

The Illinois Ballot Integrity Project

Minutes for March 9, 2005, Meeting

Compiled by Roy L.

The meeting was called to order by Roy at 7:15.

Present

Roy L.
Kevin O.
Neal R.
Delphyne W.

Announcements

1. Andersonville Neighbors for Peace will be hosting a forum on fraud in last November's election, and on how our nation can restore "a real and working democracy."

The forum is scheduled for April 9, 7 pm - 9 pm, and may be repeated at an upcoming Chicago Social Forum.

Panelists include--

- * Dr. Lora Chamberlain,
 - * Neal R.
 - * Steven Baiman, a local statistician who is an expert on exit polls. During recent court proceedings, he presented strong statistical evidence of fraud in last November's elections in Ohio.
2. Also in April, there will be a national conference on election reform in Nashville, Tennessee. More information is available at--
<http://www.freepress.org/conf.php>

Remarks

1. Punch cards are not necessarily private, since pollworkers can become familiar enough with the cards to be able to visually "read" which candidate was voted in some of the races.
2. Some pollsters have found people reluctant to reveal even which candidate they might favor, much less which candidate they voted for.
3. We need studies that confine themselves to analyzing "hard data" (official vote counts) independently of "soft data" (exit polls and other indirect data).
4. If we are truly concerned about election integrity, we cannot ignore the plans and activities of Cook County and of Chicago.
5. We could benefit from a compendium of information on current legislation and court cases relating to election reform.

Action items

Volunteer

1. Carol Ronan is sympathetic to the cause of election reform.
Contact her to explore possible collaboration. Roy
2. Chicago and Cook County are rumored to have settled on
purchasing touch-screen voting systems. Kevin
 - a. Verify this with the County Clerk's Office.
 - b. Contact Jonathon Williams in the County Clerk's Office
to discover how they selected their particular RFP specs.
3. Contact New York Senator Schumer to learn his reasons
being adamantly opposed to paper ballots. Roy

Locate or compile a list of other objections as well.
4. Check if and when Howard Dean will be visiting Chicago
on his national tour as DNC chair. Roy
5. Check if Dennis Kucinich is still active on this issue. Roy
6. Obtain a list of voting-machine problems encountered in
Illinois during the last election. --
7. Contact the League of Woman Voters in Chicago for an
assessment of local election-system plans. Roy
8. Send URLs for the following to Kevin: Roy
 - a. Cook County's current RFP for voting systems.
 - b. Statisticians' response to the Edison/Mitofsky
explanation for November's exit-poll anomalies.
 - c. The group that is compiling vote results on the precinct
level nationwide. (<http://uscountvotes.org>)
9. Send URLs for the following to Neal: Roy
 - a. A list of Chicago peace networks and their addresses.
 - b. Statisticians' response to the Edison/Mitofsky
explanation for exit-poll anomalies in November's
elections.
10. Research which countries are using paper ballots for
national elections, and what the cost is for paper
balloting in those countries. --
11. Find out Obama's position on election reform. Delphyne

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm.