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"We The People must hand count ALL paper ballots or lose democracy to the machine manipulators!"

by [Ron Corvus](#)

<http://www.opednews.com>

"We The People must hand count ALL paper ballots or lose democracy to the machine manipulators!" - [Ron Corvus](#)

In new Hampshire, Hillary stole the election via voting machine vendors manipulating the vote count, as evidenced by the discrepancies between the hand counting of paper ballots versus the machine counting of paper ballots. Hillary got more votes using machine counts and Obama got more votes using hand counts. This is a FACT!

I predict this "phenomena" (crime) WILL HAPPEN AGAIN!
We The People must DEMAND the hand counting of ALL paper ballots, or We The People WILL LOSE to the machine manipulators again!
Mark my words!

We need to eliminate secret vote counting, not a recount
New Hampshire's primary delivered a "surprise" upset victory to Senator Hillary Clinton, contradicting all pre-election poll predictions and even the facts on the ground, which showed Senator Obama with a strong lead and enthusiastic overflow crowds at every New Hampshire appearance.

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Political pundits in the corporate media and citizen journalists in the Blogosphere alike are all asking the same question: What happened in

New Hampshire?

It's pretty easy to see what happened in New Hampshire: We had an election in which 81% of our ballots were counted in secret by a private corporation, and this resulted in an outcome that is called into question.

That's what happened.

No recount is going to change this. What will change this is to get rid of corporate controlled secret vote counting in our elections.

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 - [Election Theft](#) (537)
 - [Election Law](#) (294)
 - [Election Recounts Protests](#) (276)
 - [Fraud](#) (253)
 - [Election-Voting Issues News](#) (129)
 - [Elections And Campaigns](#) (113)
 - [Elections_Campaigns](#) (111)
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New Hampshire holds exemplary elections in 45% of our polling places; elections where our paper ballots are counted by hand by our neighbors in full public view with 100% citizen oversight and checks and balances. These hand count elections, of which New Hampshire is the "hands down" expert, provide the only method known today that can guarantee open and honest elections. These are elections where every ballot, every vote, every mark made by the voter, is observed and tallied in full public view with multiple sets of eyes watching and checking and balancing each count.

New Hampshire already knows how to fix this problem. For the past four years, New Hampshire citizens have been asking the State to fix this problem, but the State has thus far refused. We don't need a recount now. What we need now is for the State to reconsider and implement procedural and legislative solutions to guarantee open and honest elections.

A recount won't provide any significant benefit to the cause of free and fair and open elections. Bringing back full citizen oversight and checks and balances to all New Hampshire elections is the only way to avoid having any more questionable election outcomes in the Granite State.

Beginning with our state Founders, civil rights activists have been fighting for open elections as the mechanism to protect our freedom and democracy. The New Hampshire Constitution mandates we sort and count our votes in open meeting. The New Hampshire Right to Know law, citing our Constitution, declares that the government derives its power from the people and therefore all government processes and information must be fully accessible to the people.

The United States Bill of Rights similarly asserts that the government derives its power from the people, who have the right to "alter or abolish" said government if it fails to act in our favor. Our right to "alter or abolish" peacefully comes through open and honest elections.

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 mandates observable vote counting.

But despite this long history of grassroots activism in support of free and open elections, New Hampshire has turned the majority of our elections into privatized affairs with no citizen oversight whatsoever.

Now activists around the nation are calling for a recount. In New Hampshire the manual recount has always been held as justification for holding elections in which more than 80% of our ballots are counted in secret by private corporations.

Does this logic hold up? Will a recount rectify the problem before us?

I say no. The problem before us is that we have outsourced the most precious thing in our democracy: the counting of our votes. And in New Hampshire, we have outsourced more than 80% of our votes to a private corporation counting those votes in secret, and, as it turns out, that private corporation has a convicted drug trafficker on its executive team to boot. A recount does not solve this problem.

Proponents and apologists of the privatized and computerized corporate elections often justify computerized elections saying how "easy" it is to corrupt a hand count election. They say, "But you can always

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swap out the ballots to get the count you want!"

And they are 100% correct about this. But only when there is no citizen oversight. And the only time this happens in a hand count election is in a recount.

In the Election Night count, the first count, the count that matters, all hand count elections have complete citizen oversight as a check against the kind of corrupt outcome you would find in a ballot swapping affair. But in a recount, there is absolutely no citizen oversight for the entire time between Election Night and the recount itself.

If we are going to assume the possibility that some nefarious super spy has bothered to rig a New Hampshire election, wouldn't we assume they have also taken into account our liberal recount laws? Wouldn't we assume they might have a Plan B to ensure a recount validates their nefarious doings? Is it at all logical that evildoers who find their way into our machine counts might not also find a way into our recounts?

Open and honest elections require citizen oversight. This is a simple thing to accomplish in a hand count Election Night count. But in a recount it is impossible.

In a recount, citizens have no control over the ballot chain of custody. Unless citizens have stood guard over every ballot box from the moment that it was sealed and signed by our local election officials, the recount provides no more assurance than the machine counts. A recount of a secret computerized vote count is just another weak link in the chain of publicly observable ballot custody required for honest and open elections.

In 2004, on request from citizen activists, candidate Ralph Nader had a New Hampshire recount. Only 11 districts, chosen by a mysterious out of state activist, claiming to be a statistician who had found anomalies in the results, were recounted. New Hampshire officials at the time disagreed with her interpretation but the recount occurred as she directed. To nobody's surprise, the recounts uncovered no significant discrepancies, and New Hampshire's system of corporate controlled secret vote counting got a big stamp of approval.

And here we are again. Another corporate controlled New Hampshire election. Another questionable outcome. Did the Nader recount change things for the better? Did it resolve the problem?

If New Hampshire conducts a recount now, it's as reasonable as not to assume this recount will again not reveal any significant discrepancies. Our corporate controlled secret vote count elections will be validated, and we will continue to have elections whose outcomes can not be trusted.

It is time for real accountability and change. We get this not from a recount, but from an investigation. We need questions asked and answered, and changes made so we have a clean election in the Granite State in November 2008, and in every election thereafter.

The first question that needs to be asked is: Why did the NH Ballot Law Commission approve this voting equipment in March 2006 when the vendor himself testified it was defective and after citizens testified for more than four hours against the approval?

Second question: Why did the State not respond to citizen requests for a rehearing after California decertified

the same equipment we are using in New Hampshire?

Third question: Why has every citizen request for risk mitigation through reasonable procedural changes and legislation been ignored or obstructed by the State?

Fourth question: Why did the legislature, in two separate sessions under both Republican and Democratic majority, kill legislation that called for full software disclosure for voting equipment?

Fifth question: Why did the legislature kill a bill calling for voting machine approval only if those machines can guarantee the integrity of election results?

Sixth question: Why did the legislature kill a bill calling for election night parallel hand count of a percent of ballots to check and balance against the machine count? Why did the State refuse to make this a recommended procedure for every machine count polling place?

Seventh question: Why did the State do nothing after hearing testimony from internationally recognized computer security experts suggesting recommendations for risk mitigation procedures?

Eighth question: Why did the State, after hearing from the Diebold representative in September 2007 that more secure firmware was available, not insist on having that firmware tested and installed in time for our Primary?

Ninth question: Did the State have any prior knowledge that an executive in the firm programming our elections is a convicted drug trafficker, and does the State think this is appropriate for a firm handling such sensitive state data as our votes?

Once those questions are asked, the very last question must be: What changes will the State implement for November's election so voters can believe in the results?

The days of the status quo are over. The New Hampshire recount, a valuable check and balance for free and open elections, is useless in the face of possible high stakes election tampering. **Using the recount to justify secret vote counting is just part of the status quo.**

We need an honest and open first count on Election Night, and that will happen only with structural change, not a recount.

By [ntobi](#) at 01/11/2008 - 07:15 | [Fair elections Features](#) | [ntobi's blog](#)

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CamusRebel

great article Ron, except one very small point.....

My favorite three words of all time: ALTER OR ABOLISH

are not from the bill of rights but the Dec of Independence.

Personally i believe altering may not cleanse the filth. We must abolish the whole rotten carcass.....Dems, Repubs.....all belong in jail, their parties outlawed.

We need an Article V Convention as spelled out in the Constitution, it has been called for by several states, BY LAW IT MUST HAPPEN

We must phase out capitalism. We must nationalize our airwaves. Then we can spend each night not being made retarded shoppers by mindless, meaningless drivel and commercials.....but discussing how we write a new Constitution. How we save our country and our planet.

LETS GET BUSY!!!!!!!!!!

by **CamusRebel** (0 articles, 0 quicklinks, 46 comments) on Monday, January 14, 2008 at 11:39:13 AM

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Ron Corvus

Is your "abolisher" broken? GET-R-DONE NOW!

Is your "abolisher" broken?

GET-R-DONE-NOW!

Let's get ta "abolishin'" NOW!

VISIT: <http://www.2008ElectionFraud.Com>

by **roncorvus** (9 articles, 0 quicklinks, 45 comments) on Monday, January 14, 2008 at 11:50:43 AM

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Brent Turner

Open Source/ Disclosure

I know the answer to this one- **Fourth question:** Why did the legislature, in two separate sessions under both Republican and Democratic majority, kill legislation that called for full software disclosure for voting equipment? Answer- Anytime open source language is in a bill, Microsoft has it removed. This, coupled with the tendency of the so called " activist- fund raisers" who profiteer of the oppressed and exclude open source from the agenda, creates an uphill battle. The good news is open source is coming in, and coupled with the complete paper ballot system, we sill hopefully break down the corporate cartel in the not too distant future. In the meantime, anybody fund raising with an overly thin agenda should be investigated- We do not have time to waste being led over cliffs by bogus bloggers and corrupt scientists. Brent Turner

by **brentturner** (1 articles, 0 quicklinks, 6 comments) on Monday, January 14, 2008 at 3:38:20 PM

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Michael Miller

counting all ballots

You the people must wake up from your incessant slumber and figure

out why our elections are held on the same date each 4 years. When you wake up to that fact, and realise you've been duped, you're going to first of all get very angry like I did!! Then you'll investigate a little more, like I did!! Then you'll learn the Truth behind the "Presidency of the Bankruptcy", and there IS no money, then you'll get REALLY angry. Then, with any hope (if there's any left in America) we may get an election that means something....but not for a long time yet, because I have no faith left in the American people and their collective brains for not seeing this problem, so I left!!

by **BlueyBlogger** (0 articles, 0 quicklinks, 1 comments) on Monday, January 14, 2008 at 4:19:53 PM

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Ron Corvus

Open Source Code For The Unwashed Masses

Brent, why don't you write something explaining to the unwashed masses why We The People need open source code implemented into legislation?

Bill "The Hun" Gates and Ronald Raygun opposes "socialized software."

I will publish it on my site and elsewhere.....thank you, r o n c o r v u s

<http://www.2008ElectionFraud.Com>

by **roncorvus** (9 articles, 0 quicklinks, 45 comments) on Monday, January 14, 2008 at 7:45:24 PM

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Jack Nauti

Impossible and Totally Improbable

Yes - we have a problem. No question about that.

But hand counting all... what? 100 - 150 million ballots is NOT ever going to happen. The "hand-counted paper ballot" crusade is destined to failure and detracts from coming up with solutions that WILL work. So just stop it.

We need new laws and strict enforcement to provide auditable and provable elections. Some of those are in place, some are enforced, others not so much. But there is no reason that an auditable and provable automated tabulation system can't be devised. The problem is the current laws do not demand this and the vendors will not make the necessary investment in development until they're forced to. But once forced to, they will.

Tragically, Congress blew billions on HAVA with nothing but bad results. The next round will cost billions more, but that's what it will take to fix the problem. Sad but true.

Do the math. How many ballots can you ACCURATELY tabulate and DOCUMENT IN AN AUDITABLE MANNER in one minute? One hour? Now do the math. Total US ballots / your productivity. Factor in more time for incompetence, disputes, recounts, mistakes and security. It simply is NOT doable.

Let's start pressuring Congress and our state legislatures and Secretaries of State for strict, powerful, clear legal requirements for clean elections REGARDLESS of what technology is used. Set the requirements, make them clear, enforce them strictly and developers will provide solutions that conform.

by **Teknowledgie** (0 articles, 0 quicklinks, 6 comments) on Monday, January 14, 2008 at 9:08:40 PM

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Jack Nauti

Open Source Hand-Counting!??

Ok, wait a minute. I just read through the other comments and Ron Corvus has now lost all credibility. You write an article calling for hand counting all ballots, and then chime back in with a call for open-source software. Sheesh. You apparently don't have a clue what you want, other than to spew into the void.

Demonstrating ignorance and making lots of noise does NOTHING to solve the problem - in fact, it makes it harder to solve the problem.

Take a break, get some help.

by **Teknowledgie** (0 articles, 0 quicklinks, 6 comments) on Monday, January 14, 2008 at 9:13:47 PM

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