



ILLINOIS BALLOT INTEGRITY PROJECT

NEWS RELEASE

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DUPAGE COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION CHAIRMAN J.P. "RICK" CARNEY RECEIVED \$12,500 IN CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS FROM DIEBOLD DISTRIBUTOR PRIOR TO VOTING TO BUY THEIR MACHINES

GLEN ELLYN - October 3, 2006. The Illinois Ballot Integrity Project has discovered that DuPage County Election Commission Chairman J.P. "Rick" Carney had received \$12,500 in campaign contributions from the "premier dealer" for Diebold Election Systems, Inc. prior to voting for the highly controversial touch-screen machines in December 2005.

Carney had served five terms as DuPage County Recorder until he retired in 2004. Briefly, Carney was a Republican candidate for the U.S. 6th District of Illinois to fill Rep. Henry Hyde's upcoming slot. On Nov. 15, 2005, Carney was appointed to serve on the DuPage County Election Commission by DuPage County Board Chairman Robert Schillerstrom. Carney was sworn in as Commission chairman on Jan. 12, 2006.

According to campaign disclosures to the Illinois State Board of Elections, the Committee to Elect J.P. "Rick" Carney received a \$9000.00 in-kind contribution for a "fundraiser dinner bill" at Wilton Manor in Wheaton, Ill. on Nov. 18, 2004 from Fidlar Doubleday, a Diebold distributor headquartered in Rock Island, Ill. Fidlar supplies voting machines, technical assistance and election materials to the Commission. On Sept. 16, 2004 and May 5, 2003, Fidlar contributed \$3000.00 and \$500.00 respectively to Carney. No reimbursements to Fidlar are listed under transfers and expenditures at the State Board's campaign disclosure website.

Carney was among three Commissioners who voted unanimously for the Diebold Accuvote TS-x touch screen voting machines over the two other contenders -- Hart InterCivic eSlate and the ES&S iVotronic. The December 29, 2005 vote barely beat the January 1, 2006 deadline to receive over \$4 million in Help America Vote Act (HAVA) funding for the electronic voting machines.

"This is a shocking conflict of interest," says Jean Kaczmarek, co-chair of Illinois Ballot Integrity Project, DuPage Chapter. "Mr. Carney should have disclosed the contributions in a more public manner and recused himself from the vote. In fact, he should have not accepted a Commission post in the first place, knowing the public outcry against Diebold at the time he was appointed."

Dozens of citizens made public statement in the weeks prior to the vote, supplying documentation and warning Commissioners of the malfunctions, certification issues and lack of security associated with

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electronic voting machines nationwide, particularly with Diebold voting systems. Numerous DuPage voters contacted the Election Commission, urging them not to approve touch screen machines. Citizens created the DuPage Chapter of Illinois Ballot Integrity Project last December due to concerns about Diebold voting equipment.

"The Commission always dismissed our concerns about Diebold voting systems. We devoted time scrutinizing machine failures when we should have been concentrating on human failures as well. With this revelation, we can't help but attribute the decision to cronyism," says Melisa Urda, co-chair. "We strongly urge the DuPage County Board to take immediate steps to provide full oversight of the Commission and the upcoming election. Integrity is paramount if we are to have confidence that our votes will be counted accurately and securely on Nov. 7th."

Since December, numerous tests, studies and reports have been released revealing the security and design flaws of Diebold voting systems. A security hole was discovered allowing software to be loaded without a password or proof of authenticity without leaving any sign of tampering. Last month, Princeton Researchers released a devastating security report on the vulnerability of the Diebold touch screen machines to malicious software and viruses. Maryland's Republican Governor Robert Ehrlich has been particularly critical of the use of Diebold touch screen systems in his state, which were subsequently banned until the Democratic-controlled Senate over-ruled the decision. Ehrlich is now urging all citizens in Maryland to vote absentee. Over the past several months, problems with Diebold have been a frequent topic discussed by Lou Dobbs on CNN.

Fidlar Doubleday has a long history with the DuPage County Election Commission. For years, Fidlar Doubleday was their supplier of election-related materials. Jay Bennett, who had served as Deputy Clerk in the Elections Department for DuPage County from 1966 to 1973 and as Assistant Executive Director of the DuPage County Election Commission from 1973 to 1981, began working at Fidlar & Chambers in 1981. (Fidlar & Chambers merged with Doubleday Bros., Inc. in 1999.) Bennett contributed \$4000.00 to the DuPage County Republican Central Committee in 2002 and 2003. In 2003, Fidlar Doubleday became the "premier dealer" for Diebold Election Systems, Inc. Bennett eventually became CEO of Fidlar Doubleday and regularly attended the Election Commission's board meetings in 2005 until he resigned in December. Bennett now serves as Deputy County Clerk of Kane County.

The week after Bennett left Fidlar Doubleday, Diebold CEO Walden O'Dell also resigned. The next day, multiple class-action lawsuits began being filed against Diebold, Inc. alleging insider trading, stock price manipulation and other malfeasance by eight current and former top Diebold executives. An investigation of Diebold, Inc. by the U.S. Securities & Exchange Commission is underway.

The Illinois Ballot Integrity Project is incorporated as a not-for-profit, non-partisan civic organization dedicated to the correction of election system deficiencies and ensuring fair, accurate, and completely

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transparent elections. IBIP believes that fundamental to election integrity is the inscribing of all votes (whether by hand or by machine) on durable paper ballots which are easily handled and verified by the individual voter. The voter's paper ballot should be the only official ballot for purposes of casting, tallying, counting, audit and recount.

The Mission of the Illinois Ballot Integrity Project is to inform and educate the public, media and government officials about important election integrity issues and to promote the adoption of legislation and policies designed to secure the democratic process.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: For questions, contact Jean Kaczmarek: 630-469-2166. Fidler's campaign contributions to J.P. "Rick" Carney can be found at this link:
<http://www.elections.il.gov/CampaignDisclosure/CommitteeDetail.aspx?id=4478>