

Voting System Integrity: The Bedrock of Democracy

The Help America Vote Act of 2002, or HAVA, was intended to make voting easier and more accessible following the Florida fiasco of butterfly ballots and hanging chads. Unfortunately, in the rush to implement HAVA, the need for transparency and security in the voting process was left behind.

Billions of federal dollars have been allocated to the states for purchase of electronic voting systems that are prone to error and vulnerable to fraud. This is the considered judgment of computer scientists at leading universities — Stanford, Johns Hopkins, Rice, and the University of Iowa — who warn that current standards and testing procedures are inadequate to reveal security flaws that could subvert an election. A 2005 U.S. Government Accounting Office report echoed these concerns.

Citizens deserve to know that their votes are accurately recorded and counted.

Dr. Douglas Jones teaches computer science at the University of Iowa, and served for ten years on the Iowa Board of Examiners for Voting Machines and Electronic Voting Systems. He writes:

"We must insist on the same level of oversight for counting votes as we have routinely insisted on for counting dollars. Today's direct-recording electronic voting systems simply do not allow this level of oversight... With the technology available today, I see no way that such oversight can be provided without maintaining a voter-verified paper record of each vote cast."

Federal and/or state legislation is needed. The best of the federal bills introduced to date is **Rep. Rush Holt's HR 550, the Voter Confidence and Increased Accessibility Act**. HR 550 provides for a voter verified paper record of every vote, mandatory random hand-counted audits of a percentage of the ballots, public disclosure of voting system software, and the prohibition of wireless communication devices in voting machines. Rep. Leonard Boswell and Rep. Jim Leach are among the 183 bipartisan cosponsors.

To spread the word about this issue and work for voting system reform in Iowa, Iowans for Voting Integrity welcomes your support.



You can make a difference!

It's as easy as ABC :

Always vote on a paper ballot. (Hint: Absentee ballots are paper.)

Become informed about the perils of electronic voting.

Call on your state and federal legislators to enact laws requiring —

- Paper Ballot Voting Systems
- Random Audits of Elections
- Public Disclosure of Voting Software

To join IVI, email us at iavotingintegrity@yahoo.com

Soon on the web at www.IowansForVotingIntegrity.org

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