

October 24, 2006

Citizens: This is your daily "rap sheet" covering the ongoing election crimes that threaten our democracy.

- **Read these alerts everyday**
- **Learn about the crisis we face**
- **Pass this on to help educate others, and**
- **TAKE ACTION TO STOP THE ASSAULT**
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Today's Crime Against Democracy: **Purging of Eligible Voters**

Poorly conceived state policies concerning new statewide voter registration databases are driving eligible voters off of the rolls, through no fault of their own. Purging based on database matching can be unreliable. Voters may be eliminated for such minor variations as their middle initial missing from their voter registration when compared to their ID. In some cases, these "purges" can be discriminatory, whether by accident, or by design.

Purged voters often end up voting on provisional ballots. While provisional ballots were initially created to ensure that all wrongfully purged voters could cast a ballot, they have turned out to be a double-edged sword. In some states, they are routinely discarded, uncounted. In 2004, fourteen states counted less than 1/3 of the provisional ballots cast, with some counting fewer than one out of ten ballots: Delaware 6%, Hawaii 7%, Oklahoma 8%. Nationwide, over a million citizens who voted on provisional ballots in 2004 did not have their vote counted.

(NOTE: Provisional Ballots will be the subject of an upcoming "rap sheet" report.)

Of all the strategies used in Florida in the 2000 election, the most notorious was the systematic use of overly inclusive scrub lists, intending to purge ex-felons from the voter rolls but actually to disenfranchise as many Democrats—in particular, African-Americans—as possible. Secretary of State Katherine Harris, through a list compiled by DBT/ChoicePoint, named as felons tens of thousands of Floridians with clean records, just because they shared a name or an address with someone who had done hard time. Harris's office then purged the rolls of all those on the list, over 90,000 citizens, most of them entirely innocent. Nearly 3 percent of Florida's eligible black voters were listed. DBT/ChoicePoint's error rate was 97%.



The issue returned to prominence in 2004 when Florida announced another planned purge, again based on a list of felons. Accenture, a \$14

billion company that has made millions doing government jobs, was supposed to help Florida create a bulletproof felon voter list. But state elections officials scrapped the list after newspaper reports reported a flaw that invalidated it and indicated partisan bias in its design. The demise of the list, which was three years in the making, renews questions about Accenture's strong Republican ties and its business practices. In fact, the company's resume is littered with connections to drama that the nation's Republican leadership would rather forget: Enron, Abu Ghraib and mysterious Saudi businessmen. The company, once part of Enron's accounting firm, Arthur Andersen, jettisoned the Andersen name in 2001 to distance itself from scandal.

In 2006, reports of problematic, and potentially partisan, voter roll purges have surfaced in Ohio, California, and WHERE ELSE?



For additional background information, see:

"Inaccurate Purges of the Voter Rolls: Issue in Brief,"
www.brennancenter.org/programs/dem_vr_castout_3.html.

Action and Prevention: **Confirm Your Voter Registration Status; Research and Report Irregularities in Your State**

- Confirm whether you are still registered to vote at <http://www.canivote.org>. Or, find your state's election office by Googling your state and "elections".
- If you live in a state that allows Early Voting or No-excuse In-person Absentee Voting, vote early to uncover any registration problems.
<http://www.peaceteam.net/earlyvote.php>
- Ohio voters can connect with state activists to challenge voter purges at <http://www.peaceteam.net/pnum540.php>.
- Contact your county elections office to find out their policies and procedures for cleaning or purging the voter rolls.
- Contact your county elections office to find out their policy for counting provisional ballots.
- If you are removed from the voter rolls without cause or have your registration challenged at the polls, report these problems at: **1-866-OUR-VOTE (1-866-687-8683)**. For more info, visit http://www.nationalcampaignforfairelections.org/pages/election_protection and <https://epc.voteprotect.org/index.php?display=EIRMapNation&tab=ED04>.

- **The best election observation is or can be done by poll-workers. Protect election integrity from *inside the system*: sign up to be a poll-worker at <http://www.pollworkersfordemocracy.org>.**
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For more information on this topic and other **Dirty 30** election fraud tricks, see <http://www.networkofcitizens.org/election/30ways.htm>.

THANK YOU FOR HELPING TO SAFEGUARD OUR DEMOCRACY!

-- Network of Citizens --

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

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