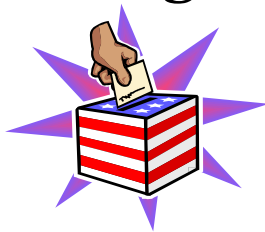


It's the counting that counts.



In a recent Zogby Poll*, 92% of all demographic groups in America agreed that voters have the right to view the counting of the votes and the right to know how the counting process works,

In 2002, Congress passed the “Help America Vote Act” to fix vote counting. They did just that by making vote counting invisible, secret and easy to hack.

As a result of the HAVA legislation, which was written with a helping hand from the voting machine vendors, over 90% of the voters in Texas (and across America) now have their votes counted on one of two types of electronic voting machines. One type, the **DRE**, directly records the votes electronically inside the machine without the use of any paper and then counts them *invisibly*. The other type is the **optical scanner** that electronically reads votes that have been marked on paper ballots and then counts them *invisibly*, too.

Did you know that all electronic voting machines use **secret**, “**proprietary**” software that the Texas Secretary of State and all other local and state election officials are never permitted to examine? **It is an upside down world in which the secrets of the voting machine vendors are protected, but the voters’ right to know that the votes have been cast and counted accurately is not.**

So, how have these “easier, faster and more secure” electronic voting machines performed during elections? Well, they have failed to start up, crashed, added and subtracted votes and even *counted backwards*. More alarmingly, computer scientists have discovered that these machines can be easily hacked or pre-programmed to change voting results *without leaving a trace*. Now, add to all this the fact that these machines are very expensive to buy, maintain and store and what we have is the destruction of our democratic society.

**We *must* have visible vote counting. NOW.
Demand HAND-COUNTED PAPER BALLOTS.**

- 1. Contact your state and local officials.** Tell them you demand paper ballots hand-counted in full public view at the precinct level for all elections starting with the upcoming November 2006 mid-terms. Tell them you are willing to help count the ballots for as long as it takes so that everyone will have confidence in the results. **YOU MUST CALL** the Secretary of State at 512-463-5770 and the State Elections Division at 1-800-252-VOTE. Continue with your county clerk, commissioners and your reps in the Capitol in Austin.
- 2. Enlist as a pollworker** so election officials cannot claim too few pollworkers as their reason to ignore the will of the people. Insist on lessons in hand counting paper ballots.
- 3. Stay informed and inform others.** Start reading : blackboxvoting.org, bradblog.com, electiondefensealliance.org, votersunite.org, democracyfornewhampshire.org, & voterescue.org.
- 4. Join the VoteRescue mailing list** at www.voterescue.org ; attend our monthly meetings in Austin; start your own group; hold a Parallel Election. Together, we all count.

*For a complete methodological statement on this poll, please go to: <http://www.zogby.com/methodology/readmeth.dbm?ID=1134>