

Florida Election Facts

Machine Malfunctions, Lost Ballots, Minority Disenfranchisement, Unexplainable Vote Counts

Exit Poll: Bush 49.8% - Kerry 49.7%

Certified Result: Bush 52.1% - Kerry 47.1%

Warning Signs: No Safeguards for Florida's "Early Voting"

- The Florida Legislature passed "Early Voting" in June 2004 but didn't **attach the same safeguards as are applied on Election Day**.
- On Election Day, paper ballots are carried from the precincts to the election office in special **poly-mesh carrying cases with numbered seals**, or in ballot boxes with numbered seals. **During Early Voting, the paper ballots were transported in scotch-taped manila envelopes** (at least in Volusia County).
- **On Election Day, paper ballots are required to be transported** from the precincts to the election office in a car occupied by two people, from two different political parties. **During Early Voting, this requirement was not in place**. At the early voting site in Daytona Beach, for example, **two Republicans carried the ballots in manila envelopes** each night during Early Voting.
- **During Early Voting, private citizens, not employees of the Election Office**, had keys and access to the voting machines, memory cards, etc. **There were also no rules in place to prevent solicitation** or harassment of voters waiting in line.
- **There were 57 Memory Card failures in Volusia County during pre-election in Early Voting and on Election Day**; more than all of Diebold's other Florida customers combined.

The Diebold Connection: Inexplicable Republican Vote Counts

- According to a **team of experts from Berkeley University in California**, who conducted a statistical study of the November vote in Florida, electronic counting machines **could have granted an excess of 130,000-260,000 votes** to George W. Bush.
- In the **29 Florida counties using Diebold optical scanner voting machines Republicans gained 128.45% over 2000** while Democrats had a **-21% loss**.
- **While Diebold contributed more than 30% of the state's total turnout**, it only contributed about **19% of the state's total nonvotes**. Diebold is the only manufacturer whose machines contributed less to the amount of nonvotes than to turnout. **The 10 counties with the lowest percentage of nonvotes** made use of Diebold Accuvote machines. **All but one, Monroe County, voted for Bush. The 10 counties with the highest percentage of nonvotes** used optical scan machines.
- **Osceola county for instance**, which used Diebold Accuvote machines, **had 0 nonvotes out of over 82,000 votes cast (recorded 261 more votes than voters)**. **Volusia County (which also used Diebold) had the second smallest nonvote rate**, as **only 0.003% votes cast reportedly didn't include a vote for President**.
- The **top 27 counties showing a greater preference for President Bush** than the Republican candidate for Senate **used optical scan voting machines**. The two counties that did not show this preference were **both using touchscreen voting machines**.

- **There were 237,522 more presidential votes (3.1%)** than the number of voters in Florida's election (phantom votes). The **13 counties** that reported more votes than voters delivered **39.4% of the total votes cast in Florida.**

Voter Disenfranchisement, Intimidation, Machine Malfunctions, Incompetence

- In many cases in Broward County **clerks at the polling places gave provisional ballots** to people who **could have voted regularly**. Hundreds of voters couldn't vote because their early orders for ballots disappeared.
- Three weeks before the election, **58,000 ballots sent to voters by mail disappeared in Broward County.**
- **At least 21 voting machines in Broward County malfunctioned** and were replaced on Election Day. Most of them had been used by some voters before being taken out of service.
- In Pasco County, **people posing as election officials** went to voters' homes and collected their absentee ballots.
- In both Orange and Broward Counties, both heavily Democratic, machines reached **32,767 votes then began counting backwards.**
- Broward and Miami-Dade **counties both have about a million registered voters**, but Miami-Dade **had 20 early-voting sites**, compared with the heavily **Democratic Broward's 14**. Every Miami-Dade site was equipped with at least 20 voting machines, while some in **Broward had fewer than 10 (4-1/2 hour wait to vote).**
- Students at Florida State, Florida A&M, and University of Florida **unknowingly had their party registration switched to Republican** and their addresses changed. **About 4,000 potential voters** in all were affected.
- **Voters in Pompano Beach discovered their precinct had been moved**. The discovery was made after an unknown number of voters had cast provisional ballots at the Civic Center. A similar problem occurred at Precinct 72Q in Weston. **These provisional ballots will not count** because they must be cast in a voter's exact precinct.

The Vote Count that Wasn't: No Accountability, No Verification

- **Diebold's Op-Scan Machine literature states** that there are 3 major checks to validate an election: Poll tapes (**voting machine receipts**); checksum numbers; and paper ballots. **To date, no one has viewed** the checksum numbers; the **number of paper ballots ordered** against the number of ballots left over after the election; or the poll tapes.
- **In Volusia County, 49 of 179 precincts have poll tapes** that were unsigned by poll workers (which is required) or are missing the zero portion of the tape; **9 extra memory cards were programmed** and are unaccounted for; and **several precincts have 10% more votes than voters** (phantom votes). **The Canvassing Board certified the election without reviewing the poll tapes** or checksum numbers. The Canvassing Board's certification was based on numbers **provided by the Republican Supervisor of Elections.**

Sources: *Florida Division of Elections, Black Box Voting, "Myth Breakers: Facts about Electronic Elections", VotersUnite.Org*

United for Secure Elections

for more facts and information on the 2004 Election see: election.solarbus.org