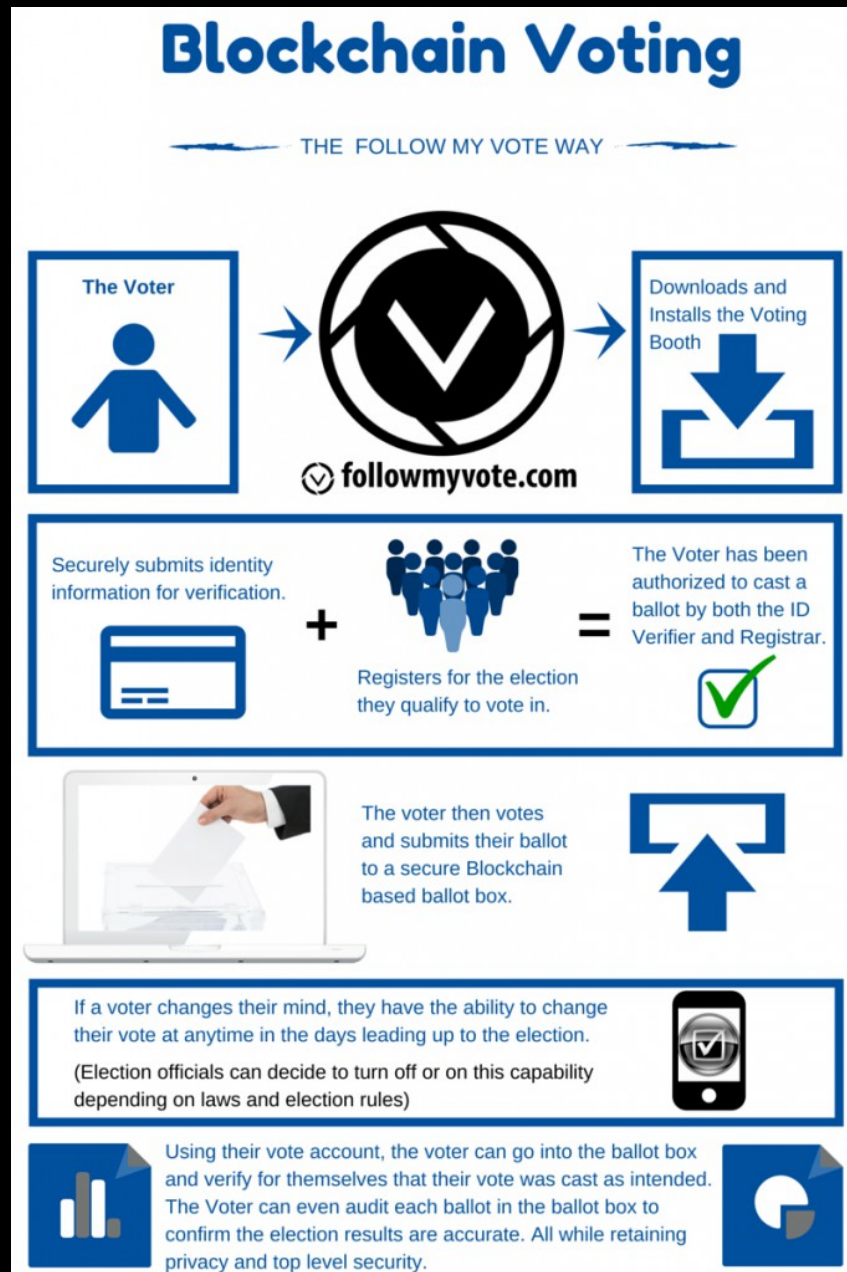
Technology

[Blockchain technology](#) already secures billions of dollars around the world. We believe it should secure our votes as well. Using the unparalleled security of blockchain technology, we are poised to disrupt the established voting industry by offering a more cost-effective and technologically superior solution.

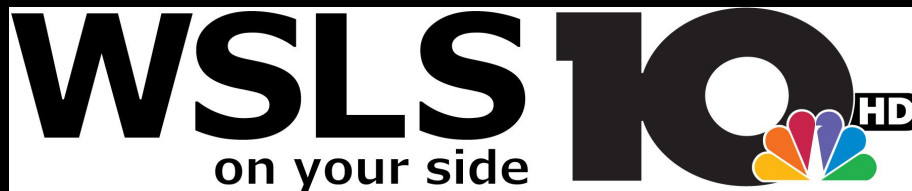


Decentralization is one of the most important attributes of blockchain technology. A decentralized system provides Follow My Vote with the appropriate security protocols necessary for large-scale elections. Illustrated above, a traditional processing network has one point of centralization. This is the point a hacker would attack to corrupt a system. In a decentralized system there is no single point of weakness. This creates a system that is extremely low risk of being compromised.

Technology



Follow My Vote In The Media



FAQs

What is Blockchain?

A blockchain can be referred to as a transactional database or public ledger that is created and maintained by a network of computers/servers. The various computers and/or servers that power the network take turns verifying sets of transactions and adding them to the database, which are referred to as blocks. These “blocks” of transactions are mathematically linked to one another in a way that would resemble a chain, hence the name blockchain. Once stored in the database, these transactions are permanent and irreversible. Our online voting platform has a blockchain-based ballot box that allows votes to be securely stored within the system.

What are the key benefits of using your online voting platform?

The key benefits of our online voting platform are inherent in its design, as it embodies all of the characteristics that a legitimate voting system requires: security, accuracy, transparency, anonymity, freedom, and fairness. [Learn More!](#)

Will my vote be kept private in your online voting system?

Being that our online voting system has a transparent ballot box where all ballots cast are viewable to all voters, anonymity is necessary in order to protect each voter's right to privacy. Our online voting system provides each voter with anonymity through the use of elliptic curve cryptography. Upon account creation, each voter is issued a public key that is associated to their account. Voters are known by other voters in the system only as their public key so that they can cast their ballot without having to reveal their identity to everyone else within the system. With this in mind, voters can be assured that their identities will be protected and that their votes will remain anonymous.

How are elections hosted within your online voting system kept secure?

Our online voting system uses elliptic curve cryptography, which requires each voter to be issued two separate keys that are mathematically related upon the creation of their account. One of these keys is made public to the other voters within the system, which is why it is called a public key. The other key is kept secret from all other voters within the system, and is therefore called a private key. The combination of the public key and private key is described as a key pair. When a voter creates an account within our online voting system, although the voter will be given both a public key and a private key, the voter's private key will be used by the voter to control the account and submit requests to the system; however, other voters within the system will only know what that voter's public key is. By leveraging elliptic curve cryptography in this way, ballot requests, updates, and submissions made within the system are kept secure, as they cannot be hacked or faked in any way. Also, once a voter's vote has been approved and stored in our online voting system's blockchain-based ballot box, it cannot be changed by any other voter within the system.

[Find more FAQs on our website](#)

Key Events

Joining the California Association of Voting Officials (CAVO)

[October 8, 2014](#)

CAVO is a California non-profit non-stock mutual benefit corporation. They aim to create new voting systems that utilize free open source software and foster all the steps to make implementation of these voting systems possible.

California Association of Clerks and Election Officials (CACEO) Joint New Law Workshop

[December 8-12, 2014](#)

As a member of CAVO, Follow My Vote was invited to participate in the CACEO Joint New Law Workshop where Adam Ernest (CEO) presented and demonstrated the revolutionary platform.

Presenting to The Pirate Party of Norway

[March 21-22, 2015](#)

Members of the Pirate Party of Norway originally heard about Follow My Vote during the 1st European Liquid Democracy Meet up, which was hosted by Julia Reda (Pirate Party Member of the European Parliament). From there, Adam Ernest (CEO) was invited to speak to the Party in Norway. In his presentation, he provided a background of Follow My Vote as a company along with a demo and in-depth discussion on the structure of the voting platform.

Follow My Vote Solidifies Partnership with Delta Sigma Pi at Virginia Tech.

[September 3, 2015](#)

The Professional Business Fraternity has agreed to beta test the software and upon completion use the platform for their elections process.

Confronting Voting Officials at the Brennan Center For Justice Event: America's Voting Technology Crisis

[September 17, 2015](#)

This panel highlighted the \$3.5 BILLION from the Help Americans Vote Act of 2002, which is now gone.

Follow My Vote & Liberland Attend Web Summit 2015

[November 3-5, 2015](#)

Follow My Vote was accepted to the Alpha Program at Web Summit 2015 hosted in Dublin, Ireland. The tech conference was labeled "The new hot ticket on the tech conference scene" by Forbes. Follow My Vote exhibited at the conference, in addition to helping gain exposure for Liberland, a newly established Micro-nation between Serbia and Croatia.

Key Events

Liberland Signs on to Beta Test the Follow My Vote Software

[November 5, 2015](#)

After Follow My Vote Exhibited at Web Summit, Liberland President, Vít Jedlička announced that Follow My Vote will serve as the beta voting system for the newly established Micro-nation saying:

“Liberland aims to be the front-runner for all technological improvements that make citizens lives easier. That is why we chose to be the first users of Follow My Vote.”

Follow My Vote Converts to a Public Benefit Corporation

[January 2016](#)

Follow My Vote made this change to place more emphasis on the mission and the great work of promoting truth and freedom in societies all around the world.

Follow My Vote And WebRoots Democracy Release Secure Voting Report

[January 26, 2016](#)

WebRoots Democracy, in partnership with Follow My Vote and other industry leading experts, released a report entitled “Secure Voting: A guide to secure #onlinevoting in elections.” The purpose of the report, which was written by global experts and authoritative academics, was to explore and document the possible security models for online voting software. Follow My Vote contributed an entire chapter in the report addressing questions pertaining to voter verification, safeguards against cyber-attacks and malware, audit trails, and securing voter records.

Robert Scoble, Rackspace's Futurist, Visits the Follow My Vote Office

[January 26, 2016](#)

Scoble is well known for being a blogger and a former technology evangelist for Microsoft. He dropped by our office to interview CEO, Adam Ernest, and CTO, Nathan Hourt. Scoble streamed the entire event to his followers on Facebook.

Follow My Vote Exhibits at Collision Conference in New Orleans

[April 26-28, 2016](#)

Collision has been called “America's fastest growing tech conference” and was created by the team behind Web Summit. Follow My Vote was accepted to the Alpha Program , which provides companies with opportunities to present and meet mentors.

Endorsements

"The future of government is in open-source technologies and providing transparent election results will aid to restoring faith in vote counting. I support efforts, like those used by Follow My Vote, that explore how open-source software can lead to greater transparency, integrity and participation in voting."

- Kammi Foote, Inyo County (CA) Registrar of Voters

"I believe that "more voices, more choices" will help shift the political power back to the people, away from the control of a few corporations and political elites, creating a more balanced system where all are free and equal in their ability to participate. This can only happen with honest voting and Follow My Vote provides the most transparent and verifiable voting process I have seen to date."

-Christina Tobin, Founder of the Free and Equal Elections Foundation

"Liberland aims to be the front-runner for all technological improvements that make citizens lives easier. That is why we chose to be the first users of Follow My Vote."

-Vít Jedlička, President of Liberland

Online



Logo Guidelines

Colors:

The Follow My Vote logo should remain in Black and White.

Black: #00000000

White: #FFFFFFF

Minimum Size: In printed applications, the smallest the logo should appear is $\frac{3}{4}$ inch high.

For on-screen and web use, the smallest the logo should appear is 72 pixels high.



Whenever possible, the logo should be used at a larger size than minimum.

Spacing: When placing the logo near other content, please leave a minimum of 1/5-inch blank space surrounding the logo.

Do not:

- Separate the Follow My Vote URL from the logo.
- Rotate or angle the logo.
- Use the logo on a background that impairs readability.
- Condense or distort the proportions of the logo.
- Alter the logo besides sizing.

Do:

- Incorporate the logo in any content related to Follow My Vote