



www.networkofcitizens.org/election/index.htm

November 2, 2006

Patriots,

Your country needs you! Many citizen activist groups nationwide are coordinating efforts on a variety of election protection activities across the country and they need YOUR help. Find out what activities are being planned and how YOU can help or get involved by visiting the following websites:

- Video the Vote -- www.videothetvote.org/
- Verified Voting -- www.verifiedvoting.org/index.php
- Network of Citizens -- www.networkofcitizens.org/election/index.htm
- Velvet Revolution Strike Force -- www.velvetrevolution.us/electionstrikeforce/
- Pollworkers for Democracy -- www.pollworkersfordemocracy.org/

And now, here is today's rap sheet of ongoing election crimes that threaten our democracy.

- * *Read these alerts everyday*
 - * *Learn about the crisis we face*
 - * *Pass this on to educate others*
- and*
**TAKE ACTION TO STOP
THE ASSAULT!**



Today's Crime Against Democracy:
Private Corporations Count Ballots on Secret Software

Vote-counting in the U.S. has always been a process open to observation by citizens. However, with the recent introduction of computer software into our election system, citizens have effectively been shut out of this process. Experience in recent elections has shown that this software can be seriously flawed. Recent studies have also proven that the software is very vulnerable to deliberate manipulation and fraudulent alteration of election results.

History, Suspects & Perps:
Vote Counts Proven to be Vulnerable to Manipulation

The United States is one of only a handful of major democracies that allow private, partisan companies to secretly count and tabulate votes using their own proprietary software. Today, 80 percent of all ballots in the U.S. are tallied by four private

companies. The simple fact is, these machines not only break down regularly, they can be easily compromised — by people inside and outside of the companies. In 1995, Chuck Hagel of Nebraska was the CEO of ES&S, the voting machine company that would count the votes in his 1996 bid for the U.S. Senate. He was trailing in the pre-election polls to his opponent 65% to 18%, yet Hagel amazingly came from behind to win with 56% of the vote. He was the first Republican Senate winner in the state in 24 years. In both the 1996 and 2002 elections, ES&S counted 85% of the votes in Nebraska.

In December, 2005 the Leon County, Florida Supervisor of Elections, Ion Sancho, authorized a trial "mini-election" on his Diebold optical scan election system to see if the vote could be hacked without being detected. Harri Hursti, a computer programmer from Finland, facilitated the test and successfully altered the election. Before votes were actually cast, Hursti "stuffed the ballot box" by entering votes on the computer's memory card. Then, after votes were cast, the results displayed when the same memory card was entered in the central tabulating program indicated that fraud was indeed possible. In other words, by accessing a memory card before an election, someone could change the results — a claim Diebold had denied was possible.

Diebold software, and other software like it, is installed in thousands of counties across 32 states. David Dill, professor of computer science at Stanford, says the problem is that there are "lots of people involved in writing the software, and lots of people who could have touched the software before it went into that machine. If one of those people put something malicious in the software and it's distributed to all the machines, then that one person could be responsible for changing tens of thousands of votes, maybe even hundreds of thousands, across the country." Princeton scientists spent the summer of 2006 analyzing the Diebold AccuVote TS Electronic Voting Machine. The Princeton group found that the vote can be easily manipulated without being detected. For example, an attacker who gets physical access to a machine or its removable memory card for as little as one minute could install malicious code. Malicious code on a machine could steal votes undetectably, modifying all records, logs, and counters to be consistent with the fraudulent vote count it creates. Even careful forensic examination of these records will find nothing amiss. An attacker could also create malicious code that spreads automatically and silently from machine to machine during normal election activities — a voting-machine virus.

NOTE: Voters who vote on paper ballots STILL HAVE REASON TO WORRY. Paper ballots are typically run through optical scan systems, which use similar secret software by the same manufacturers, to tabulate the votes.

Background Check:

Learn the Crime History, Routines, and Rackets

Watch the HBO special, "Hacking Democracy," on **Thursday, November 2.**
<http://www.hbo.com/docs/programs/hackingdemocracy/index.html>

"If You Want To Win An Election, Just Control The Voting Machines," by Thom Hartmann, Jan. 31, 2003; <http://www.commondreams.org/views03/0131-01.htm>

"Security Analysis of the Diebold AccuVote-TS Voting Machine," by Ariel J. Feldman, J. Alex Halderman, and Edward W. Felten, Sept. 13, 2006; Princeton University's Center for Information Technology Policy; <http://itpolicy.princeton.edu/voting/>

"Florida: The Harri Hursti Hack and Its Importance to our Nation," by Susan Pynchon, Jan. 21, 2006; VoteTrustUSA.org (<http://tinyurl.com/cs6hc>)

Hursti Reports, at BlackBoxVoting.org

"THE MACHINERY OF DEMOCRACY: Protecting Elections in an Electronic World," June 28, 2006;
http://www.brennancenter.org/programs/dem_vr_hava_modsecurity.html

"Court Upholds Colorado Voters Challenge to Electronic Voting System," at VoteTrustUSA.org (<http://tinyurl.com/tzu3w>)

Action & Prevention:

Take Steps to Combat Secret Vote Casting and Counting

1. Demand that your election offices supply paper ballots in the case of machine malfunction and for voters that do not want to rely on touchscreen voting machines. Progressive Democrats of America offers a website that will generate a letter to the top election official for your state: <http://pdamerica.org/petition/paper-ballot-emails.php>.
2. If you live in a state that allows No-excuse In-person Absentee Voting on paper ballots, consider using this method. NOTE: For issues related to using absentee ballots, see the Daily "Rap Sheet," "Absentee Ballots Treated Unfairly," posted at <http://www.networkofcitizens.org/election/archive.htm>.
3. Contact the major mainstream media outlets, especially Lou Dobbs on CNN and Keith Olbermann on MSNBC, and urge them to cover the problems with the electronic voting machines for this election. Ask them to have people like Robert Kennedy, Jr., Ohio Governor candidate Bob Fittrakis, and investigative journalist Brad Friedman on their shows. If you learn anything about machine malfunction or fraud taking place, take two minutes to forward it to Lou and Keith. If they get flooded with email, they will hopefully report what is going on.

Lou Dobbs - email at: www.cnn.com/feedback/forms/form5.html?9
Keith Olbermann - email at: countdown [at] msnbc [dot] com

4. Launch legal challenges against the use of electronic voting machines as the voters in Colorado did: <http://tinyurl.com/tzu3w>

5. Demand that your state institute a mandatory, hand-counted, scientifically sampled, verification test of paper ballots cast prior to certification of all elections.
6. The best election observation is or can be done by pollworkers. Protect election integrity from inside the system by [signing up to be a pollworker](#).
7. Download the [Citizen Action Page](#) and take action to stop crimes against Democracy.



Nationwide Election Protection Hotline:
1-866-OUR-VOTE (1-866-687-8683)

Voting Rights Institute Hotline:
1-888-DEMVote (1-888-336-8683)

Post Paul Revere
 on your site!
[Click for image URL](#)

Also, please report your findings and actions
 to **Network of Citizens** by sending an email to
info [at] networkofcitizens [dot] org

[Previous daily rap sheet topics:](#)

- Democracy: Can We Keep It?
- Voter Fraud vs. Election Fraud
- Purging of Eligible Voters
- Pollworker and Machine Shortages
- Absentee Ballots Treated Unfairly
- Provisional Ballots Rejected
- Voting Machine "Sleepovers"
- Paperless E-Voting Machines
- The Smearing of Scientific Exit Polls
- Spoiled Ballots

[See all the Dirty 30 election fraud tricks](#)

[Click here for a downloadable CITIZEN ACTION PAGE](#)

THANK YOU FOR HELPING TO SAFEGUARD OUR DEMOCRACY!

-- Network of Citizens --

<http://www.networkofcitizens.org/election/index.htm>

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