

**National Committee for
Voting Integrity**

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**National Committee on Voter Integrity
" Were All the Votes Counted?"**

Washington, DC--The National Committee on Voter Integrity (NCVI) is holding a press conference the day after the election to discuss the reliability and integrity of our nation's election systems from hardware to people. Dr. Peter Neumann, Chair of the National Committee for Voting Integrity said that, "The integrity of our elections depends on almost every step along the way, including (among others) creation, evaluation, certification, testing, and maintenance of voting equipment, registration of voters, identification and removal of ineligible voters, creation of the actual appearance of ballots, distribution and handling of absentee ballots, authentication of voters, processing of ballots and especially provisional ballots, tabulation and collection of results, and oversight of the entire process. Yesterday's election reminds us once again that each of these steps represents various potential weak links with respect to security, system integrity, privacy -- and indeed the democracy of our nation."

Over the last two years, security experts and election watchdogs have uncovered a wide array of significant design defects in DRE voting machines. These machines, like other computers, are vulnerable to programmer error, equipment malfunction, and malicious attacks. If this new technology is to become the foundation of our democratic process, it must earn the trust of voters. There must be no uncertainty about the quality and trustworthiness of these machines. All voting technology put before the public must perform reliably from the start of the election to the finish of the final vote tally, including any possible audits or recounts.

The events of this election year have in many ways unfortunately emphasized the continuing systemic problems with domestic public elections: partisanship over civic duty, lack of resources to adequately supply and staff polling locations, blurring of the lines between partisan campaigns and election administration, and voting technology that routinely presents evidence of poor design and implementation.

" Securing Voting Technology from Manipulation should be the highest priority of reforming the way American vote. The best approach is the application of the principle of auditing to the elections process. From start to finish accountability made possible through redundancy of key elements is critical is we are to manage elections in a responsible manor," said Dr. Doug Jones, with Iowa State.

" I think that there is too much focus on whether or not the machines worked well or had functional problems. The serious issue is whether or not they are vulnerable to undetectable rigging and tampering. The security vulnerabilities are independent of how well the machines function," said Dr. Avi Rubin, a member of the National Committee for Voting Integrity.

" We must do better--the closeness of an election especially a presidential contest should not leave the nation in a constitutional crisis. There are fundamental problems with our nations election process, which must be addressed," said Jamin Raskin, Constitutional Law scholar from American University and a member of the National Committee for Voting Integrity.

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NCVI maintains a web site at <http://www.votingintegrity.org>.