

# Vote Count Protection Project

*Northeast Ohio*

## Project Overview

This project seeks to verify whether **vote counts** are correct. It is extremely important to do this in Ohio since all 88 counties are now using electronic-voting equipment, shown to be vulnerable to hacking and wholesale electoral fraud. Our goal is to detect, on Election Day, “cyber crime”, computer fraud, and other technological problems that impact the accuracy of election results. Other projects are focusing on procedural irregularities, observation of chain of custody, voter harassment, disenfranchisement and other legal violations. Some will deal with post-Nov 7<sup>th</sup> audits and recounts.

This is the only project that is focusing on **verifying** the electronic **counts** and protecting election results in *real time*, i.e. on Election Day!

The national **Vote Count Protection Project** is jointly sponsored by *Columbus Institute of Contemporary Journalism* (<http://www.freepress.org>), *Election Integrity* ([www.electionintegrity.org](http://www.electionintegrity.org)), *The Warren Poll* and *Campaign Scientific*, who are working with local election-integrity organizations and activists to “administer” the projects. The **Vote Count Protection Project** is just one component of a larger project called **Election Day Rapid Response**, which is sponsored by Election Defense Alliance ([www.electiondefensealliance.org](http://www.electiondefensealliance.org)), Velvet Revolution ([www.velvetrevolution.us](http://www.velvetrevolution.us)) and other election-integrity organizations.

*The Northeast Ohio Vote Count Protection Project* is being organized, locally, by *Ohio Vigilance* ([www.ohiovigilance.org](http://www.ohiovigilance.org)) and *We Count 2006* ([www.wecount2006.org](http://www.wecount2006.org)).

## Objectives of Northeast Ohio Vote Count Protection Project

Before election day, we will select a number of precincts for data collection and polling, prepare survey questionnaires, and build infrastructure—databases, queries, communication channels, etc.

On election day, we will conduct an **Election Verification Exit Poll** (as opposed to a media exit poll.) (For more information about Election Verification Exit Polls, see [www.electionintegrity.org](http://www.electionintegrity.org).) As people leave the polling place, interviewers (pollsters) will ask voters 6 to 8 questions, and recording their responses on a questionnaire. It won't take more than a minute or two, so shouldn't be too intrusive. We think voters will be happy to provide this information if it will help verify the accuracy of the election. (For the record, Ohio Secretary of State and Gubernatorial Candidate, Kenneth Blackwell has attempted to prohibit such polling. That should provide extra incentive to volunteer for this project!)

In addition, at the end of the day, volunteers will be collecting publicly available election-results – *i.e.* vote counts from voting-equipment summary reports (at the polls), and centrally tabulated results (at county board of elections.) These data-collection activities are part of **Project Post**, for which you may have already volunteered. (**Project Post** has been “folded” into the more comprehensive **Vote Count Protection Project**.)

We will then be comparing and analyzing that collected data, and broadly reporting/circulating our findings.

We are in need of volunteers to make this project work. The more volunteers we have, the more election-verification we can do. Even if you are “taken” on election day, *e.g.* serving as a poll worker, election-day technician, observer, election protection monitor, or serving in some other capacity, we can still use your help. For example, we are looking for people who will already be inside the polls (i.e. EDT’s, observers, etc.) to capture election results (from voting-machine summary reports) at the end of the day.

There are many other roles that are needed BEFORE and AFTER election day. We need people to help us with the following roles. (This is a great way for you to use your technical skills for Democracy!)

## **Roles for Volunteers/Supporters to play in the Vote Count Protection Project**

### *Pre-Election Day*

- Donate money or resources
- Loan resources (e.g. computers, software, space, copiers, etc.) to the project
- Project planning/organization
- Database design/development
- Survey design
- Project management
- Research/analysis pertaining to *precinct selection*
- Determine sources of data – e.g. [www.pollster.com](http://www.pollster.com)
- Obtain historical data / data mining
- Acquire data from SOS, county BOE’s and other sources
- Data entry
- Loading database with historical data that can be easily accessed/analyzed
- Calculate turnout rates, build turnout models, etc.
- Set up/maintain infrastructure for web-based data collection
- Set up/maintain infrastructure for mass communication
- Set up/maintain infrastructure for publication of text, audio, video
- Recruit volunteers
- Acquire/borrow tools/resources (e.g. computers, software, space, copiers, etc.)
- Fundraising
- Materials management – purchasing supplies (clipboards, mail boxes), inventory, distribution
- Data processing – e.g. questionnaires, name tags, badges, flyers, signs
- Making copies – e.g. questionnaires, signs
- Telecommunications – providing technology for election-day communication
- Public relations
- Prepare communication channels for quick dissemination

### *Election Day*

- Interviewers (pollsters)
- Rovers/subs
- Delivery of supplies/pick up boxes
- Security

- Dispatching volunteers
- Obtain polling place/precinct totals
- Obtain election results from BOE
- Help desk
- Videography

*End of Election Day/Post Election*

- Data entry
- Data manipulation/reformatting
- Analysis of election data
- Publishing video/audio/photographs
- Sending/receiving information
- Public relations – contacting outside world
- Media spokespersons
- Writers
- Contact bloggers, list-serves, etc.

**Expertise needed:**

- Microsoft Word
- Microsoft Access
- Microsoft Excel
- Legal research (access to polls? camera allowed?...)
- SPSS
- SAS
- Web development – forms, security, communication (in particular, ability to display regional data in a “map” format)
- Videography/photography

**Resources needed (borrowed)**

- Space for “war room”
- Computers
- Software
- Video cameras
- Digital cameras
- Laptops
- Web-development skills