

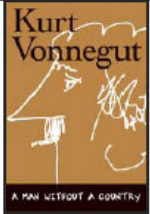
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« PREVIOUS "Daily Voting News" - Top 5 Stories from the Past Week! "

BLOGGED BY BRAD ON 3/6/2006 @ 12:55AM PT...

MD HOUSE COMMITTEE VOTES 20-3 TO SCRAP DIEBOLD TOUCH-SCREENS IN STATE!

AP REPORTS AGAIN ON E-VOTING ISSUES!

MD ELECTIONS DIRECTOR, DIEBOLD CHAMPION LINDA LAMONE STILL HAS A JOB!

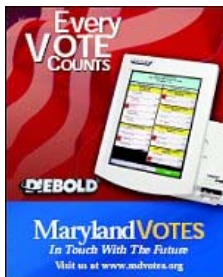
Signs are good in Maryland -- Diebold's original "showcase state" -- that the legislature there is finally wising up to the democracy undermining problem that is Diebold.

According to AP -- yes, again AP -- the Democratic chaired House Ways and Means Committee "voted 20-3 on Friday to scrap the Diebold touchscreen machines for at least this year and use paper ballots with an optical-scan system for the primary and general elections."

The measure still has to move through the Senate, though the Republican Governor Robert Ehrlich has previously called for something very similar. So if the Senate moves, chances are the Guv will sign on.

Yes, there are problems, as you know, with optical-scan machines (just ask democracy's hero Ion Sancho in Leon County, FL), but at least the move away from Democratic Election Administrator Linda Lamone's fateful deal with the devil to use (and continue apologizing for) Diebold's uncountable paperless touch-screen machines across the state may finally be coming to an end.

Also of note: The media, this time in the form of Associated Press, is finally beginning to understand the importance of the story that they've ignored for years. From Tom Stuckey of AP...



Ohio company's voting machines lead election issues in Maryland

With Maryland facing what could be its most hotly contested election season ever, it's no surprise that election-related issues have grabbed the attention of lawmakers during the 2006 legislative session.

... But the biggest election issue, which cuts across party lines, involves the electronic voting machines of Ohio-based Diebold that are scheduled to be used by all Maryland voters this year. With doubts growing about the reliability of the machines, a campaign to return to the days of paper ballots, at least for one year, is gaining momentum in the General Assembly.

Republican Gov. Robert Ehrlich, who approved purchase of the Diebold Accuvote-TS voting system in 2003, now questions the reliability of the touchscreen machines.

... Many members of the General Assembly share his concerns, and voting rights activists are keeping up an attack on the system (ed note: Yea voting rights activists!), arguing that the machines are vulnerable to hackers who could manipulate results and that fraud would be impossible to detect because there are no paper records that could be used for recounts in disputed elections.

The article also points out that Lamone -- who, as of this article, still has a job -- is certain everything will be fine due to the legendarily watertight security that American election officials are recognized for world-wide:

152 : 12 : 7 : 9
DAYS HRS MNS SCS



Until Dubya out-tricks Tricky Dick!!



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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

LCD Touch Screen

15" and 17" LCD Touch Screens at Cybertouch cybertouch.com/HORIZON.html

Medical Computing

High-grade medical computer systems Point-of-care terminals www.advantech.net.au

Touch Panel

3M Touch Solutions Salt International Corp. www.salt.com.tw

ezicomms Voting Systems

Audience Response Specialists AU NZ Voting, Quizzes, Live Surveys, Risk www.ezicomms.com

Qwizdom UK Ltd

The Interactive voting system Radio Frequency & Infrared keypads www.qwizdom.co.uk



www.qwizdom.co.uk
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Interactive Touch Screens

Specialist Advice Install Training Special Needs Schools & Retail proj www.honeycom.com.au

She and other proponents of the Diebold system say the kinds of fraud and manipulation feared by critics are impossible because of tight security measures implemented by state and local officials.

Fraud and manipulation is "impossible" says Lamone! I know I'll sleep better at night...

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< **PREVIOUS** "Daily Voting News" - Top 5 Stories from the Past Week!"

READER COMMENTS ON
"MD House Committee Votes 20-3 to Scrap Diebold Touch-Screens in State!"
(11 comments so far...)

COMMENT #1 [link]

...THE OLD TURK said on 3/6/2006 @ 2:02am PT...

Election fraud,...is (categorically) impossible ????,...
Because,... of tight security measures implemented by state and local (election) officialdumb.

Oh that's a relief,....

Nothing to worry about,...
Nothing to see,...
Nothing happened here,...
We've got it all under control,....

Just move along,...

COMMENT #2 [link]

...DREDD said on 3/6/2006 @ 4:37am PT...

They just proved that it can be done. Politicians can do risk management. If only they try.

The facts show that the machines can do the greatest damage.

The facts show that voters can do little damage.

One machine can change the vote by tens, thousands, or hundreds of thousands, in a nano second. Without a trace.

A fraudy voter can only effect one vote at a time, and only a few if maxed out. It would take hundreds of thousands (a big conspiracy) for voters to change that many votes.

And hundreds of thousands of voters would be noticable ... thats a lot of bodies to hide. And that is easy to trace by comparison.

So, in risk management science, you get rid of the greatest risk. Getting rid of buggy and risky machines that can do great damage is the way to get rid of the great risk instantly.

Good for the state of Maryland ... they make sense.

COMMENT #3 [link]

...PETE said on 3/6/2006 @ 4:56am PT...

Interesting in light of an article few weeks ago the Washington Post printed. It was about how the Republican party is making plans to take MD, long a democratic stronghold. Also interesting in light of the serious democratic challenges faced by Republican Gov. Ehlich in an upcoming election. In '04 they continued to lose district races but were carefull to point out how close they came--"we didn't win but look how much headway we've made," said Republicans, more or less. At the time I was suspicious that they were laying the groundwork for future election fraud by making future Republican victories seem feasible. What is the Governor/Republican party up to now? --Still laying groundwork for future fraud?--trying to seem reasonable to middle of the road voters in a close election? --or, (in fairness we have to entertain this possibility) are his concerns sincerely felt?

COMMENT #4 [link]

...SANDY D. said on 3/6/2006 @ 7:15am PT...

"Election fraud,...is (categorically) impossible ????,...

- 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, KPFK
- 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, KPFK
- 6/16/04: Ken & Company, KABC

Must Listen Audio...

- **HOT** Air America LIVE!
- Mark Levine's Inside Scoop!
- Bob Kincaid
- KRXA 540am

BRAD BLOG Campaign '04 Video Ads...

- "Take Your Country Back" Video
- "Wrong Choice" Video
- "Anything to Win" Video
- "Bush Priceless" Video Ad
- "W=Wrong" Video Ad

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...

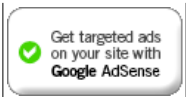
- RAW STORY
- ABC's The Note
- DRUDGE REPORT
- DRUDGE RETORT
- SMUDGE REPORT
- BuzzFlash
- Bill Maher
- Arianna Huffington
- LewRockwell.com
- Joe Conason
- The Best Page in the Universe
- Karen Kwiatkowski
- TrueMajority.org
- Spank Bush
- MoveOn.org
- Paul Rieckhoff
- David Hackworth
- **HOT** Media 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
- GAO Report on Electronic Voting Machines
- Al Gore Received More FL Votes in 2000

Political Cartoons...

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



Because,... of tight security measures implemented by state and local (election) officialdumb."

When I made inquiries of my county here in Oregon (which is all mail-in ballots but counted with opti-scans) I was given an equally ridiculous response: "there are checks and balanced in place," but she failed to describe them. It boils down to "trust us." And I don't.

COMMENT #5 [link]

...BIG DAN said on 3/6/2006 @ 8:07am PT...

What does Lamone say about the successful hack tests? Did she comment on those tests?

Also, is it still true these machines cannot be recounted?

COMMENT #6 [link]

...BIG DAN said on 3/6/2006 @ 8:09am PT...

I still cannot, for the life of me, figure out why whomever it is that's getting these media quotes from people like Lamone, cannot ask a follow-up question like, "What do you say about the successful hack tests?" Why do they just give them an unchallenged forum to spout lies and propoganda, with no intelligent follow-up questions?

COMMENT #7 [link]

...BIG DAN said on 3/6/2006 @ 8:10am PT...

Do they think we're just going to say, "Well, Lamone said they're OK".....????????????? And just drop it??? WTF????

COMMENT #8 [link]

...PAUL IN MD said on 3/6/2006 @ 11:05am PT...

Here's a link to the actual bill:

MD HB244

Ah, a breath of fresh air!!!!

COMMENT #9 [link]

...SAVANTSTER said on 3/6/2006 @ 12:27pm PT...

Big Dan, they are not "recountable" in a "serious" sense. That is, you can hit the "recount" button and it will (presumably) rescan the DB and give you the counts of the items stored internally..

The problem is, you don't know if what was "stored internally" is what was pushed on the screen. That is, you push A, and B goes in the database.. later you push "recount" and your vote is counted as B (again).. And, if there are 20,000 votes for A that "didn't get put in the database", then hitting "recount" will still NOT show those 20,000 votes. And, when there's a HUGE discrepancy (like with the exit polls in 2004), there is no "clean" way to "recount" other than hitting that "button"..

With paper ballots, you have the paper in your hand to "recount with".. and if the machines are suspected as to be being funky, you can hand count.. No paper = no accountability or validation..

COMMENT #10 [link]

...BRAD said on 3/6/2006 @ 4:01pm PT...

To be clear, Maryland's Diebold touch-screen machines (like Georgia's an elsewhere's) are even more UN-recountable than most places, since they don't even include the crappy toilet-paper roll "voter verified paper trail".

At least most Diebold touch-screens now being sold (AccuVote TSx) include the little printer device. For what little it is worth. The machines in use across the entire state of Maryland are the AccuVote TS systems which don't even include the paper-trail printer!

COMMENT #11 [link]

...CHARLENE said on 3/7/2006 @ 7:24am PT...

Sandy #4

I hear ya.

When you actually take action, yourself, you hit a wall that's difficult to penetrate & very few want to actually help beyond lip service.

I commend you for your efforts. Like myself, you are actually on the front lines, taking the blows & trying to make change.

HOO---RAH!

- 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.

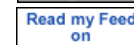
Brad is now also the host of The BRAD SHOW, a weekly radio program co-produced with Internet news site, RAW STORY. More information, online listening links, advertising information and archives to previous shows can be found at www.BradShow.com.

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

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