

US Voting and Election Problems Summary

by Steve Wolff, Technology Executive, Oct. 2008

A democracy cannot survive unless its elections are fair. Our soldiers fight to uphold this very right. Passions run high in all parties and in all types of opinions when it comes to protecting these voting rights.

In this election year there have been loud cries of foul play regarding voter fraud and registration problems.

During early voting, voters using e-voting touch-screen machines watched their selections for president shift before their very eyes.

Of course this years cries have followed years of experts and citizens' complaints about election fraud. These cries for change have largely not been heeded although pockets of change in some states and by some Congressmen have occurred.

Before we can understand a problem we should categorize the types of problems, then determine the size of those problems, then prioritize them before embarking on a discovery for solution.

First lets list out the categories of fraud US voters and the democracy face:

- Registration Fraud
- Voter Fraud
- Voter Suppression
- Election Fraud

- Registration Fraud is where a potential voter registers, or is registered, falsely. This includes of course the widely touted problem of registration workers-for-hire falsely filing registration forms. Of course there are non-fraudulent Registration Problems in the rolls. Voters move, making duplicate registrations etc. There has been an initiative by many states to remove or "purge" the voter rolls. Some of the voters purged are legitimate.

- Voter Fraud is where a voter falsely makes a vote not under their correct identity.

- Voter Suppression is where voters are prevented from voting. There are many, many ways that create suppression.

- Election Fraud is where the actual votes, and the sub-totals along the way to a national total, are fraudulently manipulated, where actions are taken after the original vote has been recorded with the idea of moving votes from one candidate to another while keeping the totals the same, or "losing" votes from a candidate affecting both election total votes cast and the candidate's vote total.

Registration Fraud - How Big is the Problem? Acorn “the nation's largest community organization of low- and moderate-income families” that registers voters is being accused by Sen. McCain that their Registration Drives are “.. are on the verge of destroying the fabric of democracy”.

“The group concedes that some of its hired canvassers have turned in tainted forms, although they say the ones with **phony names constitute no more than 1 percent of the total turned in**. The group also says it reviews all of the registration forms that come in. Before delivering the forms to **elections offices, its supervisors flag any that appear to have problems.**” <http://www.truthout.org/101708A>

Dozens of newly minted Republican voters say they were duped into joining the party by a GOP contractor with a trail of fraud complaints stretching across the United States. Voters contacted by the Los Angeles Times **said they were tricked into switching parties while signing what they believed were petitions** for tougher penalties against child molesters. Some said they were told that they had to become Republicans to sign the petition, contrary to California initiative law. Others had no idea their registration was being changed.
<http://www.newsday.com/news/printedition/nation/ny-usfrau5890162oct19,0,415274.story>

The 1% phony names rate translates to a very low **Voter Fraud** rate because the elections officials catch almost all phony names at the poll because they ask for the Voter’s ID to corroborate the voter’s information on the registration rolls.

TABLE 2
 ELECTION DAY REGISTRATION STATES 2004 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION
 ELECTION ADMINISTRATION AND VOTING STATISTICS

	Idaho	Maine	Minnesota	New Hampshire	Wisconsin	Wyoming
Estimated citizen-eligible population	986,664	1,022,248	3,736,578	975,065	4,091,525	380,564
“Active” registered voters	798,015	1,026,219	2,977,496	855,861	2,439,282	232,396
EDR applications	117,622	N/A	590,242	94,431	443,772	41,554
% EDR applications	12.8	N/A	19.8	9.9	15.3	15.2
Total ballots counted	612,786	754,777	2,842,912	686,390	3,009,491	245,789
Absentee ballots counted	34,609	162,663	231,711	62,059	264,898	47,008
Provisional ballots cast	0	483	N/A	N/A	374	95
Federal voter fraud convictions ^{xvi}	0	0	0	0	5	0

Sources: U.S. Election Assistance Commission, Final Report of the 2004 Election Day Survey (September 27, 2005); available online at: http://www.eac.gov/election_survey_2004/pdf/EDS-Full_Report_wTables.pdf; author’s analysis of federal prosecution records.

http://www.demos.org/pubs/edr_fraud_web.pdf

Registration Fraud - My Conclusion:

We can see that phony Registrations rarely lead to Fraudulent Votes. *However any Registration Fraud is too much.* My estimate of the maximum of phony, poorly recorded, and other Registration problems amounts to about 1% of the total registrations initially APPLIED but not yet APPROVED, so this problem tally could be as high as 200,000 nationwide. *However almost none of these become approved voters on the Registered Voters Rolls and of those that did only about*

70 voters have been convicted and those that were convicted were not convicted for Voter Fraud but for technical infractions. Overall this implies almost no actual Fraudulent Votes were cast.

Voter Fraud - How Big is the Problem? In 4 years the US DOJ has prosecuted 120 cases, and convicted 70. *Not even 1 case was actually convicted because of voter fraud but prosecuted for various other legal infractions.* That is, NOT ONE person was convicted of falsely casting a vote, not even one false vote!

"– though voter fraud does happen, **it happens approximately 0.0009% of the time.** The similarly closely-analyzed 2004 election in Ohio revealed a voter fraud rate of 0.00004%. National Weather Service data shows that Americans are struck and killed by lightning about as often."

"Voter fraud is most often invoked as a substantial problem in order to justify particular election policies. Chief among these is the proposal that individuals be required to show photo ID in order to vote – a policy that disenfranchises up to 10% of eligible citizens. But the only misconduct that photo ID addresses is the kind of voter fraud that happens as infrequently as death by lightning. Therefore, it suits those who prefer photo ID as a policy to lump as much misconduct in with "voter fraud" as possible, to create the impression that the problem is far more significant than it actually is. Moreover, to the extent photo ID is suggested as a solution to the *perception* that voter fraud occurs, it behooves those who prefer photo ID to reinforce the unsubstantiated perception that voter fraud exists." [Brennan Center for Justice](#) Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School Of Law

"I know it has become a right-wing cottage industry to cry wolf over alleged 'voter fraud' during an election season (**only to have such claims evaporate after the election has concluded**) <http://www.consortiumnews.com/2008/101708b.html>

".. **RNC General Counsel Sean Cairncross has recently acknowledged he is not aware of a single improper vote cast as a result of bad cards submitted in the course of an organized voter registration effort.**" http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/blogs/sfgate/detail?blogid=14&entry_id=31565

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. -- **Florida's governor says his fellow Republicans may be exaggerating claims of voter fraud in the state.** Gov. Charlie Crist said Wednesday that he has confidence in Secretary of State Kurt Browning, who says there's only been a scattering of isolated incidents. <http://www.miamiherald.com/news/politics/AP/story/727604.html>

"There's a reason Iglesias couldn't find any evidence of fraud: Individual voters almost never try to cast illegal ballots. The Bush administration's main point person on "ballot protection" has been **Hans von Spakovsky, a former Justice Department attorney who has advised states on how to use HAVA to erect more barriers to voting.** Appointed to the Federal Election Commission by Bush, **von Spakovsky has suggested that voter rolls may be stuffed with 5 million illegal aliens.** In fact, studies have repeatedly shown that voter fraud is extremely rare. **According to a recent analysis by Lorraine Minnite, an expert on voting crime at Barnard College, federal courts found only 24 voters guilty of fraud from 2002 to 2005, out of hundreds of millions of votes cast.** "The claim of widespread voter fraud," Minnite says, "is itself a fraud." http://www.rollingstone.com/politics/story/23638322/block_the_vote/print

David Iglesias, a U.S. attorney for New Mexico who was fired in December 2006. "We took over 100 complaints and investigated for almost two years — **but I didn't find one prosecutable case of voter fraud in the entire state of New Mexico.**"

Voter Fraud - My Conclusion: With “.. only 24 voters guilty of fraud from 2002 to 2005, out of hundreds of millions of votes cast ..” nationally Voter Fraud is real but its impact on a national election is tiny. Of course in principle Voter Fraud in small size elections could be large enough to throw those elections. Republican leaders continue to shout that Registration Fraud leads to huge Voter Fraud, which for the last elections is still not true.

Voter Suppression - How Big is the Problem?

Is the problem big? Is it occurring at this time?

I will let Robert F. Kennedy Jr. & Greg Palast explain below:

Block the Vote - Will the GOP's campaign to deter new voters and discard Democratic ballots determine the next president?

http://www.rollingstone.com/politics/story/23638322/block_the_vote

1. Obstructing Voter-Registration Drives

Since 2004, the Bush administration and more than a dozen states have taken steps to impede voter registration. Among the worst offenders is Florida, where the Republican-dominated legislature created hefty fines — up to \$5,000 per violation — for groups that fail to meet deadlines for turning in voter-application forms. **Facing potentially huge penalties for trivial administrative errors, the League of Women Voters abandoned its voter-registration drives in Florida.** A court order eventually forced the legislature to reduce the maximum penalty to \$1,000. But even so, said former League president Dianne Wheatley-Giliotti, the reduced fines "create an unfair tax on democracy." The state has also failed to uphold a federal law requiring that low-income voters be offered an opportunity to register when they apply for food stamps or other public assistance. As a result, the annual number of such registrations has plummeted from more than 120,000 in the Clinton years to barely 10,000 today.

2. Demanding "Perfect Matches"

Under the Help America Vote Act, some states now reject first-time registrants whose data does not correspond to information in other government databases. Spurred by HAVA, almost every state must now attempt to make some kind of match — and four states, including the swing states of Iowa and Florida, require what is known as a "perfect match." **Under this rigid framework, new registrants can lose the right to vote if the information on their voter-registration forms — Social Security number, street address and precisely spelled name, right down to a hyphen — fails to exactly match data listed in other government records.**

There are many legitimate reasons, of course, why a voter's information might vary.

Indeed, a recent study by the Brennan Center for Justice found that **as many as 20 percent of discrepancies between voter records and driver's licenses in New York City are simply typing mistakes made by government clerks when they transcribe data.** But under the new rules, those mistakes are costing citizens the right to vote. In California, a **Republican secretary of state blocked 43 percent of all new voters** in Los Angeles from registering in early 2006 — many because of the state's failure to produce a tight match. In Florida, GOP officials created **"match" rules that rejected more than 15,000 new registrants in 2006 and 2007 — nearly three-fourths of them Hispanic and black voters.** Given the big registration drives this year, the number could be five times higher by November.

I personally know one person in Colorado who was knocked off the registration rolls because **the Registrar made a typo on his data, they changed his middle initial from a J” to an “I”.** He noted that on his registration card in late October and got the Registrar to fix it. **He would have been blocked from voting or given a Provisional ballot.** Both could amount to a suppressed vote.

3. Purging Legitimate Voters From the Rolls

The Help America Vote Act doesn't just disenfranchise new registrants; it also targets veteran voters. In the past, bipartisan county election boards maintained voter records. But HAVA requires that records be centralized, computerized and maintained by secretaries of state — partisan officials — who are empowered to purge the rolls of any voter they deem ineligible. Ironically, the new rules imitate the centralized system in Florida — the same corrupt operation that inspired passage of HAVA in the first place. Prior to the 2000 election, **Florida Secretary of State Katherine Harris and her predecessor, both Republicans, tried to purge 57,000 voters, most of them African-Americans, because their names resembled those of persons convicted of a crime.** The state eventually acknowledged that the purges were improper — two years after the election.

Rather than end Florida-style purges, however, HAVA has nationalized them. Paul Maez, the elections supervisor in New Mexico, says he was the victim of faulty list management by a private contractor hired by the state. Hector Balderas, the state auditor, was also purged from the voter list. The nation's youngest elected Hispanic official, Balderas hails from Mora County, one of the poorest in the state, which had the highest rate of voters forced to cast provisional ballots. "As a strategic consideration," he notes, "there are those that benefit from chaos" at the ballot box.

All told, states reported scrubbing at least 10 million voters from their rolls on questionable grounds between 2004 and 2006. Colorado holds the record: Donetta Davidson, the Republican secretary of state, and her GOP successor **oversaw the**

elimination of nearly one of every six of their state's voters. Bush has since appointed Davidson to the Election Assistance Commission, the federal agency created by HAVA, which provides guidance to the states on "list maintenance" methods.

4. Requiring Unnecessary Voter ID's

Even if voters run the gauntlet of the new registration laws, they can still be blocked at the polling station. In an incident last May, **an election official in Indiana denied ballots to 10 nuns seeking to vote in the Democratic primary because their driver's licenses or passports had expired**. Even though **Indiana has never recorded a single case of voter-ID fraud**, it is one of two dozen states that have enacted stringent new voter-ID statutes.

On its face, the requirement to show a government-issued ID doesn't seem unreasonable. "I want to cash a check to pay for my groceries, I've got to show a little bit of ID," Karl Rove told the Republican National Lawyers Association in 2006. But many Americans lack easy access to official identification. According to a recent study for the *Election Law Journal*, young people, senior citizens and minorities — groups that traditionally vote Democratic — often have no driver's licenses or state ID cards. According to the study, **one in 10 likely white voters do not possess the necessary identification. For African-Americans, the number lacking such ID is twice as high.**

5. Rejecting "Spoiled" Ballots

Even intrepid voters who manage to cast a ballot may still find their vote discounted. **In 2004, election officials discarded at least 1 million votes nationwide after classifying them as "spoiled" because blank spaces, stray marks or tears made them indecipherable to voting machines.** The losses hit hardest among minorities in low-income precincts, who are often forced to vote on antiquated machines. The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, in its investigation of the 2000 returns from Florida, found that **African-Americans were nearly 10 times more likely than whites to have their ballots rejected, a ratio that holds nationwide.**

Proponents of HAVA claimed the law would correct the spoilage problem by promoting computerized balloting. Yet touch-screen systems have proved highly unreliable — especially in minority and low-income precincts. A statistical analysis of New Mexico ballots by a voting-rights group called VotersUnite found that **Hispanics who voted by computer in 2004 were nearly five times more likely to have their votes unrecorded than those who used paper ballots.** In a close election, such small discrepancies can make a big difference: **In 2004, the number of spoiled ballots in New Mexico — 19,000 — was three times George Bush's margin of victory.**

6. Challenging "Provisional" Ballots

In 2004, an estimated **3 million voters who showed up at the polls were refused regular ballots because their registration was challenged on a technicality.** Instead, these voters were handed "provisional" ballots, a fail-safe measure mandated by HAVA to enable officials to review disputed votes. But for many officials, resolving disputes means tossing ballots in the trash. In 2004, **a third of all provisional ballots — as many as 1 million votes — were simply thrown away at the discretion of election officials.**

Many voters are given provisional ballots under an insidious tactic known as **"vote caging," which uses targeted mailings to disenfranchise black voters whose addresses have changed.** In 2004, despite a federal consent order forbidding Republicans from engaging in the practice, the GOP sent out tens of thousands of letters to "confirm" the addresses of voters in minority precincts. If a letter was returned for any reason — because the voter was away at school or serving in the military — the GOP challenged the voter for giving a false address. One caging operation was exposed when an RNC official mistakenly sent the list to a parody site called GeorgeWBush.org — instead of to the official campaign site GeorgeWBush.com. *In the century following the Civil War, millions of black Americans in the Deep South lost their constitutional right to vote, thanks to literacy tests, poll taxes and other Jim Crow restrictions imposed by white officials.* Add up all the modern-day barriers to voting erected since the 2004 election — **the new registrations thrown out, the existing registrations scrubbed, the spoiled ballots, the provisional ballots that were never counted — and what you have is millions of voters, more than enough to swing the presidential election, quietly being detached from the electorate by subterfuge.**

"Jim Crow was laid to rest, but his cousins were not," says Donna Brazile. "We got rid of poll taxes and literacy tests but now have a second generation of schemes to deny our citizens their franchise." Come November, the most crucial demographic may prove to be Americans who have been denied the right to vote. If Democrats are to win the 2008 election, they must not simply beat John McCain at the polls — they must beat him by a margin that exceeds the level of GOP vote tampering.

Voter Suppression - My Conclusion:

Certainly the evidence supports the conclusion that suppressed votes can reach the million level and higher, clearly this is a very serious problem.

Some say 2.7 Million in 2008 alone. That is huge so some must be legitimate.

Even if only a million or so are fraudulent that can throw the whole national election.

Election Fraud - How Big is the Problem?

Election Fraud requires insiders, or those who can gain inside access, to alter election results. What follows is a rundown of the various voting and election systems that can suffer fraud.

So called **e-voting machines, DREs**, have no paper ballot, or usually do not have a paper “trail” receipt for the voter to check while at the polling booth. Instead they RELY on memory cards or networking to save each vote. They are the least secure voting systems. They are susceptible to **Fraudulent Programming** residing from within the memory cards (which record the vote tally), the network (spread like a Windows virus), or the factory.

See the Clint Curtis story. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clint_Curtis

Programmer Clint Curtis claims that four years ago Rep. Tom Feeney (R-Florida) asked his then-employer to write software to alter votes on electronic voting machines in Florida. <http://www.wired.com/politics/security/news/2004/12/66002>

For the first time, Patty Sharaf's new, terrifying documentary, ***Murder, Spies & Voting Lies: The Clint Curtis Story***, recounts the full, remarkable tale of what happened when, **in the year 2000, one man found himself on the wrong end of a smoking gun** <http://votinglies.com/>

Hacking Voting machines testimonial at Congress

<http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=8112825559202389150>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K7tjnuG-l6g>

Contractors using no, or few, security measures may transport memory cards. Imagine losing a truck full of ballots, hard; now imagine losing a bag of memory cards, easy. Imagine how easy that the memory cards can be fraudulently reprogrammed on the way to a central site for tabulation.

Also DREs have verified problems with touch-screen-to-vote calibration. Namely the voter presses A but B gets voted instead, aka one form of vote-flipping. This can be a “valid” error in the current crop of touch screen DREs. *Actually a good design would never allow this error.*

This “error” is showing up TODAY, in the early 2008 voting, in at least 4 states. Ask yourself why are these “errors” always err for the Democratic voter. The DRE votes in 1000s of cases in 2004 almost always go from the Dem to Republican or sometimes to 3rd party votes.

A few current election problems:

Election Integrity Filmmaker Sees Own Vote Flipped on ESS Touch-Screens in TN

<http://www.bradblog.com/?p=6540>

Touch-Screen Votes Flipping From Dem to Rep in WV

<http://www.bradblog.com/?p=6528>

ES&S Touch-Screens in SC Omit Candidates, Races on Final Voter Review Screen

<http://www.bradblog.com/?p=6546>

New Jersey Superior Court Judge has ruled that a court-ordered Princeton

University report critical of the state's Sequoia Advantage DRE (touch-screen)

voting machines could be released to the public. The [158-page report \[PDF\]](#) was released publicly on Friday afternoon warning, **among other things**, that:

- The **lost votes** during New Jersey's Super Tuesday elections "were caused by two different programming errors on the part of Sequoia"
- "New Jersey should not use any version of the AVC Advantage that it has not actually examined with the assistance of skilled computer-security experts."
- "The AVC Advantage's **susceptibility to installation of a fraudulent vote-counting program is far more than an imperfection: it is a fatal flaw.**"
- "The AVC Advantage is too insecure to use in New Jersey."

Precinct Scanners are placed at each voting site, usually precinct by precinct. They use a paper ballot, which allows for recounts. However in Florida there is a law forbidding using the paper ballots for a hand count!!! The paper ballots are counted AT the precinct and the votes recorded on memory cards.

They have the same capacity for Fraudulent Programming as DREs because they use memory cards and / or are networked. They also have the problems of operational complexity leading to poor operation by poorly trained poll workers.

Countywide **High-speed Scanners** count 100's of ballots at a time and are permanently setup at the county voting office. They are not easily susceptible to fraud and are managed only by a professional staff. However there can be mechanical failures and other problems. Logic & Accuracy tests are run before counting begins but they cover standard calibration setup and of course should be run in front of observers.

Countywide, statewide, and national **Tabulators** electronically receive **vote totals** from the precincts, county, and state levels into a final national tabulation. In principle any combination of people, processes, and software could shift an election. There are of course checks and balances in place but not at every tabulating site. Many of the countywide tabulators have been decertified as found to be susceptible to **Vote Flipping** or **Vote Loss** (totals not consistent) by hackers and of course by some poll workers.

Security Evaluation of the Sequoia Voting System

Public Report July 20, 2007 Computer Security Group, Computer Science
University of California, Santa Barbara
Excerpt, WinEDS is a Tabulator.

5.7 Attack Scenario 7

In this scenario, **someone with limited access to election functionality on a WinEDS workstation directly connects to the MS SQL Server running on a separate WinEDS server machine.** Since the WinEDS access control mechanisms are not enforced outside of the WinEDS software, the attacker has full administrative privileges on the MS SQL server. As the next step, the attacker transfers a malicious program to the database,

and installs the program on the WinEDS server. The program runs in the background and from time to time connects to the database and changes election data in a consistent way. At this point, this program can be used to change any election data (such as, ballot definitions, election results, etc.) transparently from the local machine.

The installed program can be left on the machine as a Trojan. Assuming that the machine is not reinstalled between elections, the program could guarantee the attacker access to the server during the next election.

Tabulator fraud has (allegedly) already happened!

Where is the proof? There are lots of statistical studies that prove Election Fraud, but they do not constitute a smoking gun, do they? The statistical proof has been good enough for the DOJ to convict hundreds of crimes of the mob, terrorists, drug runners, and money launderers. They convict bank robbers with statistics, the kind of bank robbers that use communication software to steal from banks.

That brings us to the alleged Election Fraud in Ohio of the 2004 Presidential race.

Whistleblowers have come forward with explosive accusations and first hand participation.

Lawsuits are coming up now focusing on the 2004 Ohio actions of SOS Ken Blackwell and **IT systems provider** to Ohio SOS, Republican Headquarters and Congressional systems (yes! Congress) **Michael Connell**.

“.. a [troubling declaration](#) filed with the court by Republican cyber-security expert and Connell colleague, **Stephen Spoonamore who testified that he's concerned a classic "Man in the Middle" cyber hack** may have occurred on Election Night in 2004 as Connell's Republican firm handled results reporting for Ohio's Presidential election. According to Spoonamore, **control of Ohio's election system by Connell's firm, may have allowed for the compromise of election results as they were being reported.** The structure of the system, as **results were allowed to be first diverted to Connell's servers that night**, would have been "cause to launch an immediate fraud investigation" in the banking industry, charges Spoonamore, who ferrets out such problems in the financial services industry. Spoonamore further notes in his declaration, in regard to Connell, that "**He has admitted** to me that in his zeal to 'save the unborn' **he may have helped others who have compromised elections.**"

Listen to Stephen Spoonamore on Thom Hartmann October 2nd, 2008
<http://www.whiterosesociety.org/content/hartmann/Members.html>



Photo courtesy of Brad Blog 2008

The court has served Michael Connell, IT Consultant (above left) to Ohio's previous SOS Blackwell. Brad Blog has reported that the lawsuit's attorneys hope to depose Carl Rove as well.

Whistleblower Chris Hood regarding **Diebold** and relating to the unusual win of Saxby Chambliss in Georgia 2004.

Watch former **Diebold contractor Chris Hood** who talks about many disturbing actions by Diebold during prior elections, including **illegal, uncertified and unreported patches, and improper feeding of tabulation results** by Diebold Chief Bob Urosevitch. This interview was prepared for a major news program special that was supposed to air two weeks before the 2006 midterm election. *At the last moment, however, the corporate media killed the special.* Check out this important ten-minute interview.
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SKnIghBsU58>

One, of many, **statistical analyses "proving" Election Fraud.**

A Research Report from the University of Pennsylvania

Graduate Division, School of Arts & Sciences Center for Organizational Dynamics

<http://www.appliedresearch.us/sf/Documents/ExitPoll.pdf>

Election fraud is established when the Tallied vote count is at variance to the exit poll numbers by 1% or more. When this threshold is reached the U.S. Government election observers and the exit poll organizations would declare that the election is rigged and that voter fraud has taken place and that the results are not valid and the results will not be recognized by the international community.

Here are **two representative samples of exit poll results verses actual vote counts from two different countries.** As you can see the differences are no more than 0.44% which is expected when an election is run properly, fairly, and the votes are counted accurately.

German national elections: Average difference **0.26%**

European Parliaments elections: Average difference **0.44%**

Now look at the data for the 2004 Presidential election:

Average difference in 10 of the 11 battleground States **ranged between 1.6% to 9.5% average difference being about 6%**

As you can see the difference between tallied votes and the exit polls are between 9.5% to 1.6% when a difference of over 1% is the established amount that proves vote count fraud!

This shows that there has been vote rigging in these States. If this result was obtained for any election anywhere in the world besides the United States the election would have been labeled a sham and not recognized by the world community. To obtain these numbers an enormous amount of vote rigging is required. Note all of the benefits go to Bush. It is possible to rig elections once paperless electronic voting machines are introduced into the voting system.

This year the manufacturers of the voting machines have said in confidential meetings that they can only set the electronic voting machines to change the results by 5 – 6 % otherwise people might discover the fix.

If the democrats win an election by more than that they will win the election. However, they went on to say it is possible to increase the amount of spoiled ballots (all democrat) to account for as much as an additional 3%

However this is as far as they can go before the “ignorant masses” (their words not mine) might catch on that the systems are not counting correctly. They will continue to use the excuse that there are “glitches” in the systems after all they have only had eight years and several billion dollars from Uncle Sam to get it right. I guess “glitches” are what you get when you will not allow anyone to inspect the code that has been written for any of the electronic systems. The programs that the electronic voting machine manufacturers run in their systems are thousands of lines of code. This is interesting because to write a program to tally votes in Europe it only takes about 100 lines of code. One wonders what the extra couple of thousand lines of code are doing.

One should understand that any software-based system is susceptible to **Fraudulent Programming** by a technologically advanced professional group such as what might occur at the factory. **Further a group outside the factory’s control and without their knowledge may perform such factory-initiated fraud!** *Again no one would even know that a) the fraudulent software was installed and b) said software even existed at all because the software could self-erase making post mortem software analysis useless.*

The only solution overall is to use paper ballots even if machine counted, **perform audits** on a large enough fraction of ballots to detect fraud. These audits should be done by a group of cross-party citizens and organized by the county Auditor. There are proposals for performing audits on a sliding scale of ballots checked depending on the difference in vote totals between the candidates thus easing the burden on the registrar’s office. This audit process is in addition to the various recount regulations in place. In no case should the counting machines be the only tools used for a recount.

Election Fraud - My Conclusion:

Election Fraud has been largely ignored, denied, and repudiated by various opinions from all parts of the political spectrum. However the circumstantial evidence is compelling in argument and quality. Said circumstantial evidence is based on statistical analysis which has been used for years to put criminals in jail. Importantly witnesses will be testifying soon and the whistleblowers have been deposed in the Ohio 2004 election court case and have already testified to Congress.

Election fraud can be initiated in almost all the steps between the voter's initial vote being registered and the tabulation towards a final national tally. Direct electronic voting is the most susceptible to fraud perpetrated by software but any of the other software-based systems are also susceptible.

Estimates of the Election Fraud are typically in the 2 to 5% range, enough to throw most elections.

A group of cross-party citizens, organized by the county Auditor, must perform audits, where the group recount a subset of paper ballots, may be the only way to catch election fraud and therefore dissuade it from future elections.

US Voting and Election Problems - My Overall Conclusion

Experts have estimated that the 2004 Presidential race as having as much a 5% vote-flip from Kerry to Bush. Others have argued that several million voters were illegitimately knocked off the registrations rolls and that alone is enough to throw an election.

Some estimates for 2008 Registration, Voter, Suppression, and Election Fraud cause the national popular vote to be:

- added 1% of voters due to Registration fraud but leading to only adding another .0009% due to Voter fraud.
- reduced 3% of votes due to Suppression.
- flipped or lost 4% of votes due Election fraud.

The prediction for the 2008 election is that 3 to 4% of the national vote will be flipped due to election fraud and that another 3% or more of the voters will not be allowed their vote because of voter suppression. That's huge if true. These figures are inline with the post 2006 election analysis, implying that the Democrats were denied as much as another 10 congressional seats in that election.

3 to 5% is huge in today's election regardless if it comes from false registration, false voting, prevented voting, or vote flipping and loss.

It's all bad, no matter who perpetuates fraud because we all have a stake in insuring honest elections.

Bio: Steve Wolff is a technology executive working in the computer industry for the last 25 years. He has been closely following and participating in Election Integrity projects. He submitted an election auditing proposal written by his bi-partisan associates to his Congressman in DC that proposes an election auditing procedure that is highly effective in detecting election fraud while being cost effective.
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PS:

Justice Department Targets ACORN but Ignores GOP Voter Suppression

<http://www.truthout.org/102408B>

Expat Voters Tangled Up in Ballot Red Tape

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/diane-tucker/expat-voters-tangled-up-i_b_137136.html

The total number of potential overseas voters is nearly seven million, and more of these American citizens are now registered than ever before.

It's one thing to cast a vote, another to make sure it counts

In Texas, overseas ballots must be marked in dark blue or black ink, or they will not be counted. In Maryland, some counties require a #2 pencil. "What constitutes a #2 pencil in Ireland?" a mystified voter asked Miller.

In California, where Brian Reagan is from, ballots being sent out from Los Angeles may have the words *Sample Ballot* printed on them. "This is terribly misleading, because this slate is the only ballot these expats will receive. They should vote it, and return it," Jody Couser, press officer for Democrats Abroad, told OffTheBus.

In Ohio, a voter currently living in Germany was removed from the registered voters list in Cincinnati because he did not return an address verification notice mailed to him in 2003. He was instructed to re-register, but the notice arrived in the mail after voter registration had closed in 2008.

In Alaska, an expat with a social security number and an American passport was denied registration because he did not have an Alaskan hunting/fishing license, an Alaskan pay stub, or an Alaskan student loan. This happened to his entire family.

In Idaho, a voter currently living in Taiwan tried for three months to register, without success. Finally an election official told him that the form he mailed in -- which was taken right off the Idaho Voter Registration homepage -- was an "old card" and might be the problem.

In Minnesota, voter certification requirements changed in June, but as of this week the Secretary of State's website still had not been updated.