



[www.networkofcitizens.org/election/index.htm](http://www.networkofcitizens.org/election/index.htm)

October 27, 2006

*Citizens,*

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!*



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*Today's Crime Against Democracy:*  
**Provisional Ballots Rejected**

Introduced by federal law in 2002 as part of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA), the provisional ballot was designed especially for voters of color. Initially proposed by the Congressional Black Caucus to save the rights of those wrongly purged from voter rolls, it was, in swing states, twisted into a back-of-the-bus ballot, unlikely to be tallied. This is why provisional ballots are often referred to as **placebo ballots**.

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*History, Suspects & Perps:*  
**Ballots Disappear/Rejected Across the U.S.**

To understand how specific groups such as the African-American and other minority populations were targeted in the 2004 election, it needs to be understood that the HAVA provisional ballot law allows election officials to give provisional ballots to any persons who:

- *show up at the polls on Election Day but find that their names are not on the voter rolls; or*
- *have their right to vote challenged by an election official or partisan observer.*

Unlike regular ballots, provisional ballots are **not required be counted** under HAVA. Rather, the decision whether or not to count provisional ballots is determined by the 50 individual Secretaries of States across the nation. Large numbers of provisional ballots, primarily from Democratic precincts, have been systematically rejected. During the 2004 election, a total of 3,107,490 voters were moved into provisional ballots. The number of ballots rejected was a stunning 1,090,729.

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**Background Check:**  
**Learn the Crime History, Routines, and Rackets**

[Kerry Won \(Greg Palast\)](#)

[Two-thirds of provisional ballots rejected \(St. Petersburg Times Online\)](#)

[Suit: Check Provisional Ballots \(Associated Press\)](#)

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**Action & Prevention:**  
**Take Steps to Combat Provisional Ballot Rejection**

1. All voters need to **check the status of their voter registration, polling location, and Election Day identification requirements.** They also need to ensure their ID matches the voter registration name exactly. Voters can be challenged over minor things, such as a middle initial on their ID while the voter roll has a full middle name listed.
  2. Provide volunteer assistance at polling places to assist voters in finding their proper precinct location.
  3. Target minority communities to educate them on their voting rights and potential tactics or scams used to block their vote in 2004.
  4. Have observers in place in minority precincts to identify where large-scale voter challenges (use of provisional ballots) are occurring.
  5. Set up a provisional ballot alert hotline for observers to immediately report provisional ballot use. Lawyers should be on-call to assist in stopping the practice of moving voters into provisional ballots.
  6. Have volunteers in place to observe and videotape the custody of provisional ballots with the same rigor as for regular ballots.
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**Nationwide Election Protection Hotline:**  
**1-866-OUR-VOTE (1-866-687-8683)**

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

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

***See all the Dirty 30 election fraud tricks***

**THANK YOU FOR HELPING TO SAFEGUARD OUR DEMOCRACY!**

-- Network of Citizens --

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

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