

Ballot Integrity Project
Minutes of 4/14/04 Meeting
Drafted by Roy L.

Present this evening were--

Larry Q.

Roy L.

As a quorum was not present, no official meeting was convened.

Nevertheless, Larry and Roy had a lively discussion which lasted from 6:40 PM to 9:04 PM.

Here is their report.

1. Emergency measure.

Larry and others are promoting the adoption of a "Manual Parallel Accounting System" for the November election, to provide a check on the accuracy and fairness of touch-screen voting systems.

Employing a parallel accounting system is standard practice in business when an old system is in the process of being replaced by a new one. Both are used alongside each other for a period of time, until the bugs in the new system have been worked out and it has proven itself stable and accurate.

The same strategy makes eminent sense when switching from an older voting system to a newer one.

The need is not merely theoretical: The news media continue to carry reports of malfunctions in touch-screen voting systems, even as late as March 2004.

Larry is asking that our group sign on to participate in promoting this strategy as a mandatory requirement for all state and federal offices in the fall 2004 elections. He is also asking that we use our website as an "epicenter" for this campaign, which would include a webpage for each State's affiliate.

Roy presented comments on the documents that Larry has produced for this campaign. During the discussion, some of Roy's misunderstandings of details in those documents were cleared up. These included details about the nature and sponsors of the envisioned exit polls, and about the legal status of the proposed mandatory paper ballots.

Since other readers might develop similar misunderstandings, Larry asked if Roy would offer suggestions for clarifying those details. Roy agreed to do so.

2. Media campaign.

Larry reported that, since time is growing short, we should seriously consider what actions we might take immediately.

One of these is a massive media campaign to promote the above parallel accounting system as a stop-gap measure to ensure an honest vote in the national elections this fall.

Larry mentioned numerous contacts in the media and in

national government that might be drawn upon for assistance in such a campaign.

3. Next meeting.

The next meeting of our group will be on May 12, at our usual time and place: 7:00 PM at Healing Earth Resources, 3111 N. Ashland, Chicago.