

Continuing the Fight for Election Integrity in 2008

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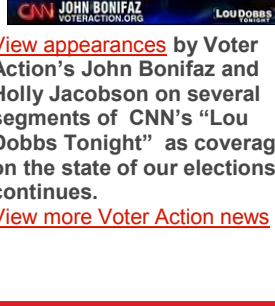
Watch the Vote 2008— Pennsylvania Primary

Primary Date: April 22nd, 2008

Our Watch the Vote project in the Pennsylvania Primary Election is a joint effort with the NAACP National Voter Fund and is in collaboration with InfoVoter Technologies and the MyVote1 hotline (866-MyVote1) to engage in election monitoring and election protection throughout Pennsylvania. Voters will receive support on election day to find their poll locations, report complaints, and to be connected with local election board help lines. Further, the project will partner with on-the-ground citizen networks in the state to provide roving reporters in targeted counties who will assist in verifying election problems as they emerge via the hotline and who will help address such problems on election day. Our joint work on this project will help prepare us for our Watch the Vote 2008 project for the November 2008 election.

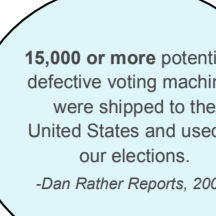
[Learn more about our Watch the Vote program](#)
[Read our 2006 Watch the Vote Report](#)

Volume 1, Issue 1,



[View appearances](#) by Voter Action's John Bonifaz and Holly Jacobson on several segments of CNN's "Lou Dobbs Tonight" as coverage on the state of our elections continues.
[View more Voter Action news](#)

Dan Rather Reports "How do we -- as a nation -- vote?"



Feb 21, 2008 | Dan Rather continues reporting on in-depth investigations into the reliability and vulnerability of our nation's voting machines.

"In the wake of the disputed 2000 Presidential Election and Florida's hanging chads, states across the country rushed out and spent billions of federal tax dollars trying to solve -- once and for all -- the voting problem. Many states bought the touch-screen machines, and now many state officials are having buyer's remorse over these machines, and the tax payers are once again footing the bill. For this report tonight, we come to you from the Franklin County

Call to Action

YOU are the antidote to help ensure that our elections properly function; publicly controlled elections require increased citizen involvement and oversight. [Click here](#) for more information on ways to get involved and take action!

15,000 or more potentially defective voting machines were shipped to the United States and used in our elections.
 -Dan Rather Reports, 2007-

Courthouse in Columbus, Ohio—the site of yet another chapter in the saga over how we vote.” [View "How do we -- as a nation -- vote?" by Dan Rather.](#)

The New Jersey primary on Feb 5th, 2008 led to reports of serious problems with Sequoia voting machines. [See our recent letter to NJ Attorney General Anne Milgram calling for a full investigation.](#)

→ The findings from HDNet's Dan Rather Reports have provided shocking [evidence](#) that exposes potential commercial fraud associated with the marketing and sale of defective voting systems throughout the country.

→ In response to these revelations, Voter Action has launched its ['Campaign to Reclaim'](#), calling for a [full Congressional investigation](#) into US voting systems companies and whether these companies have violated federal and state anti-fraud statutes. The campaign seeks to apply heightened scrutiny to the US voting systems industry, akin to the scrutiny Congress once applied to Big Tobacco. The campaign also seeks to further expose the dangers posed to the integrity of our democracy when we outsource to private vendors key functions for the conducting of our elections. We believe **the American public deserves answers.**

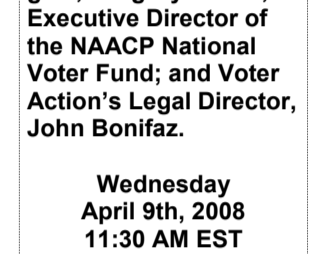
In Ohio, Secretary of State Jennifer Brunner has issued a report finding that the electronic voting systems in the state are unreliable. While she has called on Ohio counties to shift by November to paper ballot systems using optical scan technology, she has yet to use her power to decertify these systems and force such a change. Voter Action continues to assist in the case of [Callen v. Blackwell](#), which challenges the certification of electronic voting machines in Ohio and which is scheduled to go to trial in early June 2008. Our pro bono partner, Pamela Hultin of Smith & Hultin LLC in Chagrin Falls, Ohio, serves as lead counsel for the voter-plaintiffs in the case.

In Pennsylvania, a group of voters continues their challenge of the use of electronic voting machines in their state on the grounds that it violates the state election code and the state constitution's guarantee of the right to vote ([Banfield v. Cortés](#)). On February 22, 2008, the voter-plaintiffs filed a motion to lift the stay in the case and allow the challenge to move toward trial in time for any potential shift to a paper ballot system for the November election. Voter Action continues to assist in this case, led by its pro bono partners in Pennsylvania: Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP, the Public Interest Law Center of Philadelphia, and Chester County attorney Marian Schneider.

In Colorado, we continue our legal and outreach efforts following our successful lawsuit, [Conroy v. Dennis](#), challenging the certification of DRE voting machines. On March 14th, 2008, the Denver Post stated that Conroy v. Dennis, "ultimately led state lawmakers to introduce a bill mandating a primarily paper-ballot election this year", providing for a less expensive and more reliable paper ballot and optical scanning system. In January 2008, the Governor and the bipartisan leadership of the Colorado General Assembly announced their support to return to paper ballots as the solution for Colorado's 2008 elections, calling it a victory for all Colorado voters. We believed this was a huge step in restoring voter confidence in Colorado's elections process, affecting over one million registered voters in that state; Governor Ritter has since rescinded his support for the paper ballot switch after receiving opposition from many county clerks and the Secretary of State.

On February 25, 2008, the Secretary of State also reversed himself (in December 2007, he had announced that, based on retesting ordered by the court, he was decertifying electronic voting machines manufactured by two companies, Election Systems & Software (ES&S) and Sequoia Voting Systems) and declared that, based on new testing, he was recertifying the electronic voting machines manufactured by ES&S and Sequoia Voting Systems. These decisions stand in contrast to the August 2007 decision by the California Secretary of State to decertify the electronic voting systems of all four companies based on an [independent and comprehensive review](#) involving leading computer science experts across the country. However, a recent survey of each county in Colorado shows that at least 60 percent of the state's registered voters will have the option of casting a paper ballot on Election Day, despite the failure in the legislature of a plan mandating such verifiable elections.

We are currently working with our award-winning legal team at Wheeler Trigg and Kennedy and the citizen-led grassroots election integrity organization, the Public Integrity Project of Colorado, to organize on-the-ground efforts in this state. Representatives from this organization work with state and county departments on behalf of concerned Colorado residents, appear as leading experts in public hearings, assemble pertinent information and provide key information to local media outlets. This collaboration has been invaluable as we continue to pressure Colorado to make a meaningful and legal shift to an uncompromised voting system.



[View the LIVE webcast of the House of Representatives - House Administration Committee Hearing on the 2008 Presidential Primaries and Caucuses as they discuss "What we've learned so far"](#).

Witnesses before the hearing will include **Ken Smukler, President of InfoVoter Technologies; Gregory Moore, Executive Director of the NAACP National Voter Fund; and Voter Action's Legal Director, John Bonifaz.**

**Wednesday
 April 9th, 2008
 11:30 AM EST**

In 2008, the Legal Advocacy Project will continue its work to protect our vote and the integrity of our election process. This work will include ongoing proceedings in key states, including Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Colorado.

Your donations are critical for our organization to carry out this work, especially in this election year.
 Please [make your tax deductible donation today](#) and join us in our efforts to reclaim public control of our elections.