

Protecting Votes on Election Day 2008: Key Considerations

Demos: A Network of Ideas and Action

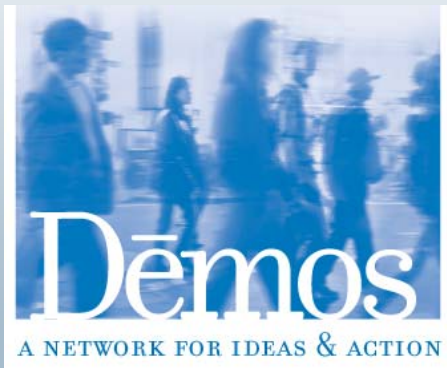
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Key Voter Protection Activities

- Communications to Voters
- Communications to Poll Workers
- Provisional Ballots
- Voter Identification
- Foreclosures
- Election Protection Hotline
- Pursue best practices for future

Ensure Voters Have Proper Information

A large percentage of voting problems surround inadequate information. Ensure that voters have the best and most reliable information about the voting process.

- Public Service Announcements
- Articles from the Governor (particularly in local papers)
- Available on websites

Ensure Poll-Workers Have Proper Information

- Problems are not always from voters. Far too often poll workers present inaccurate information, leading to disenfranchised voters.
- Ensure that poll workers are getting accurate information. *A key issue going forward is accurate poll worker training.*

Provisional Ballots - Worst case

- HAVA mandated safety net.
- Your goal should be fewer Provisional ballots. As many as 1/3 of provisional ballots are not counted. Some states reject 90-95%
- The best way to avoid Provisional Ballots is to provide accurate information before the elections
- New reports:
 - Advancement Project (www.AdvancementProject.org)
 - Demos (www.demos.org)

Voter Identification

- Voters do not always know what to bring.
- Publicize the rules in your state widely.
- Lack of Voter ID sends voters to Provisional ballots, and often precludes their votes from being counted.

Foreclosures and Voting

- Let Voters and Poll workers know – especially in high foreclosure states – what your rights are in terms of voting. The rules vary:
 - In some states if you move out of house but in same county/city/state – you can go back to your polling place
 - In some cases you can go to new place and tell folks the new address
 - In some cases provisional ballots

Election Protection Hotline

- Large coalition led by Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law
 - 1-866-OUR-VOTE
 - www.866ourvote.org
- State based Elections Bureau hotline?

866-OUR-VOTE

ELECTION PROTECTION YOU have the power to VOTE
www.866ourvote.org

Using Provisional Ballots

- Even though Provisional ballots are a last resort, they are a critical part of the voting protection infrastructure.
- If your state has “purged” voters, those voters should try to vote, and use Provisional if necessary.
- After all People who have been “purged” may well be entitled to a legal vote
 - So voters should
 - Don't be discouraged. **IF YOU THINK YOU'RE PROPERLY REGISTERED**

Fixes for the Future

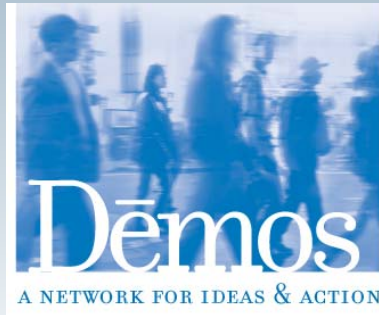
- Provisional Ballots
 - Fix your procedures
 - Eliminate barriers to voting so Provisional ballots are not needed
 - Eliminate “Wrong Precinct” rules
 - Improve Poll worker training
 - Improve administration of provisional ballots on election day
 - Increase scrutiny and transparency of PB process

Fixes for the Future

- Fully implement the **National Voter Registration Act** in Public Assistance Agencies
 - States have seen 5-10 fold increase in registrations with full implementation
 - North Carolina, Virginia, Iowa, Michigan, Missouri...
 - See “Unequal Access: neglecting the National Voter Registration Act, 1995-2007” www.demos.org

Fixes for the Future

- **Pass Election Day Registration**
- State with EDR have turnout rates 10-12 points higher than non-EDR states
- State with EDR have almost no Provisional ballots and have no history of fraud
- Minnesota, Wisconsin, Maine, New Hampshire, Wyoming, Idaho, Iowa, North Carolina
- See “Voters Win With EDR”, www.demos.org



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