

Election Integrity

A CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS



GOLD STAR
AUDIT

*in honor of
Gold Star Families for Peace*

&

*All the Patriots
who have sacrificed
for democracy*

CALIFORNIA'S VOTING INTEGRITY

NEWS: Our votes are NOT properly checked for accuracy.

Cindy Sheehan, co-founder of the Gold Star Families for Peace (mother of slain soldier Casey Sheehan) stated the need, as follows:

"Non-verifiable electronic voting has already made a farce of the election process in certain parts of the U.S.

Anyone who doesn't advocate the use of easy to read paper ballots, ballots that can be handled with hands, seen with eyes, stored in boxes for recount and verification, and with some sealing mechanism to protect against tampering, either doesn't know how fraudulent vote tabulating has already become in certain parts of the country, or they favor the results already gained through fraud."

— Cindy Sheehan, *Gold Star Families for Peace*

Today California's antiquated Election Code 15360 remains the heart of our voting equipment checking protocol:

[CURRENT] CALIFORNIA ELECTIONS CODE SECTION 15360

15360. During the official canvass of every election in which a voting system is used, the official conducting the election shall conduct a public manual tally of the ballots tabulated by those devices cast in 1 percent of the precincts chosen at random by the elections official. If 1 percent of the precincts should be less than one whole precinct, the tally shall be conducted in one precinct chosen at random by the elections official.

In addition to the 1 percent count, the elections official shall, for each race not included in the initial group of precincts, count one additional precinct. The manual tally shall apply only to the race not previously counted.

Additional precincts for the manual tally may be selected at the discretion of the elections official.

Election Code 15360, the heart of election integrity, needs an emergency replacement *if* we're ever going to have a functioning democracy again.

Here are just some of the security gaps that this Election Code 15360 has created:

- *"One percent of the precincts"* according to many statisticians is **inadequate to reveal fraud**. Even worse, Los Angeles will spend over a million dollars to encourage early voting in the upcoming Special Election. Yet, they claim that all early voting is **completely exempt from the 1% audit**.
- *"Random"* is ultimately left to the discretion of each county's election official, which is **NOT random**. (For example, in San Diego County they just select the nine smallest precincts.)
- The *"Manual Tally"* that serves as a check against the machine's tally has been interpreted by election officials, such as Los Angeles' Conny McCormack, to mean a MACHINE manual tally. Los Angeles just re-feeds the election data through the same machine a second time, which is **NOT a manual tally**. In a 60 Minutes interview last year, McCormack defended her actions. She said a manual tally would likely lead to another result that would "shock" people, and we don't want another Florida debacle. (See, <http://avirubin.com/vote/60minutes.mov>)
- Then there's Diebold's **Vote Remote** system that Conny McCormack has admitted she will be using in the next election. This system some how has managed to avoid certification scrutiny by some loophole in the Election Code. What is it? Vote Remote is a signature matching scanner system that is used to authenticate signatures on absentee ballots. It can be set at high, medium and low to calibrate how close of a signature match is desired. **But it obviously could have an ulterior vote spoilage** use as well.

Much Ado About Nothing? Incredibly, after exploring all these holes we've hit the ultimate in the no there there: There is **NO recourse** even if Election Code 15360 exposes an error. None.

HOWEVER, we can change all this in just one legislative cycle, and so let's...

We need an audit protocol worthy of those losing their lives in the name of democracy. In honor of the Cindy Sheehan's Gold Star Families of Peace, we're going to get a Gold Star Audit Protocol made into legislation in the coming months, but we need all of you who are creative, logical and/or knowledgeable to contribute your wisdom to this most worthy of causes.

A CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

We ask everyone who has input on what would constitute a reasonably airtight audit protocol (which is easy enough for the average person to follow) to weigh in on what the parameters of an ideal Gold Star Audit protocol should be. The following is a cartoon example of what a submission might look:

PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR GOLD STAR AUDIT WITH SUPPORTING ARGUMENTS

EXAMPLE OF "Gold Star Audit" PROTOCOL



All state elections shall have (at the State's expense):

- ★ **PAPER BALLOTS:** Accessible, voter-verifiable, paper ballots, meeting at least the following minimum specifications: paper ballots printed with 14 pt. type using individual 8.5 x 11 20 lb. archival paper stock (which shall be kept for at least 5 years as proof of the election result).
- ★ **HAND COUNTS:** A manual audit which relies on human eyes.
- ★ **STATISTICALLY SIGNIFICANT SAMPLING:** Select a minimum of 5% of all precincts (and precincts cannot exceed 1000 voters). Within these selected precincts, audit 100% of the paper ballots; or in their absence, the paper trails.
- ★ **GENUINELY RANDOM:** Genuinely random selected samples (not at the discretion of election officials).
- ★ **PUBLIC OVERSIGHT:** Each participating political party may form delegations to witness every step of the election process. Results of each tally shall be posted publicly at the precinct site, as well as on a publicly accessible portion of the Secretary of State's website in a comma-delimited format (e.g. a format that may easily be extracted into a word processing or spreadsheet software), BEFORE the data is transferred from the precinct (e.g. to the county's central tabulator).
- ★ **RECOURSE:** Any discrepancies between the machine tally and the audit Gold Star audit protocol shall require the State to repeat this Gold Star Audit protocol; however, each time the sample size shall increase by 10%. The final result of this audit process supersedes the finding of the initial tally and is binding.

If you have some good ideas in this regard and seek the reward of repairing democracy, we need your input.

Please submit your paper using an easy-to-read outline format as suggested above, along with your contact information, to:

goldstar@califelectprotect.net by November 15th.