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; ands 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.


United for Secure Elections

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