

Ballot Integrity Project
Minutes of 1/14/04 Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:14 pm by Roy L. The location was Healing Earth Resources, 3111 N. Ashland, Chicago.

Tom H. agreed to act as recording secretary for the meeting.

The following were in attendance:

John G.
Warren G.
Tom H.
Annette J.
Roy L.
Larry Q.
Julia T.

Approval of Minutes.

The minutes of the December meeting were approved without amendment.

Old Business.

Assembling introductory education materials.

Ernest Partridge's article, revised.

Roy reported that this document was in process and nearly complete.

Larry reported that he had created a one-page summary of Partridge's article and has posted it at <http://qnc.us> .

"How to hack DRE's" (Voting Machines)

Roy will meet with a former hacker on Friday to collaborate on this document, to publicize the threat of hacking.

Reports of DRE malfunctions.

Roy has assembled a document with four items. He intends to add an additional item, concerning the election of Charles Hagel in Nebraska to the U.S. Senate.

Task Forces.

Study of hand count in Canadian federal elections.

John reported that this study is in process. Larry reported that columnist Robert X. Cringely had a good discussion of this issue in his 12/15/03 column. [The article is located at--

Contact with public officials.

Larry reported that he is waiting to hear from the official in the Illinois Secretary of State's office to whom he sent study material.

Larry also reported that he is attempting to set up a meeting with Illinois Lt. Governor Patrick Quinn.

Our mission.

Copies of two draft mission statements, one by Larry and one by Roy, were distributed at the meeting. (See below.) Both were critiqued.

Tom suggested that we reach a consensus on components of our mission before we attempt to formulate a mission statement. He was apprised that we had agreed on one component: "that a voter-verified paper ballot be used as the source for all counts and recounts."

Larry proposed that we adopt as a further component, that "A handcount be mandatory for all elections in Illinois." He feels that this is the only way to ensure complete accuracy in the count.

During discussion Roy recommended that we adopt instead a more general position: that all counts be performed by a multi-partisan panel of precinct judges. Roy feels that it is the "checks and balances" of multiple judges that is the basis of an accurate count.

Larry's proposal was moved and voted on. The motion failed, with 1 yea, 3 nay, and 2 abstentions.

Larry promised to gather and distribute detailed information on the handcount processes which are being successfully used in Canada and Germany. This information will shed light on how complex an election can be and still support a handcount.

The group also discussed how broad a focus on fair elections our group should have. Due to resource limitations, we decided to focus on election issues specifically related to vote recording, counting, and reporting.

[] Our organization structure.

Larry proposed that our group be organized into twelve subgroups, each with its own special area of concentration.

After discussion, the consensus was that implementing the proposal be deferred until we have a large membership base; and that, until then, the list of subgroups be employed as a reference document, to remind us of potential aspects that should be considered when planning our endeavors.

[] New Business.

[] The following resolution was moved and seconded:

"Resolved: That we endorse the Holt Bill (H. R. 2239) and the Graham Bill (S. 1980) which would ensure a voter-verified paper record of all votes on electronic equipment."

The endorsement would be entered on the webpage at--
http://www.verifiedvoting.org/hr2239_s1980_add_endorsement.asp

The motion was amended to state that, if possible, we convey that our approval is qualified; that we feel the the bill is not a complete solution; and that a complete solution entails that the paper ballots be the source of each original count, and not merely of recounts.

The motion passed, with 5 yea and 1 nay.

[] Public education/outreach.

Larry highly recommended Joan K.'s extensive research paper.

He will ask her if copies can be made available to our group.

[] Adjournment

Our next meeting is scheduled for February 8 at 7:00 pm at Healing Earth Resources.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:07 pm.

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Handout
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Mission Statement (Draft)
Ballot Integrity Project
Larry Q.

Vision

We see a free and democratic America where all our citizens flourish.
We see a democracy founded upon integrity.
We see voting systems that are open, transparent and accurate.
We see our future.

Mission

Securing American democracy through election system integrity.

Guiding Principles

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1. Voting accessibility for all citizens of legal age.
 2. Public oversight for all aspects of the election system.
 3. Accurate recording, counting and reporting of all votes cast.

Goals

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1. All votes cast on paper ballots having legal vote status.
 2. Upon close of polling place, immediate hand count of all paper ballots in public view.
 3. Upon completion of hand count, vote totals recorded immediately in triplicate on official report forms and signed by all election officials present.
 4. One official report form posted immediately on wall of polling place.
 5. Two remaining official reports and sealed ballot box delivered immediately to appropriate election authorities.
 6. All paper ballots retained by election authorities in secure location for a minimum of one year.

Mission Statement (Draft)
Ballot Integrity Project
Roy L.

We believe that America's strength and vitality as a nation is founded in its "government by the people."

We believe that central to America's government are elections that are free, open, and fair.

We believe such elections can be guaranteed only by a policy of "instant audit":

- * Ballots which are--
 - * Printed on paper or paper-like material.
 - * Computer-reviewed, to prevent voter errors.
 - * Fully and directly verified by the voter, to prevent

computer errors.

* Used as the source of all counts and recounts.

* Counts and recounts that are--

* Performed by a multi-partisan panel of judges of election.

* Fully open to other interested observers.

* Fully and directly verified by the observers.

* Protective of the anonymity of the ballots.

We believe that such a policy should be established by law.

We believe that educating our citizens and our legislators on the need for such law is of critical importance to our democracy.

The mission of the Ballot Integrity Project is to spearhead this education in Illinois.