



ILLINOIS BALLOT INTEGRITY PROJECT

NEWS RELEASE

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IBIP ELECTION IRREGULARITIES REPORT TO DUPAGE COUNTY BOARD

WHEATON, IL - March 27, 2007 The DuPage Chapter of the Illinois Ballot Integrity Project (IBIP) presented recommendations to improve the county's electoral process to the DuPage County Board today. IBIP submitted these recommendations to the Strategic Planning Steering Committee, created by the Board to consider long-range planning and vision for DuPage County. The recommendations were first presented to the DuPage County Election Commission six weeks ago. IBIP submitted its Report to the Committee as a means of prompting action by the DuPage County Election Commission. The report summarizes problems associated with the Nov. 7, 2006 election in DuPage County.

IBIP Chapter Co-Chair, Jean Kaczmarek, says, "This report provides only a glimpse of what really happened in the 2006 election, but that glimpse is enough for serious concern. Our hope is that the County Board and the Strategic Planning Steering Committee will agree and work with us. All the issues being discussed by the Committee and the Committee members themselves are directly connected to election day." Some of the problems in the Nov. 7th election included:

- **Serious breaches in the chain of custody before, during and after the election** - Dozens of memory cards were not returned securely on election night. One observer estimates as many as 80 memory cards were left back at polling places. Eventually, two-thirds of these cards were returned that night, but roughly 25 stayed out all night long. Many of the 25 cards were found the next morning unsecured, leaving the data compromised. (A memory card is an electronic ballot box. Each memory card contained votes from multiple precincts.)
- **Diebold TSx touch screen machines left out all night at polling places throughout DuPage County** - A Princeton University study demonstrated that it takes less than 10 seconds to break into a Diebold touch screen machine and less than one minute to insert malicious coding which could be programmed to be undetectable and disappear without a trace on election night.
- **No criminal background checks conducted on the technicians who had access to memory cards, machine components and the tabulation room -- before, during or after the process** - Most computer fraud is carried out by those who have the means, motive and opportunity.
- **No hand-counted audit of early votes cast on the Diebold touch screen machines, although an audit of five percent of precincts is mandated by the Illinois Election Code** - In addition, these votes cast in early voting were not subject to recounts as votes cast otherwise. Voters who cast ballots early were not provided equal protection under the law.
- **Five AskEd devices were reported missing, according to an election judge, following judges' training in October 2006** - The hand-held devices contain the voter database including private voter information. It is unknown if the devices were found, or if the information contained on them was altered."

Co-Chair Melisa Urda states, "Problems with the 2006 general election overlap recurrent problems that were brought to the Election Commission's attention. Security problems of the machines and the AskED devices, along the overall lack of transparency, provide little basis for confidence in election results." Recurrent problems include; lack of a written and strictly enforced chain of custody for all machines, machine components and memory cards before, during and after the election; lack of overall transparency; lack of proper training of election judges. In addition to election irregularities:

- The DuPage County Election Commission has also failed to comply with the Illinois Local Records Act, by destroying public records associated with past elections; has failed to comply with the recommendations of the Illinois Attorney General's office regarding excessive fees charged for duplicating election documentation, charging excessive fees for copying which hinders public oversight.

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 to ensuring fair, accurate, and completely transparent elections.

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.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Contact Melisa Urda at 630.357.0744 for questions or clarification. The complete recommendations are available here: www.ballot-integrity.org/docs/DuPage_Report_3-26-2007.pdf