



www.NetworkofCitizens.org
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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, and then**
- **TAKE ACTION TO STOP THE ASSAULT.**



Today's Crime against Democracy: Absentee Ballots Treated Unfairly

Due to increasing public awareness of the problems associated with paperless electronic voting (e-voting) machines, large numbers of voters across America are preparing to vote by absentee ballot in the upcoming mid-term elections. However, unlike mail-in voter registration forms and regular ballots, absentee ballots are not protected under federal law. Absentee ballots are also counted by electronic optical scan systems—the same ones that have failed in election after election so far this year. Furthermore, when ballots are sent in absentee, an auditable paper trail or other proof that those votes were counted is essentially nonexistent.

History, Suspects & Perps: Ballots Disappear/Rejected across the US

According to investigative reporter Greg Palast, "those who mail in ballots are very trusting souls." How do you know if your ballot was received? Was it tossed behind a file cabinet or tossed out because you did not include your middle initial? In many counties, you simply won't know. According to Palast, the number of people voting by absentee ballots has quintupled in many states. In 2004, over a half a million (526,420) absentee ballots were rejected nationwide on technical grounds and, in swing states; the shredding of absentee ballots was pandemic.

Additional background is found in these excellent materials below:

[Absentee Votes Worry Officials as Nov. 2nd Nears](#) (New York Times)

[An Election Spoiled Rotten](#) (Greg Palast)



Action and Prevention:**Take Steps to Minimize Absentee Ballot Fraud**

- ✓ Vote absentee ONLY if there is not a paper ballot option at the polling place.
- ✓ If the only choice is to vote by touch-screen machines, then absentee is certainly preferred, but voters should hand-deliver their absentee ballot to the polling place or to the Board of Elections on Election Day (check the local rules).
- ✓ If a voter MUST vote absentee and MUST send it by mail, it is critical to first photocopy the completed ballot and then send it via certified mail with a return-receipt requested.
- ✓ Educate voters that IN NO CASE should they give their absentee ballot application or ballot to anyone they don't know who comes to their door offering to deliver their application or ballot to the elections office.
- ✓ Educate voters of the specific requirements in their state for completing and returning an absentee ballot.

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

Voting Rights Institute Hotline:
1-888-DEMVOTE

Also, please report your findings and actions to **Network of Citizens** by sending an email to info [at] networkofcitizens [dot] org so we can monitor whether steps are being taken to ensure your community will be voting on uncompromised election equipment.

THANK YOU FOR HELPING TO SAFEGUARD OUR DEMOCRACY!

Click Here for the complete: CITIZEN ACTION PAGE (Coming Soon)

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