

# Make Your Vote Count In November

**M**ost Americans will be voting and having their votes counted this November on electronic voting machines made and serviced by two companies – Diebold and ES&S.

According to an excellent article by Robert Kennedy, Jr. in the June issue of *Rolling Stone* magazine, *Was The 2004 Election Stolen?*, those two companies have close ties to the Republican Party. The article can be viewed online at [www.rollingstone.com/news/story/10432334/was\\_the\\_2004\\_election\\_stolen](http://www.rollingstone.com/news/story/10432334/was_the_2004_election_stolen).

RFK Jr.'s article was documented with more than 200 source citations. The Chairman and CEO of Diebold in 2004 was a major Bush campaign organizer and donor who wrote the previous year that he was "committed to helping Ohio deliver its electoral votes to the president next year."

In fact, RFK Jr.'s article documents that the Diebold machines contributed to switching enough votes from Kerry to Bush in Ohio (and elsewhere) to deliver its electoral votes to Bush and change the outcome of the

election. For example, in Ohio, "upwards of 80,000 votes for Kerry were counted instead for Bush. That, alone, is a swing of 160,000 votes – *enough to have put John Kerry in the White House.*" This was out of "357,000 voters, the overwhelming majority of them Democratic, (who) were prevented from casting ballots or did not have their votes counted in 2004." This has been corroborated in books by Greg Palast, Mark Crispin Miller and many others, and in a scientific report by the prestigious Brennan Center for Justice at the NYU School of Law.

These sources also document that electronic voting machines, especially the Direct Recording Electronic Voting Machines (DREs), are highly vulnerable to the corruption of their vote recording and tabulating.

A *much safer method* of voting and having those votes recorded and counted is the use of **paper ballots** counted by **precinct-based optical scanners** (called a **PBOS** system). The PBOS system also happens to be cheaper than DREs, for all but the smallest precincts.

Ensuring that the upcoming Congressional (and gubernatorial) elections truly reflect the will of the people of the United States is vital. Your help is needed to roll back the push to have the votes counted on vulnerable DREs in November. Please inform yourself by using the sources listed on the reverse and then spread the word as widely as possible. Since New York is unlikely to switch to these DREs for the November election (though the machines may be ordered this year for the 2008 election) and since the City Council Resolutions mentioned on the other side of this flyer are only advisory (a suggestion) and will not necessarily even influence New York State and the County boards in their selection of voting systems, ***it is much more important to take action nationally than locally.***

## NATIONAL

If you have friends in other states or you or your friends are members of *national* organizations, please inform them of the need for **action**. For example:

- If they are members of a national labor union (such as SEIU, AFSCME, the Teamsters) or other national organizations (such as AARP, the Alliance For Retired Americans, etc.) please ask them to get their organizations involved.
- Please try to get *national* Democratic leaders (for example, Senate Democratic Campaign Chairman Charles Schumer) to press for **action** on this problem *prior* to the November **2006** election.
- You might want to e-mail the National Committee for an Effective Congress (Russ Hemmenway) at **ncec.org** and express your concerns on this issue. They supply information for Congressional campaigns.

Unfortunately, given the make-up of the current Congress, Congressional action isn't feasible. Therefore:

- **Action** state-by-state and county-by-county is what's required. **Emphasize this** to the people you contact..
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## LOCAL (NEW YORK CITY & STATE)

In New York State, counties must stop using mechanical lever voting machines by September 1, 2007. Each county in New York State, and the five boroughs of New York City together, must separately choose a new voting technology.

In New York City, one action you can take is to write to your member of the City Council and encourage their support for New York City Council **Resolutions 131 and 228**. Res. 131 calls for the adoption of PBOS in New York City and Res. 228 calls for the public testing of new voting machines.

The following City Council members were sponsors of both Resolutions as of the end of July, 2006: Joseph Adabbo, Jr., Maria del Carmen Arroyo, Tony Avella, Charles Barron, Gale Brewer, Yvette Clarke, Leroy Comrie, Jr., Inez Dickens, Helen Foster, Daniel Gardonick, James Gennaro, Eric Gioia, Sara Gonzalez, Robert Jackson, Letitia James, Melinda Katz, Oliver Koppell, Jessica Lappin, John Liu, Melissa Mark-Viverito, Miguel Martinez, Michael McMahon, Rosie Mendez, Hiram Monserrate, Michael Nelson, Annabel Palma, James Sanders, Larry Seabrook, Kendall

Steward, James Vacca, Peter Vallone, Jr., and David Weprin. ***If you are one of their constituents, please write them and thank them for their support of both resolutions.***

Councilmembers Maria Baez, Helen Sears and Bill deBlasio have only sponsored Resolution 131 and Councilmembers Vincent Gentile, Darlene Mealy, Domenic Recchia and David Yassky have only sponsored Resolution 228. ***If you are one of their constituents, please ask them to support the Resolution they have not yet endorsed.***

If you are a constituent of Joel Rivera (Bronx), Erik Martin Dilan, Simcha Felder, Lewis Fidler, Diana Reyna, and Albert Vann (Brooklyn), Alan Gerson and Christine Quinn (Manhattan), Dennis Gallagher and Thomas White (Queens) or Andrew Lanza and James Oddo (Staten Island) ***write them and ask them to support both Resolutions.***

You can obtain contact information for your council member on the NYC Council website at [www.nycouncil.info](http://www.nycouncil.info) or call the League of Women Voters at (212) 725-3541.

An honest election, in November **2006**, is the "sine qua non" (that without which there is nothing) for our society. **The nation you save, will be your own.**

## HELPFUL WEBSITES ON VOTE COUNTING & VOTING MACHINES

Bold = Especially Helpful

[www.blackboxvoting.org](http://www.blackboxvoting.org)  
[www.bbvforums.org](http://www.bbvforums.org)  
[www.caef.us](http://www.caef.us)  
[www.coalitionforvotingintegrity.org](http://www.coalitionforvotingintegrity.org)  
[www.democraticunderground.com](http://www.democraticunderground.com)  
[www.electionline.org](http://www.electionline.org) (sign-up for weekly, daily or breaking news alerts)  
[www.electronic-vote.org](http://www.electronic-vote.org)  
[www.freepress.org](http://www.freepress.org)  
[www.lwvny.org/advocacy](http://www.lwvny.org/advocacy)  
[www.nyvv.org](http://www.nyvv.org) (sign-up for weekly, daily or breaking news alerts)  
[www.sensiblepriorities.org](http://www.sensiblepriorities.org)  
[www.truemajority.org](http://www.truemajority.org)  
[www.truevoteMD.org](http://www.truevoteMD.org)

[www.verifiedvoting.org](http://www.verifiedvoting.org)  
[www.voterinfonet.com](http://www.voterinfonet.com)  
[www.votersunite.org](http://www.votersunite.org) (sign-up for weekly, daily or breaking news alerts)  
[www.votetrustusa.org](http://www.votetrustusa.org) (sign-up for weekly, daily or breaking news alerts)  
[www.wheresthepaper.org](http://www.wheresthepaper.org) (sign-up for weekly, daily or breaking news alerts)  
<http://uscountvotes.org>  
<http://markcrispinmiller.blogspot.com>

A similar list can be found on the Internet at [www.wetheworld.org](http://www.wetheworld.org) by clicking on "Will your choice count in 2006"