

The Illinois Ballot Integrity Project

Minutes of the April 13, 2005, Meeting

Compiled by Roy L.

The meeting came to order at approximately 7:10.

Present

Clem B.
Ted C.
Thelma D.
Rex E.
Caroline G.
Roy L.
Kevin M.
Sharon P.
Larry Q.
Neal R.
Clare T.
Bill W.

Reports

1. Larry gave a report about the national conference on election reform that was held in Nashville this past weekend. About 250 activists from over thirty states attended. The conference included the sharing of details about election tampering nationwide.

Details of fraud in Ohio and elsewhere were presented by Larry. discussed.

Larry also noted that Pennsylvania Secretary of State Pedro Castro recently decertified Diebold Unilect touch-screen voting machines in three counties, due to evidence that some votes were not registered by the machines. Similar problems have also been reported in New Mexico.

2. Last Thursday, Andersonville Neighbors for Peace hosted a forum on fraud in last November's election, and on to restore a "a real and working democracy." About thirty persons attended.

Panelists include--

- * Dr. Lora Chamberlain, who detailed fraud in Ohio and elsewhere last November, and discussed legislation being proposed in Congress.
- * Steven Baiman, a local economist and statistician who described statistical anomalies in last November's election that provide strong evidence of election tampering.
- * Neal Resnikoff, who posed the need for the common citizen to reclaim the reins of government from corporate interests.

The panel will be repeated at an upcoming Chicago Social Forum.

Dialog

Our guests were from the office of Cook County Clerk David Orr:
* Clem Balanoff, Director of Elections for [suburban] Cook County.
* Kevin McDermott, election-systems consultant.

Clem gave some statistics about last November's Cook County elections:

- * About 43,000 provision ballots were cast; a little over 50% were counted.
- * Illinois has a mandatory random 5% "recount," in which ballots are run through the vote tabulators again.
- * ES&S sells a handicapped-accessible voting machine that does not use a touch screen. The machine puts marks on paper ballots which can then be read by an optical tabulator.

Clem also stated that--

- * He is agreeable to most requests to inspect or copy election records. (He says he is "someone who believes information should be free.")
- * In a matter of months, the County will be settling on its choice of handicapped-accessible voting equipment, as required by HAVA. Plans are to provide one such device per polling place for the March 2006 primaries.
- * Paper ballots have the highest rate of "residual votes" (non-votes in Presidential races). (Roy expressed an interested in examining the research report that supports this claim. Kevin said he would send Roy a copy.)

Action items

Volunteer

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- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Send documentation to Kevin about fraud in last fall's election. | ? |
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The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm.

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