

October 25, 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**

## Today's Crime Against Democracy: **Pollworker and Machine Shortages Lead to Long Lines and Lost Votes**

### **Machine Shortages**

The 2004 Presidential election in Columbus, Ohio offers a stark picture of what happens when election officials fail to provide enough voting machines on Election Day. In the days after the election, newspapers nationwide carried accounts of how voters in and around Columbus, the state capital, had to stand in line for hours before casting ballots. It turns out the Franklin County Board of Elections had reduced the number of voting machines in urban precincts-which held more African American voters and were likely to favor John Kerry-and increased the number of machines in white suburban precincts, which tended to favor the president. As a result, as many as 15,000 voters in Franklin County left without casting ballots, the Washington Post estimated-a significant amount in an election that Bush won by only 118,775 votes (out of 5.6 million cast). But except for one-day stories in the Washington Post and New York Times, these revelations triggered no broader investigations, or if they did, the results went unpublished. This is a tactic for disenfranchising voters that cannot be allowed to happen again on November 7, 2006.



AP Photo/I AJIRA RAUICH

### **Poll Worker Shortages**

Baltimore, Maryland provides a classic example of how large urban counties are having trouble training and assigning thousands of poll workers needed to run the coming general election. With less than two weeks to Election Day, just 700 of 3,500 of the workers have been placed in a precinct, said Cornelius L. Jones,

interim elections director. At a minimum, the city's precincts must have four poll workers, two from each of the major political parties. Baltimore and other municipalities are scrambling to improve their voting systems after a chaotic primary complicated by staffing and equipment problems. The problems were particularly acute in the city, where about 10 percent of the city's 290 precincts opened more than an hour late after judges failed to show or were never placed in a precinct by elections officials. A smooth election day requires enough pollworkers to check-in voters, answer questions and otherwise assist them.

*For additional background information, see:*

Problems Plague Election Administrators; by Deborah Hastings, AP National Writer; Oct 20, 5:17 PM EDT  
[http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/E/ELECTION\\_ENOUGH\\_MACHINES?SITE=WIMAR&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT](http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/E/ELECTION_ENOUGH_MACHINES?SITE=WIMAR&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT)  
(<http://tinyurl.com/yhk9vz>)

Potential problems loom in election voting; by Randall Mikkelsen, Tue. Oct 24, 7:24 PM ET, Washington (Reuters)  
[http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20061024/ts\\_nm/usa\\_politics\\_voting\\_dc\\_4](http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20061024/ts_nm/usa_politics_voting_dc_4)

Recounting Ohio  
[http://www.motherjones.com/arts/books/2005/11/recounting\\_ohio-3.html](http://www.motherjones.com/arts/books/2005/11/recounting_ohio-3.html)

Baltimore lagging in preparation for election: Training, posting of poll workers is going slowly; by Melissa Harris, Sun Reporter; originally published October 22, 2006  
<http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/local/bal-md.voting22oct22,0,1405043.story?coll=bal-local-headlines>  
(<http://tinyurl.com/sig7q>)

Preserving Democracy: What Went Wrong in Ohio, Status Report of the House Judiciary Committee Democratic Staff (Rep. John Conyers, Jr.), January 5, 2005  
[http://www.house.gov/judiciary\\_democrats/issues/issues/election.html](http://www.house.gov/judiciary_democrats/issues/issues/election.html)

## *Action and Prevention:* **Vote Early and Volunteer to be a Pollworker**

1. Volunteer to be a pollworker and help voters in your community vote without long lines or problems associated with malfunctioning machines or voter challenges. Go to <http://pollworkersfordemocracy.org/> to sign up to be a pollworker on November 7th, 2006.

2. Contact your county election officials ([http://www.vote-smart.org/voter\\_county\\_election\\_offices.php](http://www.vote-smart.org/voter_county_election_offices.php)) to ask how many machines will be located at your precinct, how many poll workers have been trained and assigned to your precinct and how many voters are they expecting to use your precinct. Also ask how many machines were located at your precinct for the 2004 Presidential election. If you think this election's machine to voter ratio will lead to voters in your precinct having to wait for several hours or more to vote, report your concern to 1-866-OUR-VOTE (1-866-687-8683).

3. If you live in a state that allows Early Voting or No-excuse In-person Absentee Voting, vote early to avoid long lines or other Election Day problems that may arise due to pollworker and voting machine shortages.

<http://www.peaceteam.net/earlyvote.php>

4. Alert your friends and neighbors to avoid Election Day long lines and equipment failures by voting early or, if available, voting by "no-excuse, in-person absentee ballot." (**NOTE: For additional prevention measures, see tomorrow's daily "rap sheet" on Absentee Ballots.**)

***5. Forward this message to everyone you know locally and nationally.***

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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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