

## Why We Support Elections Held With Hand-Counted Paper Ballots

### Why We Support Unplugging ALL Voting Machines

- The voting systems on which over 80% of America cast their ballots in the November 2006 election are highly suspect of fraud and can't be trusted with the votes of our citizens.
- The HELP AMERICA VOTE ACT (HAVA) which was passed in 2002 to eliminate punch card (hanging chads) and lever voting systems and to mandate one voting system per precinct that would allow the disabled to vote without assistance, offered \$3.86 billion to the states for compliance. This was errantly viewed as a mandate for the states to purchase electronic voting machines. (There are at least two non-electronic voting systems, Vote-PAD and Equalivote, which fulfill the HAVA mandate for the disabled.)
- Four primary vendors of electronic voting machines have flooded the market with their products, both DREs (Direct Recording Electronic) and computerized optical scan counters: ES&S (Electronic Systems and Software); Diebold (pronounced, "DEE-bold"); Hart InterCivic; and Sequoia.
- The software that runs all of the computerized voting systems is "secret and proprietary." No citizens or government agencies can review it for honesty and integrity.
- The federal testing agencies that review electronic voting systems for accuracy are paid by the e-voting machine vendors. Two of them were decertified by the National Institute of Standards and Technology last year, before the mid-term elections, but voting machines they certified were still used across the country. 100% of Texas' voting machines were certified by Wyle Labs, the first to be decertified in July of 2006.
- Many of the systems have modems, allowing for manipulation of elections from remote locations through the internet.
- Ownership ties to the major e-voting system vendors link back to top political operatives, foreign governments (Sequoia) and even defense contractors.
- Felons have been employed as programmers. (Jeffrey Dean, who was kept on when Diebold bought Global Election Systems, on a contract basis)
- Thousands of problems have arisen with the machines in real election conditions: "flipped" votes where you vote for one candidate and the name of the opponent appears; "overvotes" (more votes than registered voters); For example: A NEGATIVE 16,000 votes were recorded for Gore in the 2000 presidential election in Florida, almost causing him to concede the election without cause. When the "error" was found and backed out of the total, he was ahead at that time; 100,000 extra votes than voters (Tarrant County, Texas, 2006 primary election;) machines breaking down and needing recalibration; machine vendors running elections because election officials do not understand how to operate the software; and many, many more. See Bev Harris's "Black Box Voting: Ballot Tampering in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century" (can download chapters from her website, [www.blackboxvoting.org](http://www.blackboxvoting.org)); or Bev's chapter 2 in "HACKED! High Tech Election Theft in America" which has over 100 examples of electronic voting machine "anomalies".)
- The programming which allows for undetectable fraud is present in two of the top four electronic vendors' software (Diebold and Sequoia). It may also be in the other two; their software has not been revealed to the public or any election officials for review. We are being asked to "trust" that their software is safe. We call this "faith-based voting".
- The most likely legislative proposed solution, Rep. Rush Holt's H.R. 811, involves adding printers to touch screens but only auditing a small percentage of all the paper "ballots" or "receipts" is dangerously ineffective and still allows for secret vote counting. **Hacking exploits by Harri Hursti, world-class computer programmer from Finland, in both Leon County, Florida in 2005 and in Emery County, Utah in 2006 indicate high level sophisticated architecture for hacking in election software in both the Diebold touch screens with printers added, and in Diebold optical scan counters used to count paper ballots.** (Reports on the Leon County hacks are posted on the BBV website "The Hursti Report". First one is dated July 4, 2005. The report on the Utah hacks was posted in May 2006.)
- Bev Harris posted an article Sept. 6, 2006 about how she and an associate opened the seals on Diebold Optical Scan

Counters, removed the “memory cards” (electronic ballot boxes which store all the totals of the paper ballot counts) and replaced them with different cards, replaced the seals, in under four minutes, all without any record of the event that would alert election officials. This proves that the seals, which are supposed to protect the machines against tampering, are totally ineffective.

- Election workers in California, and in other precincts across the country are sent home with election equipment several days before elections (“sleepovers”) allowing unmitigated access for tampering.
- **Two election workers from Ohio were sentenced to 18 months in prison in March 2007 for rigging the recount in Ohio** (Cuyahoga County) during the 2004 post-Presidential election period. The public is being told “Don’t worry—it didn’t affect the results of the Presidential race.” **How do we know that?** Ohio was the pivotal state in the 2004 Presidential race!!!
- ES&S, an e-voting machine vendor used in Texas, sent a letter to the state election director in Florida after the 2006 mid-term elections, **dictating the terms of the audit** that followed the disastrous House District 13 election in which 18,000 “undervotes” appeared...18,000 people came in, voted, and (supposedly) did not cast a vote for that race. This was 3 or 4 times the undervote rate of any other county in the state. This was a race in which the winner won by 369 votes. A current court challenge is pending (as of June 2007).
- To repeat an important point: **An election can be hacked using optical scan counters** which count paper ballots. (Harri Hursti’s July 4, 2005 report on Leon County Florida hacks)
- Federally, Rush Holt’s bill, HR 811, is viewed as a “solution” by many who are working on this issue, INCLUDING COMMON CAUSE, MOVEON, AND PEOPLE FOR THE AMERICAN WAY!!!! **But this will not solve our problem, as it adds a paper record to the electronic voting system but there is no assurance that the paper record will be accurate, and as demonstrated in the points above, recounts can and are hacked; audits can and are manipulated. This bill is being fast-tracked through Congress RIGHT NOW, and sets dangerous and secretive precedents for not only ineffective solutions (“paper record or trail” on electronic voting machines with software apparently designed for fraud); but also permanent federal control over elections through the Election Assistance Commission (EAC) whose members are selected by BUSH. (or whoever the sitting President may be.)**
- **We must return to hand-counted paper ballots, with totals posted at the precinct level, with multi-partisan citizen oversight, as a uniform way to hold elections.** Computers and partisan corporations have no business running elections. Citizens must volunteer to work elections and be available for hand counting paper ballots.

Visit [www.Congress.org](http://www.Congress.org) to learn who your elected reps and Senators are; contact them IMMEDIATELY and ask that they vote NO on H.R. 811!

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“HACKED! High Tech Election Theft in America”

<http://www.hackedelections.com>  
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