

Saturday, June 16, 2007

ACTION ALERT:

Salt Lake County represents roughly half the population of Utah. Salt Lake County Council may vote to adopt an anti-HR811 resolution, or not, in its June 26th meeting.

The public is welcome to speak at the Tuesday 4 p.m. June 26 meeting during the public input period. Each person will be allowed 3 minutes to speak - insufficient time to relate a smidgeon of the recent scientific studies and audits which have shown how hackable, innaccurate, and expensive Diebold digital recording electronic (DRE) voting machines are; or to describe the dozen of ways to rig elections using Diebold DREs, including two ways that even manual audits cannot detect.

The Utah Association of Counties' anti-HR811 resolution essentially says:

1. HR811 would require Utah to replace all its Diebold DRE w/ paper roll voting machines

[True. Yet HR811 fully funds the purchase of new optical scan paper ballot voting systems and ballot marking devices for voters with disabilities]

2. Utah voters have confidence that DRE voting machines count votes accurately

[Yet, the particular BYU survey that the resolution cites - I'll have to get a copy of it - may have been slanted or Utahns may feel confidence in Diebold DREs because Utah press for the most part has only reported what Utah election officials tell them and virtually not covered the numerous scientific studies and audits which have proven how horribly innaccurate and hackable Diebold DREs and Opscans are; and because the complete secrecy of election records in Utah keeps any errors hidden]; and

3. millions of dollars have been spent on Utah's Diebold DREs

[because DREs are the most costly type of voting system to maintain - a computer to do for us invisibly what would take an able-bodied voter perhaps ten minutes once a year to do themselves - and ballot marking devices are much more user-friendly for voters with disabilities]; and

4. it might cost Utahns more if we have to change voting systems again

[Yet all cost-comparison studies in states where different counties use DREs or optical scan paper ballots have proven that DREs are much more expensive]; and

5. voters might lose confidence in the election process if we switch to paper ballot opscan voting systems that satisfy the requirements of HR811

[Yet paper ballots record votes on a visible, durable, individual, independently auditable record - DREs do not].

The anti-HR811 resolution neglects to mention that HR811:

1. requires that paper ballots shall be provided for all voters in case of electronic failure or power outages (which could be met with the opscan voting systems that HR811 provides funds for), and

2. that HR811 also requires and fully funds publicly observable, independent audits of the accuracy of election results for the first time in American history - which

would for the first time give voters high confidence that votes were being accurately counted and would be likely to increase voter turnout.

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The material expressed herein is the informed product of the author Kathy Dopp's fact-finding and investigative efforts. Dopp is a Mathematician, Expert in election audit mathematics and procedures; in exit poll discrepancy analysis; and can be reached at

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<http://utahcountvotes.org>  
<http://kathydopp.com>  
<http://electionmathematics.org>  
<http://electionarchive.org>

Election Audit Mathematics Bibliography  
<http://electionarchive.org/ucvAnalysis/US/paper-audits/KathyDoppAuditMathBibliography.pdf>

Support Clean Elections in 2008  
<http://electionarchive.org/ucvAnalysis/US/SupportCleanElectionsIn2008.pdf>

Important Facts About The Voter Confidence & Increased Accessibility Act (HR811)  
<http://electionarchive.org/ucvInfo/US/FactsAboutHR811.pdf>

"Enlighten the people generally, and tyranny and oppressions of body and mind will vanish like evil spirits at the dawn of day," wrote Thomas Jefferson in 1816