

## Help Ensure Fair Elections in Ohio in November Election

More and more people are concerned about the integrity of our election process, and about the very survival of our democracy, as illustrated below:

### Public Concerns about Election Integrity

- Tribune Media Services' Bob Koehler wrote, on 6/14/06: **A Vote of No Confidence**, "*People across the political spectrum have begun waking up to the immense risks posed by electronic voting. For instance, conservative CNN commentator Lou Dobbs recently weighed in that, "The security of our elections and the integrity of our democracy is in jeopardy. Nationwide, there is concern and even alarm that electronic voting machines are simply too easily compromised and vulnerable to fraud."*
- June 1, 2006 article from Rolling Stone – **“Was The 2004 Election Stolen?”**, by Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. [http://www.rollingstone.com/news/story/10432334/was\\_the\\_2004\\_election\\_stolen](http://www.rollingstone.com/news/story/10432334/was_the_2004_election_stolen)
- **Zogby Poll, published May 11, 2006**, show most people feel the 2004 elections were rigged (exception: Fox viewers.) Article here: [http://www.opednews.com/articles/genera\\_rob\\_kall\\_060511\\_poll\\_3a\\_2004\\_election\\_.htm](http://www.opednews.com/articles/genera_rob_kall_060511_poll_3a_2004_election_.htm)  
DKOS dairy here: <http://www.dailykos.com/story/2006/5/11/113145/101>
- **Recent Black Box Voting report showing worst security flaws ever:** <http://www.blackboxvoting.org/BBVtsxstudy.pdf> and a few of the effects:
  - The Oakland Tribune scooped other newspapers yesterday on the story.
  - Pennsylvania's Michael Shamos sequestered all Diebold touch-screens.
  - California is invoking emergency procedures.
  - The state of Iowa is trying to figure out a way to scrub Diebold clean.
- **Kenneth Blackwell's Oct 2005 “special notice”** telling county BOE's that they need not post election results at the polling place. Blackwell is known to have invested in Diebold stock. And, from June 7<sup>th</sup> New York Times Editorial “Block the Vote, Ohio Remix”, *“there is one clear way that Ohio's election system is corrupt. Decisions about who can vote are being made by a candidate for governor. Mr. Blackwell should hand over responsibility for elections to a decision maker whose only loyalty is to the voters and the law.”*
- **Voting machine security vulnerabilities released by the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law 7/1/06**  
[http://www.brennancenter.org/presscenter/releases\\_2006/pressrelease\\_2006\\_0627.html](http://www.brennancenter.org/presscenter/releases_2006/pressrelease_2006_0627.html)  
<http://www.brennancenter.org/programs/downloads/Executive%20Summary.pdf>  
<http://www.brennancenter.org/programs/downloads/Full%20Report.pdf>
- **A Single Person Could Swing an Election 6/27/06**  
The experts concluded in a report issued yesterday that it would take only one person, with a sophisticated technical knowledge and timely access to the software that runs the voting machines, to change the outcome.  
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/06/27/AR2006062701451.html?referrer=emailarticle>

## Cuyahoga County – Specific Concerns since May 2<sup>nd</sup> election

In addition, there are many concerns with the May 2<sup>nd</sup> election in Cuyahoga County<sup>1</sup>:

- Lost memory cards (undocumented chain of custody of memory cards and other instruments)
- Inability to “tightly” reconcile ballot counts
- Electronic transmission of polling-place vote counts from “uploading sites”
- Appointment of election-review teams to assess “what went wrong” in the May election
- Training manuals which were incomplete, misleading and sometimes wrong.
- Massive confusion and procedural errors made by polling officials

### The Need for Checks and Balances

These concerns underscore the need for additional checks and balances, and there is a simple and public audit mechanism that can provide such a check.

### A Minor Procedural Change - Post Precinct-Specific Election Results at the Polling Place

We are asking county board of elections across the state to follow the lead of Jan Clair, Director of Lake County (Ohio) Board of Elections, and post, at the polling place, copies of precinct-specific vote counts. *“I WILL POST A COPY AT THE PRECINCT AS WELL AS BRINGING A COPY BACK TO THE BOARD OFFICE. WE WILL READ THE DATA AND POST IT AT THE OFFICE AS WELL AS HAVE IT OUT ON THE INTERNET. SO RESULTS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE PRECINCT LOCATION, THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND POSTED ON THE INTERNET.”* - Jan Clair

For most counties, two additional steps are needed: 1) print a second copy of the polling-place precinct-specific summary report. (In Cuyahoga County, this report is called the *Accumulator Report*<sup>2</sup>) and 2) tape this second copy to the outside door of the polling place. (A third copy of this report could also be posted at the central office, or put up on the internet, as Jan describes.)

Though the limitations of the older technology (punch-card voting systems) made precinct-specific vote counts infeasible, the newer electronic-voting technology enables printing of precinct-level vote counts at the polling place. And, as illustrated above, this audit mechanism is more important than ever. Posted precinct-specific election results will go a long way towards raising the public’s confidence in our election process.

Will you urge your county Board of Elections to post precinct-level vote counts at the polling place in the November 2006 election? And will you help us find volunteers to go to the polling places on election night and write down the precinct-specific vote counts?

Thanks so much,

Victoria Lovegren, Ph.D.

Project Manager, Project Post

For more information, see [www.ohiovigilance.org/ProjectPost/Index.html](http://www.ohiovigilance.org/ProjectPost/Index.html)

To volunteer to help with Project Post on election day, please send an email to [victoria@ohiovigilance.org](mailto:victoria@ohiovigilance.org)

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<sup>1</sup> See report by Victoria Lovegren, EDT in Cuyahoga’s May 2<sup>nd</sup> election -

<http://www.ohiovigilance.org/Cuyahoga/CuyahogaMayProblems.pdf>. Also see CERP interim report -

[http://www.cuyahogavoting.org/CERP\\_interim\\_report\\_20060614.pdf](http://www.cuyahogavoting.org/CERP_interim_report_20060614.pdf) and transcripts of public hearings sponsored by Congresswoman Tubbs Jones.

<sup>2</sup> See recommended statements to be added to Cuyahoga County’s Booth Official Training Manual. See –

<http://www.ohiovigilance.org/ProjectPost/PostingResultsCuyahogaProcedures.pdf>.