Groups Opposing the Voter Confidence & Increased Accessibility Act of 2007 (HR811)

The Election Center – Founded by a computer salesperson, R Doug Lewis, who is now its executive director, its original mission was to get vendors of election products together with election officials. The Election Center trains and certifies election administrators and provides vendor and practitioner consultants to election administrators to study ways to update technological usage. Corporate members include voting machine vendors who attend and exhibit their wares at frequent conferences, workshops, and seminars designed specifically for government election administrators.

The National Association of State Election Directors (NASED) - The Election Center (above) formed and served as an incubator for the National Association of State Election Directors. NASED was responsible for certifying voting systems until the federal certification function was turned over to the US Election Assistance Commission (EAC) recently (along with several officers of NASED who originated at The Election Center and who are now an EAC commissioner and the EAC executive director).

The Election Technology Council – an organization representing voting machine vendors who profit by selling and maintaining touch-screen computers in each polling booth, more so than by selling and maintaining only one optical scanner and one ballot marking device in each polling location.

The National Conference of State Legislators (NCSL) – Susan Frederick, who is the Criminal Law and Justice Committee Director for the NCSL, opposes subjecting elections to independent (outside) audits. Although HR811 provides flexibility for States to develop alternative audit procedures with NIST approval, Frederick wants states to solely determine their own election auditing procedures, and asserts that there is no need for any Federal election solutions. Frederick incorrectly claims that HR811 is an unfunded mandate, despite Congressional Budget Office findings to the contrary, and despite the fact that HR811 provides States the opportunity to switch to paper based voting systems costing significantly less to operate than touch-screen systems¹.

The National Association of Counties – has corporate members who help fund the organization including voting machine vendors such as Microsoft and Election Software & Systems (ES&S).

Why HR811?

The Voter Confidence and Increased Accessibility Act of 2007 (HR811) would benefit the integrity and security of US elections by requiring independent manual audits of the accuracy of Federal election outcomes, checking the machine counts. The bill allows States to adopt alternative methods of recounts and audits for Federal elections as long as NIST approves the alternative methodology. There is ample time for states using paperless voting systems to implement auditable voting systems and audits by November 2008. Historically it has taken 4 to 12 months for States to change voting systems.² Virtually every jurisdiction is familiar with using optical scan paper ballots for military, absentee, and over-seas voting.

Please vote "YES" on HR811 and "NO" on any unfunded mandate amendment whose purpose would be to gut the bill's 2008 implementation.

This document is posted on-line - http://electionmathematics.org/anti-HR811-groups.pdf

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¹ See http://www.ncsl.org/statefed/ACTALRThr811.htm

² "How Long Does it Take to Change a Voting System?" by Verified Voting http://electionmathematics.org/em-voting-systems/VotingSystemChange.pdf