



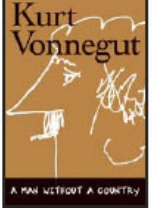
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BLOGGED BY BRAD ON 3/6/2006 @ 5:58PM PT...

GEORGIA SENATE VOTES 51-0 FOR 'PAPER TRAIL' PLAN...
DIEBOLD'S OTHER 'SHOWCASE STATE' STARTS WISING UP
 AP CONTINUES TO REPORT ON ISSUES THAT ACTUALLY MATTER, ALBEIT NOT PARTICULARLY ACCURATELY...

What's with AP? We thought all of this stuff was "conspiracy theory"?

It looks like Diebold's *other* "showcase state" who, **along with Maryland**, were the first to move to un-auditable paperless touch-screen voting machines is beginning to face the music. Reports AP...

ATLANTA - The state Senate on Monday unanimously approved a plan that could lead to paper ballots being added to Georgia's electronic voting machines.

"My hope is that this legislation will take us one more step forward toward having the most trustworthy, secure voting system in the country," said Sen. Bill Stephens, R-Canton, the plan's sponsor and a candidate for secretary of state in this year's election.

According to the plan, which passed 51-0, precincts in Bibb, Camden and Cobb counties would be outfitted with the paper balloting for November's general election.

If all went well, the state could add the receipts to all of its voting machines by the 2008 presidential election, Stephens said.

Under current Secretary of State Cathy Cox, Georgia switched to an all-electronic voting system in 2002 in the aftermath of the chaotic presidential vote in Florida.

We should point out that what the GA Senate is talking about is not actually "paper ballots" as the AP story seems to erroneously suggest, but "paper trails". There's a difference, of course. More on that in a second.

For additional context here, we'll note (with a **hat-tip to John Gideon**) that Cox, a Democrat, is running for Governor now in the state. She, along with her counterpart in Maryland, Linda Lamone had been huge supporters of paperless Diebold voting originally, going so far as to allowing herself to be featured on Diebold's brochures (see photo below).



Apparently Cox sees the writing on the wall, while the tone-deaf Lamone is still fighting to ensure nobody can ever actually count how her state's constituents actually voted (see [this previous article](#).)

Also worth noting, unfortunately, is that what they seem to be calling for down in Georgia is "paper trails". The worthless, uncounted little "voter-verifiable" toilet-paper roll tapes which are almost never counted at all and, in the case of Diebold machines, have turned up **completely blank** on the busiest voting machines during the most recent Ohio election.

Well, it's a step in the right direction, anyway. If the state of Georgia wants to create new legislation for these "paper trails" now, only to have to face the music once again *later* to spend still another round of money in order to ensure full paper *ballots* that's up to them, of course. Though we might recommend skipping the middle step, and going right *now* to something that is actually countable.



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 Until Dubya out-tricks Tricky Dick!! 

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BRAD BLOG SPECIAL COVERAGE:

DOWN FOR THE COUNT:
Diebold, DIEB-THROAT & Deep Trouble for America's Voting Machine Company...



Quick Summary...
Key Articles in Series...
 (So far.)



Key Articles in Series...
 (So far.)

Brad's Recent Articles...

- [In Mother Jones...](#)
- "Counter-Coulter"
- [at Huffington Post...](#)
- Index of all Brad's HuffPo Articles...
- [at BuzzFlash...](#)
- "Dear Right Wingers..."
- [at Democratic Underground...](#)
- "White House Website Scrub"
- "Stealing the Election Again?"
- "A Sheep in Wolf's Clothing"
- "Control Room"
- "Mourning in America"
- "GOP Win-Win Spin-Spin..."
- "With Friends Like these..."
- "Continuing to Kill the Messenger"
- "The 'Liberal Media' Fails to Strike Again"

Some Recent Media Appearances by Brad...
(Other than on The BRAD SHOW)

- 1/8/05: M&M Show
- 1/1/06: Jay Lawrence Show
- 11/25/05: Ed Schultz Show
- 11/22/05: Peter B. Collins, KRXA
- 10/11/05: Peter B. Collins, KRXA
- 10/1/05: Ron Insana Show - Debate w/ Ann Coulter!
- 9/29/05: Lars Larson, "Conservative"
- 9/20/05: Stephanie Miller Show

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[READER COMMENTS ON](#)

["Georgia Senate Votes 51-0 for 'Paper Trail' Plan..."](#)
(19 comments so far...)

[COMMENT #1 \[link\]](#)

...FLORIDIOT said on 3/6/2006 @ 7:42pm PT...

As long as their using that hackable shit, the paper trail won't matter one bit.
When will the paper trail be printed ?
My guess is right after the fake totals are produced.
There is no way I'll ever trust the voting process again, unless its hand counted paper

[COMMENT #2 \[link\]](#)

...BLUEBEAR2 said on 3/6/2006 @ 8:51pm PT...

More weird stuff in Florida

This is strange, but they assure us everything is OK.

Ya sure!

[COMMENT #3 \[link\]](#)

...JOHN CONLEY said on 3/6/2006 @ 9:33pm PT...

My simple question: What reason would ANY politician give for supporting "paper-less" voting machines as opposed to having a paper trail?

Awwwww, I long for the days when Republicans simply gathered and prayed for bad weather to keep voters from voting.

[COMMENT #4 \[link\]](#)

...ECONATHEIST said on 3/6/2006 @ 10:10pm PT...

Ok... ok.... it's not a huge step, but it's a bit of progress... I can dig that.

Frankly, the 51-0 vote caught my attention more than anything; that's a good sign.

[COMMENT #5 \[link\]](#)

...SOUL REBEL said on 3/6/2006 @ 10:31pm PT...

I wonder if/when Max Cleland will weigh in on this. He was an enormously popular governor and one of the first big casualties of electronic vote rigging.

[COMMENT #6 \[link\]](#)

...SOUL REBEL said on 3/6/2006 @ 10:32pm PT...

woops...meant Senator, not Governor.

[COMMENT #7 \[link\]](#)

...DREDD said on 3/7/2006 @ 6:07am PT...

A step in the proper direction ... and this after they did a "voter ID" law that was held to be unconstitutional.

I agree that if they use any machine with network capability to count the votes they still have a problem even tho they can recount.

The tabulators and scanners need to be secure stand alone machines with

- 9/6/05: Lars Larson, "Conservative"
- 6/26/05: Barry Gordon, KRLA
- 6/10/05: Tony Trupiano Show
- 3/25/05: Dr. Stan Monteith, Radio Liberty
- 3/23/05: Michelangelo Signorile (John Aravosis), Serious OutQ
- 3/23/05: World Party, WFRG
- 3/22/05: Don Grady's Louisiana Live
- 3/21/05: Guy Rathbun, KCBX
- 3/21/05: Lila Garrett, KPFF
- 3/18/05: Doug Basham, KLAJ
- 3/16/05: Mark Levine's Inside Scoop D.C.
- 3/15/05: Don Grady, Louisiana Live
- 3/13/05: GrrRadio.com
- 3/10/05: Thom Hartmann
- 3/10/05: Power Hour w/ Joyce & Dave
- 3/9/05: Don Grady, Louisiana Live
- 3/8/05: Blogcall (Press Conf w/ Clint Curtis)
- 3/3/05: RadioLeft
- 2/17/05: RadioLeft
- 11/17/04: Jerry Quickley, KPFF
- 6/16/04: Ken & Company, KABC

Must Listen Audio...

- **HOT** Air America LIVE!
- Mark Levine's Inside Scoop!
- Bob Kincaid
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- **Other Must See Video...**
- Rumsfeld Busted on Live TV!
- The Movie Bush Doesn't Want You to See!
- Grand Theft America
- Sleeping through Bush (Letterman)
- 150 Top "Bush in 30 Seconds" Videos
- Bush on OB-GYN's
- Bush's Mis-State of the Union
- How Bush Did in Debate #1
- Running on the Bush Record
- Lone Wolf
- Start Over!
- Jon Stewart on *Crossfire*
- Asshole

A Few Great Blogs...

- Talking Points Memo
- Eschaton
- AMERICAblog
- Hullabaloo
- Tom Tomorrow
- Baghdad Burning
- Andrew Sullivan
- Kevin Drum
- am i patriotic?
- blogACTIVE
- The Freeway Blogger
- Oliver Willis
- TV Newser
- Jesus' General
- CannonFire
- Watching The Watchers
- Crooks and Liars
- The Nashua Advocate
- Toolz of the New School
- Huffington Post
- Dan Froomkin
- firedoglake
- David Corn
- Juan Cole
- Bob Geiger
- Larry Johnson
- Glenn Greenwald

Other Sites of Note...

- RAW STORY
- ABC's The Note
- DRUDGE REPORT
- DRUDGE RETORT
- SMUDGE REPORT
- BuzzFlash
- Bill Maher
- Arianna Huffington
- LewRockwell.com
- Joe Conason
- The Best Page in the Universe
- Karen Kwiatkowski
- TrueMajority.org
- Spank Bush
- MoveOn.org
- Paul Rieckhoff
- David Hackworth
- **HOT** Media Matters
- **HOT** Center for American Progress
- White House Press Briefings
- The Whispering Campaign

Searchable Docs & Databases...

- Iraq on the Record
- Claims vs. Facts
- 15 Lies from Sean Hannity!
- FactCheck.org
- Senate's Pre-War Intel Report
- 9-11 Commission Report
- Preserving Democracy: What Went Wrong in Ohio 2004
- AO Report on Electronic Voting Machines
- AI Gore Received More FL Votes in 2000

Political Cartoons...

- Pat Oliphant
- Tom Toles
- Mike Luckovich
- Ben Sargent
- Bob Gorrell



extremely secure audits.

COMMENT #8 [link]

...TEXASLADY said on 3/7/2006 @ 7:41am PT...

Strange isn't it that when the American public might vote for a different administration everyone is getting concerned about the electronic voting machines being accurate. Could be they wouldn't be able to change the landslide getting this administration out of power.

COMMENT #9 [link]

...LAURA said on 3/7/2006 @ 8:36am PT...

Right on TexasLady. HAHA

COMMENT #10 [link]

...SAVANTSTER said on 3/7/2006 @ 8:41am PT...

The only thing "pertinant" I see about a 51-0 vote to basically do "nothing" is that now the machines need to be outfitted with printers.. which means more cost.. and more tax-payer dollars unanimously (sp) agreed upon to go to the same companies making unreliable and hackable voting systems.

I don't count this a "step in the right direction", I count this another obfuscation that serves no real purpose.

Progress? that would be a 51-0 vote to remove electronics from the voting process all together. Except the fax/phone calling of station totals up to the next level, that is..

COMMENT #11 [link]

...NEILDEAL said on 3/7/2006 @ 8:49am PT...

So are there systems where the voter can actually verify that their vote is correct on paper right then and there?

Meaning, they vote, hit enter, it prints on a tape reel that the voter can view right then and there, the machine asks the voter to look at the printout and verify if all is correct with a yes or no.

If not, what's the use? As FLORIDIOT said, how is this better if the totals are printed after being hacked?

These corrupt corporate/fundamentalist fools don't care, they think they are doing the right thing. lck!!!!

COMMENT #12 [link]

...JOAN said on 3/7/2006 @ 8:56am PT...

I'm with Floridiot & Savantster:

How is it a step in the right direction if you also have to say "... what they seem to be calling for down in Georgia is "paper trails". The worthless, uncounted little "voter-verifiable" toilet-paper roll tapes which are almost never counted at all and, in the case of Diebold machines, have turned up completely blank on the busiest voting machines during the most recent Ohio election...."

I dunno, boys & girls, sounds like a step in the wrong direction to me.

Sounds like another lie & another sham. Do something that sounds good but has no meaning.

Call it something pretty & tie it in a bow, it's still a lie & a sham, a lie & a scam.

COMMENT #13 [link]

...JOAN said on 3/7/2006 @ 8:59am PT...

PAPER BALLOTS. AND PENCILS. PERIOD.

Who cares how long it takes to count them. Isn't this what Canada does?

COMMENT #14 [link]

...SAVANTSTER said on 3/7/2006 @ 9:23am PT...

NeilDeal.. problem is, you look at your paper and the paper has what you want.. But the machine records something else.. That's the problem with machines, they can do what ever you tell them to. Unless the "count" is based on that "paper", the paper is [potentially] useless. And from what I've seen, most places won't use the "paper trail" as the official tracking system -ever-, even if the machines don't seem right..

Not to mention, what good does it do to have a "cash register receipt roll" type paper output when the whole POINT was to have

- Don Wright
- Chan Lowe
- Paul Conrad
- Jeff Danziger
- Ted Rall
- Doug Marlette
- Tony Auth
- Stuart Carlson
- Bill Deore
- Doonesbury
- The Boondocks
- Not Banned Yet
- This Modern World
- Non Sequitur
- Glenn McCoy
- Thomas Burns
- Joel Pett
- Cagle's Index

About Brad Friedman...

Brad is a freelance writer, investigative citizen blogger, software designer and all around trouble maker.

Just some of the many notable national stories he's broken on his blog include "The White House Website Scrubbing", the "Tom Feeney/Clint Curtis/Yang Enterprises Vote-Rigging Scandal" and the story of the phony GOP front group, "American Center for Voting Rights". He has been reporting on other stories closely related to "GRAND THEFT AMERICA", since Election Day 2004.

Reports and breaking news from his popular website, The BRAD BLOG, are frequently cited by the national media, and can be read at www.BradBlog.com.

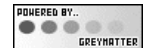
Brad is now also the host of The BRAD SHOW, a weekly radio program co-produced with Internet news site, RAW STORY. More information, online listening links, advertising information and archives to previous shows can be found at www.BradShow.com.

Still wanna know more? His personal webpage is at www.BradFriedman.com

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And Joan, PENS.. not pencils... I prefer black magic markers,
p



...MAR said on 3/7/2006 @ 12:04pm PT...

Joan # 13

Yes, yes, yes.....PAPER BALLOTS and PENCILS...!! That IS what we use up here in Canada and simple as it is, it works.....no corruption and there's a legitimate papertrail to count if needs be.....aka "the original paper ballot that was cast".

Keep up the fight y'all.....and good luck...!!!

COMMENT #16 [link]

...MAR said on 3/7/2006 @ 12:08pm PT...

Sorry Savanster.....didn't mean to ignore you (#14). Magic markers ARE a good idea.....maybe next time we go to the polls up here, those could be adopted. But the lowly pencil worked just as good in January when we outsted our corrupt government.....YEAHHHHH...;-)

COMMENT #17 [link]

...NEILDEAL said on 3/7/2006 @ 8:22pm PT...

Savantster
Isn't that what a paper backup should be? In case exit polls go awry, poll workers go to the paper printout and do a manual count?

I think that this would be good because it seems there will always be some electronic aspect to the vote tabulation. You gotta have something to recount in case it comes to that, right?

Our country doesn't even seem to have a clue that vote fraud can happen here. It's bloody scary. We all need to get a grasp on how the process works and what to look for (fraud wise) so the vote can be protected.

Actually I wouldn't mind the basic paper ballot, Germany seems to do ok with them.

As for disabled people, Have a machine that has a brail printer. There are solutions to these problems, whatever method is used.

COMMENT #18 [link]

...DREDD said on 3/8/2006 @ 4:07am PT...

Yes, definitely a step in the proper direction.

They were going in the direction of no paper audit trail.

And they had passed a voter ID law which was nothing more than a veiled poll tax. The courts threw it out as unconstitutional.

Now they are headed in the direction of auditable machines and they have lost the urge to blame the victims, the voters.

Clearly the direction to go.

COMMENT #19 [link]

...GEORGIA DISSIDENT said on 3/8/2006 @ 7:00am PT...

Who would operate a bank like this? Or even a convenience store? These voting schemes are more easily rigged than a TV game-show, while the merely monetary stakes are greater the entire national treasure; it's our whole government.

So, we're supposed to press buttons and someone will come out and tell us who the winner was. And then you're viewed as some sort of a "conspiracy theorist" if you want to know how we can check that.

Your Comment on

"Georgia Senate Votes 51-0 for 'Paper Trail' Plan..."

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