***VotingBlock* Provides Customization, Quickly Creates Secure E-Voting Systems**

UMD Students have developed a framework to quickly deploy custom Blockchain voting systems

COLLEGE PARK, MD – March 12, 2019 – Voters may soon be able to skip the lines in future elections. Students at the University of Maryland, College Park have developed *VotingBlock*, a framework designed to allow for the fast deployment of customized Blockchain voting systems. *VotingBlock* was created with the intent of learning and illuminating the strengths and weaknesses of voting systems built with Blockchain.

With the rise of technology, there has been an increased interest in shifting the election process from paper to electronic. However, there are many people that are skeptical about security with online voting, regardless of how secure their implementations may seem. Currently, there are little to no voting frameworks or applications that allow for researchers and users to study these implications. In addition, there is little flexibility in current systems that make it nearly impossible to set-up quick testing scenarios.

Now with *VotingBlock*, there is a way for researchers, government officials, and voters alike to gain insight into electronic voting systems using Blockchain technology. There have been countless single-use voting applications that offer a single solution, but *VotingBlock* serves another purpose. With the release of the *VotingBlock* framework, there are tangible ways to test fully-customized election processes and see how these systems will perform in the real-world, providing invaluable insights into the process. With this framework, it is now easier than ever to show the strengths of Blockchain voting systems, and also its limitations. *VotingBlock* will provide voters and administrators with confidence by allowing everyone to view the ledger and ensure votes were counted.

Justin Lehr, one of the students who helped develop the product, had this to say, "*VotingBlock* is filling an immediate need in election systems. It will make the voting process more transparent and allow researchers and government officials to gain important knowledge about online voting systems. It will prove to be an invaluable asset when determining the feasibility of launching such systems and deciding what is the best way to proceed."

More information about *VotingBlock* and their framework can be found at https://www.cs.umd.edu.