

**DEMOCRATIC
ELECTION INTEGRITY
COMMITTEES**

(National Election Oversight)

by

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INTRODUCTION

Mounting evidence from the **2000, 2002, 2004, 2006, 2008 and 2010 General Elections** indicates that U.S. election integrity has been undermined. The **Democratic Party** has an important leadership role to play in restoring accuracy and honesty to U.S. elections. Key to this effort will be the creation of numerous partnerships with election officials, law makers, election integrity organizations, concerned citizens and other political parties.

To provide a high level of election integrity the **Democratic Party** needs to undertake the following measures:

- Create a national election integrity committee.
- Create an election integrity committee for each state.
- Create an election integrity committee for each county.
- Staff each precinct on election night with two poll watchers to record precinct vote totals.
- Independently tabulate countywide vote totals.
- Independently tabulate statewide vote totals.
- Ensure that 10% of all ballots in all precincts are randomly selected, for a complete hand count of all races, by a bipartisan team of qualified election judges.
- Staff each county and state election center with an adequate number of trained election judges.
- Staff each county and state vote tabulation center with two qualified attorneys to ensure compliance with election law, and to quickly report observed violations to election officials and the media.
- Actively work for the establishment of nonpartisan/bipartisan election boards at the federal, state and county levels.

The creation of this comprehensive election oversight system will require the active participation of hundreds of Democrats in each county and thousands of Democrats in each state. For most participants only a few hours of their time will be required on Election Day.

NATIONAL AND STATE ELECTION INTEGRITY COMMITTEES

To survive as a viable political force, the Democratic Party is in immediate need of a strong, comprehensive and effective **election oversight system**. The creation of election integrity committees (EICs) at the federal, state and county levels will go a long way toward this end.

Although most election oversight must be performed at the county level, Democratic county committees will greatly benefit from guidance provided by state central committees and the DNC.

It is recommended that the DNC:

- Create a **National Election Integrity Committee** to coordinate election oversight activities around the Nation.
- Develop model organizational structures for state and county EICs.
- Develop written training materials to be used by state and county EICs.
- Produce and distribute training videos for state and county EIC roll outs.
- Post all written and video training materials on the DNC Web Site for use in all 50 states.
- Assemble a **strong legal team** to provide expert advice on federal election law issues to state and county Democratic committees.

It is recommended that each State Democratic Central Committee:

- Create a **State Election Integrity Committee** to coordinate election oversight activities around the state.
- Encourage Democratic county central committees to roll out the **EIC Model** in their respective counties.
- Provide EIC work shops and training materials to county Democratic committees.
- Assemble a **strong legal team** to provide expert advice on state election law issues to county Democratic committees.
- **Independently** tabulate all statewide election totals for comparison with official results.

(Immediate implementation of these measures will do much restore the confidence of Democrats in our national election system.)

COUNTY ELECTION INTEGRITY COMMITTEES

The vast majority of election oversight activities will be performed at the county level.

Working with township, district and ward committee chairs, the Democratic County Central Committee will be responsible for recruiting, training and coordinating the election oversight activities of hundreds of Democratic volunteers. Recruitment and training activities need to begin well before the next election.

It is recommended that each Democratic County Central Committee:

- Create a **County Election Integrity Committee** to coordinate election oversight activities around the county.
- Staff each precinct/polling place with two Democratic poll watchers to record precinct vote totals for all races.
- Independently tabulate countywide vote totals.
- Ensure that 10% of all ballots for all precincts are randomly selected, for a complete hand count of all races, by a bipartisan team of qualified election judges.
- Staff each county and township election center with an adequate number of trained election judges.
- Staff each county and township vote tabulation center with two qualified attorneys to ensure compliance with election law, and to quickly report observed violations to election officials and the media.
- Prior to each election, provide an election integrity workshop for all Democratic poll watchers, election judges, legal experts and others in need of training.
- Actively work for the establishment of a nonpartisan/bipartisan county election board.

Establishing a county election oversight system will create an opportunity to involve hundreds of new Democratic volunteers in the political process, and will assure a Democratic presence in each precinct of the county.

NONPARTISAN / BIPARTISAN ELECTION BOARDS

The need for honest and competent election oversight has never been greater. Although some states, counties and townships have nonpartisan or bipartisan boards to oversee elections, far too many election districts have chief election officers who were elected as partisan candidates representing a specific political party. This frequently gives the dominant political party control over election systems and creates the potential for partisan abuse.

Recent elections have demonstrated how partisan election officials have abused their public trust, and have actively worked to create election outcomes that favor their party's candidates. This partisan conflict of interest is being played out at local, state and federal levels. Coupled with the introduction of corporate controlled computerized-voting machines, this partisan conflict of interest is rapidly undermining American democracy.

The **Democratic Party** must actively work to eliminate the practice of allowing of partisan officials to oversee and administer elections. U.S. elections must be administered by nonpartisan or bipartisan boards, or when appropriate, by boards with multi-party representation.

The elimination of partisan control over election systems may be the most important issue facing the Democratic Party and the Nation.

PARTNERING WITH EXISTING ELECTION INTEGRITY ORGANIZATIONS

After the November 2002 General Election, a number of election integrity organizations came into existence. Some of these organizations developed a national focus (Black Box Voting, National Ballot Integrity Project, Verified Voting.) while others developed a state focus (CASE Ohio, Illinois Ballot Integrity Project, True Vote - MD).

These election integrity organizations were formed as a result of the mounting evidence that substantial vote fraud was being executed through privately controlled computerized-voting systems. The owners and executives controlling the corporations that design, manufacture, program and service these computerized-voting machines were, with few exceptions, closely tied to the Republican Party. These ties were evidenced by political activities and by campaign and party contributions.

Although none of these organizations currently boasts large membership, each has made significant contributions in shining light on the loss of U.S. election integrity. These small organizations have often been responsible for mobilizing effective opposition to the introduction of democracy destroying privately controlled computerized-voting machines. CASE Ohio is an excellent 2004 example.

Because these election integrity organizations are nonpartisan, they offer an opportunity for concerned citizens of any political affiliation (or no political affiliation) to contribute their time and energy in bringing true democracy to America.

The Democratic Party would do well to partner with these energized and knowledgeable organizations when the opportunity presents itself.

A model for the creation of 50 nonpartisan election integrity state task forces is presented in “Moving Forward with the National Ballot Integrity Project”. This model is available online at www.qnc.us .

Contact information for many of these election integrity organizations can be found at www.ballotintegrity.org .

Appendix I provides a list of **Election Integrity Working Groups** (or subcommittees) that may prove useful, to both Democratic election integrity committees, as well as nonpartisan election integrity state task forces.

CONCLUSION

It is no understatement to say that future of American Democracy rests with the Democratic Party.

Only the Democratic Party can mobilize the resources needed, to have an effective national election oversight system in place, by the **2012 General Election**.

Only the Democratic Party currently has the organizational presence across every state to get the job done.

America is experiencing the devastating consequences of losing its federal, state and local democracies.

Each year a larger portion of our election system is being taken over by private corporations and partisan election officials.

Prosecution of the widespread voting fraud that has occurred is virtually nonexistent.

Partisan governors, partisan election officials, partisan law enforcement officers, partisan judges, partisan legislative committees, and a corporate controlled media are insuring that those guilty of election fraud remain free of investigation, and protected from criminal prosecution.

When confronted with a case of vote fraud, many Democrats shrug and point to the fact that vote fraud and election theft have always been with us.

What these Democrats fail to appreciate, is that what has been stolen, is much more than the odd ballot box or the occasional election.

What has been stolen is control of our federal government.

What has been stolen is control of state governments.

What has been stolen is control local governments.

What has been stolen is our election system

What has been stolen is our democracy.

What has been stolen is our future.

IT IS TIME TO TAKE THEM BACK!

APPENDIX I – ELECTION INTEGRITY WORKING GROUPS

The following working groups can be created to support the work of Democratic election integrity committees as well nonpartisan election integrity task forces:

- **Organizing Committee***– Coordinates activities of groups.
- **Legal Options and Strategies Group**- Identifies, recommends and implements legal options.
- **Legislative Options and Strategies Group** – Identifies, recommends and implements legislative strategies.
- **Technology Group** – Provides expert information and advice on computer software, hardware and information security issues.
- **Media and Public Relations Group** – Drafts press releases and handles other public communications.
- **Public Education Group** - Organizes public lectures, discussions and video presentations on the threat computerized voting poses to democracy.
- **Vendor Information Group** – Provides information on owners, directors and key employees as well as maintains detailed records of voting machines placed throughout the state.
- **Disability Issues Group** – Identifies voting system issues of concern to disabled voters and recommends effective solutions.
- **Political Contacts Group** – Identifies and communicates with key elected officials including Governors, Secretaries of State, and legislators.
- **Paper Ballot and Hand Count Group** – Identifies nations and other jurisdictions using paper ballots and hand counts, and provides brief descriptions of how they operate.
- **Activists and Labor Outreach Group** – Contacts, informs and enlists support of existing activist groups and labor organizations.
- **Public Demonstrations Group** – Works with other groups in scheduling and organizing public rallies and demonstrations.
- **Elections Research Group** – Studies past elections documenting hardware/software/systems failures and assesses probability of computer vote fraud.
- **Voter List Integrity Group** – Monitors maintenance of voter lists by election officials and researches cases of alleged vote suppression.
- **Recount Group** – Researches legal issues, provides historical information and assesses feasibility of election recounts throughout the state.
- **Polling Options and Strategies Group** – Identifies and describes necessary exit polls as well as provides expert information on scientific sampling .
- **Election Oversight Group** – Monitors activities at polls and other election facilities reporting anomalies to press, government and the public.
- **Election Board Governance Group** – Monitors election board governance and actively promotes the creation of nonpartisan election boards at the federal, state and local level.

*Membership may include one or more working group representative

APPENDIX II – ELECTION HAND COUNT PROBABILITY TABLE

Chance of Finding a Corrupted Precinct in Cook County with 5% Audit

Total Number of Precincts	Hypothetical Number of Corrupted Precincts	Percent Corrupted Precincts	Number of Audited Precincts for 5% Audit	Expected Value	Standard Deviation	Chance of Finding a Corrupted Precinct
2700	1350	50.00%	135	67.50	5.81	100.00%
2700	1215	45.00%	135	60.75	5.78	100.00%
2700	1080	40.00%	135	54.00	5.69	100.00%
2700	945	35.00%	135	47.25	5.54	100.00%
2700	810	30.00%	135	40.50	5.32	100.00%
2700	675	25.00%	135	33.75	5.03	100.00%
2700	540	20.00%	135	27.00	4.65	100.00%
2700	405	15.00%	135	20.25	4.15	100.00%
2700	270	10.00%	135	13.50	3.49	100.00%
2700	135	5.00%	135	6.75	2.53	99.92%
2700	108	4.00%	135	5.40	2.28	99.65%
2700	81	3.00%	135	4.05	1.98	98.53%
2700	27	1.00%	135	1.35	1.16	75.14%
2700	13.5	0.50%	135	0.68	0.82	48.74%
2700	2.7	0.10%	135	0.14	0.37	9.75%
2700	1.35	0.05%	135	0.07	0.26	5.00%

Note: Data used:

Cook County has	2700	precincts
State of Illinois has	11700	precincts
So Cook County has	23.08%	share of Illinois precincts
Illinois has	102	counties
2% sample of IL precincts is	234	precincts
5% sample of IL precincts is	585	precincts