

Ballot Integrity Project
Minutes of 11/12/03 Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:22 pm by Roy L. The meeting location was Ann Sather's Restaurant, 919 W. Belmont, Chicago. Julia agreed to act as recording secretary for the meeting.

In attendance were the following:

Steve C.
Lora C.
John G.
Dan & Kathy G.
Joan K.
Roy L.
Kelly P.
Larry Q.
Julia T.
Nancy R.

I. Old business

A. Discussion of possible actions.

Steve reported on last meeting's discussion of possible actions. These included--

- * Attending the upcoming Voting Machine Expo at McCormick place.
- * Inviting experts and/or politicians to speak to our group.
- * Educating Republicans that this is a non-partisan issue.

Comment: U. S. Rep. Russ Holt's bill (H.R. 2239) would require a paper trail for all votes in national elections. (At present the Holt bill is supported only by Democrats.)

B. The Voting Machine Expo.

- * Roy reported that he visited the Voting Machine Expo and taped two hours of video. He captured demonstrations from about fifteen of the eighteen or so vendors, plus the remarks of a former hacker.

Roy said he later contacted Jonathan Williams, who will be heading up the Cook County Clerk's advisory committee on voting technology.

Steve: David Dill may be interested in a copy of the tape.

- * Dan expressed concern that the machines being exhibited fell short on security.
- * Steve said that Avante and TruVote are working on verifiability, through software and/or paper trail. He also says that several vendors have indicated a willingness to submit their software for review by outside experts.

Steve also reported that the Cook County Clerk opposes paper ballots.

- * Kelly reported that the machines all seemed to be beta versions, not production models.

II. New business

A. Suggestions were solicited for possible action.

1. Larry: Organize our group into committees.

Larry presented his list of potential committees. He accepted the chairmanship of a Political Contacts committee.

- 2 Help move the Holt bill out of committee.

Steve and Lora agreed to work on this task.

3. Contact other community and civic groups who might be interested in our mission, and invite them to attend or to send a rep.

Lora accepted this task.

4. Contact the Secretaries of State of the 50 states and remind them that January 1 is the deadline for applying for a waiver (deferral) for the HAVA requirements.

Larry accepted this task.

5. Become acquainted with the voting statues in Illinois and in Cook County.

Steve promised to send around a twenty-page extract that sets the standards for balloting in Illinois.

6. Create a simple one-sheet handout that clearly and simply gives an "executive summary" of the voting security problem.
7. Make use of group members' existing personal contacts with politicians, celebrities, and other persons with clout.
8. Enlist the participation of the Green Party, peace groups and other activist groups, who should realize that having valid elections are essential to achieving their group's objectives: They should be 'demonstrating in the streets' for valid elections.
9. Engage a TV news magazine, like Frontline or Bill Moyer's Now, to produce a segment about ballot security.

B. The name of our group was changed to the "Ballot Integrity Project." The name of our group's email network, "e-vote," remains unchanged.

C. Steve and Joan suggested that we hold our next meeting at Healing Earth, 3111 N. Ashland. The group agreed, contingent on Joan's confirmation of the site's availability.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 10.

Other Notes:

- * Printouts were distributed concerning either voting security or various presidential candidates.
- * There is a National Association of Secretaries of State, and also a National Association of Election Officials.
- * Joan: R. Doug Lewis created and runs "The Election Center," an national election-certifying organization. His biography is uncertain and his qualifications for this job are nebulous.
- * Steve: Due to troubles with its electronic voting machines (manufactured by Diebold), Venezuela in 1999 postponed its

national elections for several months.

* David Dill's website is verifiedvoting.org.

* Members were cautioned about making statements in the name of our group without first clearing those statements with the group. Members, of course, are free to speak on their own behalf without restriction.