



NVRTF
NATIONAL VOTING RIGHTS TASK FORCE

Contact: Dale Axelrod
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Dear Senators:

We write to you as organizations and community leaders concerned about our democracy. Voter confidence and public trust in our elections depend on having more transparency in the process. When people see and understand that we are conducting fair, evidence-based elections throughout the country, there will be no rationale for incidents like the one that occurred on January 6th.

We support the For the People Act's strong stance on voting rights.

The newly amended version of H.R.1, however, still needs improvement in several areas critical to protecting voting rights, achieving voter convenience, and ensuring secure and accurate election results. Out of dozens of amendments, these four areas will help keep us focused on making sure elections fulfill their mandate: to determine and verify the consent of the governed.

1—Universal option to vote on Hand-Marked Paper Ballots (HMPB)

Please clarify that every voter shall be offered an HMPB when voting in person. Current language could be used to force voters to vote on ballot marking devices (BMDs).

2—No barcodes for recording votes

Printouts from BMDs shall not use barcodes or QR codes to encode votes. Such votes are not voter-verifiable.

3—Ballot images of paper ballots shall be preserved as public records

Ballot images produced and used by modern optical/digital scanning equipment allow the public to determine whether or not there has been an accurate vote count. They are a supplementary verification tool that allows for third party/independent audits to establish voter confidence in election outcomes, providing the increased security of redundancy. Ballot images should be made publicly accessible within hours of scanning, but no later than 5 days.

4—Routine independent audits of all federal elections in addition to Risk Limiting Audits (RLAs)

RLAs are an efficient way of auditing and confirming the outcomes of races with substantial margins of victory. RLAs are less efficient when evaluating races with tight margins. To encourage public understanding and confidence, additional robust methods of auditing vote counts should include one or more of the following:

Risk-Limiting Audit,

Hand count,

Count of votes on digital ballot images

(with statistically significant matching of ballot images with corresponding paper ballots).

We call for a public 100% hand count of every federal race with margins of 1% or less.

Some of the endorsers listed below may have additional concerns to communicate to you individually.

Thank you for taking the time to consider these modifications to S.1.

Sincerely,

National Voting Rights Task Force
Scrutineers.org
Move to Amend
East Bay Citizens for Action
Citizens for Voting Integrity New York
Florida Fair Elections Coalition
Los Angeles County Voters Action Coalition
OpEdNews
Hiphopcaucus.org
NYPAN of the Southern Finger Lakes
ValidateTheVoteUSA.org
Wellstone Democratic Renewal Club

AUDIT USA
Broward for Progress
Citizens' Oversight Projects
Clean Count Cook County
Indivisible East Bay
Indivisible Media City Burbank
Indivisible Normal Heights
Indivisible Sonoma County
Indivisible Ventura
Protect California Ballots
Transparent Elections NC
ElectionIntegrityCaucus.us

Jonathan D. Simon, Author, "CODE RED: Computerized Elections and The War on American Democracy"
John Fitzgerald, Environmental Investigation Agency
Jan BenDor, Michigan Election Reform Alliance
Alan Minsky, Executive Director, Progressive Democrats of America