

SUMMARY OF FEDERAL ELECTION REFORM LEGISLATION INTRODUCED IN THE 109TH CONGRESS

This is a brief summary of federal election reform legislation introduced in the 109th Congress. Senate bills are listed first, in order of introduction, followed by House bills. Although the descriptions of each bill are not comprehensive, each bill summary includes hyperlinks for more information.

INTRODUCED IN THE SENATE

Bill No.: S. 17 [[VIEW BILL TEXT](#)]

Short Title: Voting Opportunity and Technology Enhancement Rights Act of 2005

Primary Sponsors: Sens. Dodd, Mikulski, Stabenow, Rockefeller, Schumer, Reid, and Corzine
[[VIEW ALL](#)]

Date Introduced: January 24, 2005 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]

Key Issues: voting systems, provisional ballots, election resource allocation, Election Day registration, absentee ballots, early voting, impartial election administration, voter ID, voter registration, Election Day holiday, purges

Description:

- *National Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot:* This bill would permit the use of a federal write-in absentee ballot by anyone who is eligible to vote in federal elections. The voter may designate a candidate by writing in the candidate's name or write in the name of a political party (in which case, the ballot will be counted for the candidate of the political party). Abbreviations, misspellings, or other minor variations in candidate or political party names will not make a ballot invalid.
- *Voting Systems:* This bill would require voting machines to allow voters to verify their ballot selections via a paper record, an audio record, a pictorial record, or an electronic record.
- *Provisional Ballots:* This bill requires states to count eligible provisional ballots, even if they were cast at the wrong poll site.

- *Election Resource Allocation:* The bill would require each state to provide for a minimum number of voting systems, poll workers and other resources at each polling place, pursuant to a formula developed by the EAC.
- *Election Day Registration:* This bill would require states to allow an individual to register to vote on Election Day and cast a vote in that election.
- *Purges:* This bill would require states to provide public notice at least 45 days before a federal election of names removed from each state’s voter registration list. The State must send notices to each individual voter whose name has been removed from the State voter registration list.
- *Early Voting:* The bill would require each state to provide for early voting no less than 15 days before any federal election.
- *Election Day Holiday:* This bill would require the EAC to study the feasibility of making Election Day a federal holiday.
- *Processing Voter Registration Applications:* This bill would allow voter registration applicants to submit affidavits attesting to citizenship and age in lieu of checking the age and citizenship boxes on the voter registration form. Additionally, this bill would require states to establish a way for individuals to access and submit voter registration forms online.
- *Voter ID:* This bill would add as acceptable proof of identify for in-person voting and voting by mail an executed, written affidavit attesting to one’s identity.
- *Impartial Election Administration:* This bill would require states to notify the public of changes in state federal election administration law at least 15 days before an election. Additionally, states would be required to allow uniform and nondiscriminatory access to poll sites to election observers, including party challengers, voting rights and civil rights organizations, and nonpartisan domestic and international observers.

Bill No.: S. 144 [[VIEW BILL TEXT](#)]

Short Title: Weekend Voting Act

Primary Sponsors: Sens. Kohl and Corzine [[VIEW ALL](#)]

Date Introduced: January 24, 2005 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]

Key Issues: Election Day holiday

Description: This bill would reschedule Congressional Election Days to the first Saturday and Sunday after the first Friday in November in every even numbered year and Presidential Election Day to the first Saturday and Sunday after the first Friday in November in every fourth year succeeding every Presidential election. For Presidential and Congressional general elections, polling place hours would

be Saturday 6:00pm EST to Sunday 6:00pm EST. A polling place may close 12:00am (midnight) and 5:00am local time.

Bill No.: S. 330 [[VIEW BILL TEXT](#)]
Short Title: Voting Integrity and Verification Act of 2005
Primary Sponsors: Sen. Ensign and 13 co-sponsors [[VIEW ALL](#)]
Date Introduced: February 9, 2005 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]
Key Issues: voting systems
Related Bills: H.R. 704
Description: This bill contains similar voting system reforms as H.R. 550.

Bill No.: S. 391 [[VIEW BILL TEXT](#)]
Short Title: Federal Election Integrity Act of 2005
Primary Sponsors: Sens. Lautenberg, Kerry, Boxer, Clinton, Feingold, and Corzine [[VIEW ALL](#)]
Date Introduced: February 16, 2005 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]
Key Issues: impartial election administration
Related Bills: H.R. 834
Description: This bill would prohibit the chief state election administration official from participating in political management or in a political campaign of a Federal office that he supervises.

Bill No.: S. 414 [[VIEW BILL TEXT](#)]
Short Title: Voter Protection Act of 2005
Primary Sponsors: Sens. McConnell, Bond, Cochran, Isakson, and Lugar [[VIEW ALL](#)]
Date Introduced: February 17, 2005 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]
Key Issues: voter registration, purges, absentee ballots, voter ID, provisional ballots
Description:

- *Voter Registration*: This bill would amend the meaning of “in person” registration to refer only to an individual registering to vote before an officer or employee of a State or local government entity and prohibit states from accepting voter registration forms submitted (1) by a person other than the person whose name appears on the form; and (2) more than 3 days after the registrant signed it. The bill prohibits states from processing a voter registration form if the individual does not check the citizenship and age boxes on the voter registration form, even if the individual affirms his eligibility elsewhere on the form.
- *Purges*: This bill would amend the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) to make it easier for states to purge the voting rolls of voters who have not voted in two consecutive general elections.
- *Absentee Ballots*: This bill would prohibit states from accepting absentee ballots that arrive after the close of business on Election Day unless they are voted pursuant to the Uniform and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act. It would also prohibit states from accepting an application for absentee ballots unless it includes the driver’s license number, or if the voter does not have a driver’s license number, a copy of government-issued photo ID, the last 4 digits of the voter’s Social Security number, or the unique voter ID number.
- *Voter ID*: This bill would require all voters to provide government-issued photo ID when registering to vote by mail and for voting. The EAC is authorized to make grants to state to promote the issuance of free photo IDs to voters, but it does not make the free issuance of IDs mandatory. Additionally, this bill would amend the Social Security Act to require states to use individuals’ social security numbers to establish their identities for voter registration and other election administration activities.
- *Provisional Ballots*: This bill would prohibit states from counting provisional ballots if voters cast them at the wrong poll site.

Bill No.: S. 450 [[VIEW BILL TEXT](#)]

Short Title: Count Every Vote Act of 2005

Primary Sponsors: Sens. Clinton, Boxer, Kerry, Lautenberg, and Mikulski [[VIEW ALL](#)]

Date Introduced: February 17, 2005 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]

Key Issues: voting systems, provisional ballots, election resource allocation, Election Day registration, absentee ballots, early voting, impartial election administration, poll worker training, deceptive practices, voter ID, voter registration, Election Day holiday, purges, felony re-enfranchisement

Related Bills: H.R. 939

Description: This is an omnibus election reform bill that seeks to address a number of election administration problems that arose in the 2004 federal elections. Among other things, it provides for the following reforms:

- *Voting Systems:* The bill contains a number of provisions to increase the security of voting systems. Its requirements are similar to those in H.R. 550, described below.
- *Provisional ballots:* The bill would require states to count provisional ballots cast in the wrong polling place or cast by voters without ID. It would also require provisional ballots to be counted in time for recounts and contest proceedings.
- *Allocation of Election Resources:* The bill would require each state to provide for a minimum number of voting systems, poll workers and other resources at each polling place, pursuant to a formula developed by the EAC, with the goal of ensuring equal waiting times of no longer than one hour.
- *Election Day Registration:* The bill would require each state to permit individuals to register and vote at their polling places on Election Day.
- *No Excuse Absentee Balloting:* The bill would require each state to allow citizens to vote by absentee ballot without showing a reason.
- *Early Voting:* The bill would require each state to provide for early voting no less than 15 days before any federal election.
- *Impartial Election Administration:* The bill would prohibit chief election officials and top officers at voting system manufacturers from participating in any political activities in federal campaigns. It would also require states to publish all their laws and procedures for administering federal elections at the beginning of each election year.
- *Poll Worker Training:* This bill would establish minimum requirement of training for poll workers on a number of topics.
- *Purges:* The bill would require states to make the processes by which they purge their voter rolls more transparent and to provide notice to voters before purging their names from the rolls.
- *Processing Voter Registration Applications:* The bill would require states to accept and process voter registration applications regardless of technical mistakes or omissions, so long as there is no material omission or information to suggest that a registrant is ineligible to vote.
- *Voter ID:* The bill would allow first-time voters who registered by mail to vote regardless of whether they show ID so long as they execute an affidavit of eligibility. It also would provide funds for states to distribute free photo IDs to those who do not have them.
- *Deceptive Practices:* This bill's deceptive practices provisions are similar to those in Senator Obama's bill, discussed below.

- *Past Criminal Convictions*: The bill would guarantee the right to vote of all citizens with past criminal convictions unless they are incarcerated, on probation, or on parole.
 - *Election Day Holiday*: The bill would make Election Day a federal holiday.
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Res. No.: S. J. Res. 11 [[VIEW RES. TEXT](#)]

Short Title: (none)

Primary Sponsors: Sens. Feinstein and Boxer [[VIEW ALL](#)]

Date Introduced: March 16, 2005 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]

Key Issues: electoral college

Related Bills: H. J. Res. 8, H. J. Res. 36, H. J. Res. 50

Description: This resolution would amend the Constitution to abolish the Electoral College and provide for direct popular election of the President and Vice President. Congress would determine the time, place, and manner of holding the election, among other things. Voters would cast a single vote, jointly applicable to President and Vice President.

Res. No.: S. Con. Res. 53 [[VIEW RES. TEXT](#)]

Primary Sponsors: Sen. Obama and 23 co-sponsors [[VIEW ALL](#)]

Date Introduced: September 20, 2005 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]

Key Issues: voter ID

Related Bills: H. Con. Res. 247

Description: This concurrent resolution expresses the sense of Congress that any effort to impose national photo ID requirements for voting should be rejected.

Bill No.: S. 1867 [[VIEW BILL TEXT](#)]

Short Title: Displaced Citizens Voter Protection Act of 2005

Primary Sponsors: Sens. Feingold, Kerry, and Landrieu [[VIEW ALL](#)]

Date Introduced: October 7, 2005 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]

Key Issues: absentee ballots

Related Bills: H.R. 3734

Description: This bill would extend the right to use absentee balloting and registration procedures available under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act to Hurricane Katrina evacuees. Individuals seeking to use these options must submit to state election officials an affidavit stating the individual's intention to return to their place of residence within the state.

Bill No.: S. 1975 [[VIEW BILL TEXT](#)]

Short Title: Deceptive Practices and Voter Intimidation Prevention Act of 2005

Primary Sponsors: Sens. Obama, Kerry, Feingold, Leahy, and Clinton [[VIEW ALL](#)]

Date Introduced: November 8, 2005 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]

Key Issues: deceptive practices

Related Bills: H.R. 4463, S. 4069

Description: This bill would amend the Voting Rights Act to prohibit a person from “knowingly deceiv[ing]” any other person regarding the “time, place, or manner of conducting” any Federal election or voter eligibility for a Federal election. It also establishes federal enforcement mechanisms for violations.

Bill No.: S. 3560 [[VIEW BILL TEXT](#)]

Short Title: Federal Election Administration Act of 2006

Primary Sponsors: Sens. McCain and Feingold [[VIEW ALL](#)]

Date Introduced: June 22, 2006 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]

Key Issues: impartial election administration

Related Bills: H.R. 5676

Description: This bill would establish a Federal Election Administration to implement this Act and policy related to the Presidential Election Campaign Fund Act and the Presidential Primary Matching Payment Act under chapters 95 and 96, respectively, of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. The Administration will be composed of three members appointed by the President and staff.

Bill No.: S. 3943 [[VIEW BILL TEXT](#)]

Short Title: Confidence in Voting Act of 2006

Primary Sponsors: Sen. Boxer and 8 co-sponsors [[VIEW ALL](#)]

Date Introduced: September 26, 2006 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]

Key Issues: voting systems

Related Bills: H.R. 6187

Description: This bill contains similar voting system reforms as H.R. 6187.

Res. No.: S. Res. 588 [[VIEW RES. TEXT](#)]

Primary Sponsors: Sens. Feingold and Kerry [[VIEW ALL](#)]

Date Introduced: September 27, 2006 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]

Key Issues: voting systems

Description: This resolution expresses the sense of the Senate that states should have backup systems in place during the November 2006 election in the event of any failure of electronic voting equipment.

Bill No.: S. 4018 [[VIEW BILL TEXT](#)]

Short Title: Vote by Mail Act of 2006

Primary Sponsors: Sens. Wyden, Kerry, and Obama [[VIEW ALL](#)]

Date Introduced: September 29, 2006 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]

Key Issues: absentee ballots

Description: This bill would establish a program to provide states with funds to implement vote by mail systems administrated by the EAC. States that choose to participate in the program must develop standards and procedures for mailing ballots to voters, collecting them, and counting them.

Bill No.: S. 4034 [[VIEW BILL TEXT](#)]

Short Title: Voter Suppression, Ballot Hacking, and Election Fraud Prevention Act

Primary Sponsors: Sens. Reid and Clinton [[VIEW ALL](#)]

Date Introduced: September 29, 2006 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]

Key Issues: voting systems

Description: This bill would prohibit an individual from “knowingly and willfully interferes with, affects, attempts to interfere with, or attempts to interfere with, or attempts to affect an election of a candidate or a ballot initiative by tampering with a voting system, discarding ballots, or altering a vote.”

INTRODUCED IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Res. No.: H. J. Res. 8 [[VIEW RES. TEXT](#)]

Short Title: Every Vote Counts Amendment

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Green (TX), Baird, and Delahunt [[VIEW ALL](#)]

Date Introduced: January 4, 2005 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]

Key Issues: electoral college

Related Bills: H. J. Res. 36, H. J. Res. 50

Description: This resolution would amend the Constitution to abolish the Electoral College and provide for direct popular election of the President and Vice President. Voters would cast a single vote, jointly applicable to President and Vice President.

Bill No.: H.R. 190 [[VIEW BILL TEXT](#)]

Short Title: District of Columbia Voting Rights Act of 2005

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Rohrabacher and Cox [[VIEW ALL](#)]

Date Introduced: January 4, 2005 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]

Key Issues: DC voting rights

Related Bills: H.R. 5410

Description: This bill would restore the right to vote to Washington, DC residents as residents of Maryland in Congressional and Presidential elections. Additionally, residents of Washington, DC would be entitled to hold Congressional office as residents of Maryland. Washington, DC residents would not be allowed to vote in Maryland state or local elections, and Maryland residents would not be

allowed to vote in Washington, DC elections. This bill would not affect the powers of the government of Washington, DC or the power of Congress over Washington, DC.

Bill No.: H.R. 278 [[VIEW BILL TEXT](#)]
Short Title: Know Your Vote Counts Act of 2005
Primary Sponsors: Rep. King and 29 co-sponsors [[VIEW ALL](#)]
Date Introduced: January 6, 2005 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]
Key Issues: voting systems
Description: This bill contains similar voting system reforms as H.R. 550.

Bill No.: H.R. 470 [[VIEW BILL TEXT](#)]
Short Title: Improving Electronic Voting Standards and Disclosure Act of 2005
Primary Sponsors: Rep. Larson
Date Introduced: February 1, 2005 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]
Key Issues: voting systems
Description: This bill would establish security and reliability standards for the software used in voting machines and prohibit conflicts of interest in the manufacturing and distribution of voting systems and software.

Bill No.: H.R. 496 [[VIEW BILL TEXT](#)]
Short Title: Same Day Voter Registration Act of 2005
Primary Sponsors: Rep. Sabo and 14 co-sponsors [[VIEW ALL](#)]
Date Introduced: February 1, 2005 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]
Key Issues: Election Day registration
Description: This bill would establish voter registration at poll sites on Election Day.

Bill No.: H.R. 533 [[VIEW BILL TEXT](#)]

Short Title: Voting Opportunity and Technology Enhancement Rights Act of 2005

Primary Sponsors: Rep. Conyers and 49 co-sponsors [[VIEW ALL](#)]

Date Introduced: February 2, 2005 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]

Key Issues: voting systems, provisional ballots, election resource allocation, Election Day registration, absentee ballots, early voting, impartial election administration, poll worker training, deceptive practices, voter ID, voter registration, Election Day holiday, purges

Description: The provisions of this election reform bill are very similar to those in S. 17 and would address many election administration problems in the same way. The provisions that differ from those in S. 17 include:

- *Deceptive Practices:* This bill would prohibit unfair or deceptive practices that affect voting. It also requires the establishment of detailed procedures to document allegations of voting irregularities and responses to allegations.
- *Voting Systems:* Like S. 17, this bill would require the preservation of voter-verifiable paper records where “none of the means of verification [...] may employ cryptography in the record” for audits. Additionally, the EAC would be required to develop standards for voting machine software and for conducting recounts.
- *Early Voting:* This bill would require states to permit same-day voter registration at poll sites that conduct early voting.
- *Impartial Election Administration:* This bill would prohibit party challengers and campaigners from interfering with election administration at poll sites. It would require the EAC to study the feasibility of nonpartisan election administration in the states and to develop standards to check for conflicts of interest.
- *Poll Worker Training:* This bill would require states to train election officials and poll workers.

Bill No.: H.R. 550 [[VIEW BILL TEXT](#)]

Short Title: Voter Confidence and Increased Accessibility Act of 2005

Primary Sponsors: Rep. Holt and 222 co-sponsors [[VIEW ALL](#)]

Date Introduced: February 2, 2005 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]

Key Issues: voting systems

Description: This bill would amend the voting systems provisions in the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) for the purpose of increasing voting system security. Key provisions include:

- *Mandating Voter Verified Paper Records:* This bill would require each voting system to produce a voter-verifiable paper record of each voter’s selections that enables the voter to inspect and correct the votes before they are cast and that is suitable for a manual audit.
- *Banning Wireless Components:* This bill would prohibit voting systems from containing wireless, power-line, or concealed communication devices and require all software and source code in voting machines must be made available for inspection.
- *Mandatory Audits:* This bill would require mandatory audits of voting systems in random precincts within 24 hours of announcing final vote counts. Those audits would require states to count by hand the voter-verified paper records and to compare those records with the announced count. If any audits show cause for concern about the accuracy of the results of an election, the bill provides for additional hand counts of the ballots.

Bill No.: H.R. 663 [[VIEW BILL TEXT](#)]

Short Title: Ex-Offenders Voting Rights Act of 2005

Primary Sponsors: Rep. Rangel and 28 co-sponsors [[VIEW ALL](#)]

Date Introduced: February 8, 2005 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]

Key Issues: felony re-enfranchisement

Related Bills: H.R. 4762

Description: This bill would restore voting rights to eligible people with criminal convictions who have completed incarceration time, probation, and parole.

Bill No.: H.R. 704 [[VIEW BILL TEXT](#)]

Short Title: Voting Integrity and Verification Act of 2005

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Gibbons and Berkley [[VIEW ALL](#)]

Date Introduced: February 9, 2005 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]

Key Issues: voting systems

Related Bills: S. 330

Description: This bill contains similar voting system reforms as H.R. 550.

Res. No.: H.J. Res. 17 [[VIEW RES. TEXT](#)]

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Engel, Hastings, McNulty, Frank, and Evans [[VIEW ALL](#)]

Date Introduced: February 9, 2005 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]

Key Issues: electoral college

Related Bills: H.J. Res. 36

Description: This resolution would amend the Constitution to abolish the Electoral College and provide for direct popular election of the President and Vice President. Voters would cast a single vote, jointly applicable to President and Vice President.

Bill No.: H.R. 834 [[VIEW BILL TEXT](#)]

Short Title: Federal Election Integrity Act of 2005

Primary Sponsors: Rep. Strickland and 6 co-sponsors [[VIEW ALL](#)]

Date Introduced: February 15, 2005 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]

Key Issues: impartial election administration

Related Bills: S. 391

Description: This bill would prohibit the chief state election administration official from participating in political management or in a political campaign of a Federal office that he supervises.

Bill No.: H.R. 939 [[VIEW BILL TEXT](#)]

Short Title: Count Every Vote Act of 2005

Primary Sponsors: Rep. Jones and 79 co-sponsors [[VIEW ALL](#)]

Date Introduced: February 17, 2005 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]

Key Issues: voting systems, provisional ballots, election resource allocation, Election Day registration, absentee ballots, early voting, impartial election administration, poll worker training, deceptive practices, voter ID, voter registration, Election Day holiday, purges, felony re-enfranchisement

Related Bills: S. 450

Description: This omnibus election reform bill seeks to address a number of election administration problems that arose in the 2004 federal elections. The provisions of this bill are similar to those in S. 450.

Res. No.: H. J. Res. 28 [[VIEW RES. TEXT](#)]

Primary Sponsors: Rep. Jackson and 61 co-sponsors [[VIEW ALL](#)]

Date Introduced: March 2, 2005 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]

Key Issues: Election Day registration

Description: This joint resolution would amend the Constitution to ensure that the right to vote is not abridged in any way and permit voter registration on the day of an election.

Res. No.: H. J. Res. 36 [[VIEW RES. TEXT](#)]

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Jackson, Frank, Stark, and Doggett [[VIEW ALL](#)]

Date Introduced: March 2, 2005 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]

Key Issues: electoral college

Related Bills: H. J. Res. 17, H. J. Res. 50, S. J. Res. 11

Description: This resolution would amend the Constitution to abolish the Electoral College and provide for direct popular election of the President and Vice President. Voters would cast a single vote, jointly applicable to President and Vice President.

Bill No.: H.R. 1300 [[VIEW BILL TEXT](#)]

Short Title: Civic Participation and Rehabilitation Act of 2005

Primary Sponsors: Rep. Conyers and 32 co-sponsors [[VIEW ALL](#)]

Date Introduced: March 15, 2005 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]

Key Issues: felony re-enfranchisement

Description: This bill would restore voting rights to eligible people with criminal convictions post-incarceration. Correctional institutions would be required to inform eligible people of their right to vote when they are released from incarceration.

Bill No.: H.R. 1579 [[VIEW BILL TEXT](#)]
Short Title: Count Every Vote Act of 2005
Primary Sponsors: Rep. Price
Date Introduced: April 12, 2005 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]
Key Issues: electoral college

Description: This bill would extend the time for electors to meet and vote from the first Monday after the second Wednesday in December to the first day after the January 1 (or if January 1 is a Sunday, the second day) following their appointment. This bill would also amend the method of delivery of electors' votes from registered mail to "the most expeditious method available" to ensure receipt by the first day after the January 1 (or if January 1 is a Sunday, the second day) following their appointment.

Bill No.: H.R. 1835 [[VIEW BILL TEXT](#)]
Short Title: Universal Right to Vote by Mail Act of 2005
Primary Sponsors: Rep. Davis and 15 co-sponsors [[VIEW ALL](#)]
Date Introduced: April 26, 2005 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]
Key Issues: absentee ballots

Description: This bill would permit voters to vote by mail for any reason and would prohibit states from imposing additional conditions or requirements on people who want to vote by mail.

Bill No.: H.R. 2104 [[VIEW BILL TEXT](#)]
Primary Sponsors: Rep. Norton [[VIEW ALL](#)]
Date Introduced: May 4, 2005 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]
Key Issues: early voting, absentee ballots, provisional ballots

Description:

- *Early Voting:* This bill would permit local jurisdictions to conduct voting before Election Day.
- *Absentee Ballots:* This bill would require election officials to accept absentee ballots that are sent without sufficient postage.

- *Provisional Ballots*: This bill would require election officials to count provisional ballots cast by eligible voters at the incorrect polling place. Election officials must notify voters of their correct polling place if they are at the incorrect polling place.
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Bill No.: H.R. 2250 [[VIEW BILL TEXT](#)]

Short Title: Valuing Our Trust in Elections Act

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Green and Kennedy [[VIEW ALL](#)]

Date Introduced: May 11, 2005 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]

Key Issues: voting systems, absentee ballots, poll worker training, election misconduct, voter ID, voter registration

Related Bills: H.R. 5776

Description:

- *Election Misconduct*: This bill would require the Attorney General to investigate allegations of election misconduct within 30 days of receipt of a complaint.
 - *Voter Registration*: This bill would require anyone who distributes more than 10 voter registration forms to provide their contact information and organizational information to voter registration applicants they assist and attest that applicants presented current, valid, government-issued photo ID with their current address. It prohibits anyone with a felony conviction from registering voters.
 - *Absentee Ballots*: This bill would prohibit anyone other than the voter or any person authorized to handle material delivered to the individuals (such as a caregiver or guardian) from handling an absentee ballot.
 - *Voter ID*: This provision requires the presentation of current, valid, government-issued photo ID in order to register to vote or to vote. The EAC can provide states with grants to subsidize the cost of issuing photo ID, with limitations.
 - *Poll Worker Training*: This bill would require individuals to complete state training in order to serve as a poll worker on Election Day. The EAC can provide states with grants to implement training programs.
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Res. No.: H. J. Res. 50 [[VIEW RES. TEXT](#)]

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Lofgren, Woolsey, Stark, McDermott, and Serrano [[VIEW ALL](#)]

Date Introduced: May 12, 2005 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]

Key Issues: electoral college

Related Bills: H. J. Res. 8, H. J. Res. 36, S. J. Res. 11

Description: This resolution would amend the Constitution to abolish the Electoral College and provide for direct popular election of the President and Vice President. Congress would determine the time, place, and manner of holding the election, among other things. Voters would cast a single vote, jointly applicable to President and Vice President.

Bill No.: H.R. 2398 [[VIEW BILL TEXT](#)]

Short Title: Constitutional Protection of the Right to Vote Act

Primary Sponsors: Rep. Davis

Date Introduced: May 17, 2005 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]

Key Issues: felony re-enfranchisement

Description: This bill would restore voting rights to eligible people with criminal convictions post-incarceration and post-supervision. Correctional institutions would be required to inform eligible people of their right to vote when they are released from incarceration.

Bill No.: H.R. 2690 [[VIEW BILL TEXT](#)]

Short Title: Voter Choice Act of 2005

Primary Sponsors: Rep. McKinney [[VIEW ALL](#)]

Date Introduced: May 26, 2005 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]

Key Issues: proportional voting system

Description: This bill would permit states that are entitled to more than one Representative in Congress to establish multi-seat districts and a proportional voting system for election of Representatives. The bill would also require states to conduct general federal elections using an instant runoff voting system where voters can rank candidates on the ballot in order of preference and runoff counts are conducted in rounds. The EAC would be required to establish a grant program to help defray the costs of administering an instant runoff or proportional voting system in a state.

Bill No.: H.R. 2778 [[VIEW BILL TEXT](#)]

Short Title: Common Sense in Voter Registration Act of 2005

Primary Sponsors: Rep. Dent

Date Introduced: June 7, 2005 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]

Key Issues: purges

Description: This bill would amend the National Voter Registration Act to permit registrars to remove individuals from the voter rolls if the individual (1) has not voted or appeared to vote in 2 consecutive regularly schedule general elections; (2) has been mailed a notice to the address used to register; and (3) has failed to respond to the notice within 60 days.

Bill No.: H.R. 3094 [[VIEW BILL TEXT](#)]

Short Title: Secure America's Vote Act of 2005

Primary Sponsors: Rep. Hoyer [[VIEW ALL](#)]

Date Introduced: June 28, 2005 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]

Key Issues: voter registration, purges, provisional ballots, voting systems, impartial election administration, deceptive practices

Description:

- *Processing Voter Registration Applications:* This bill would require the EAC to revise the mail-in voter registration form to emphasize the citizenship requirement. It also prohibits states from rejecting voter registration applications due to errors that the state can correct with reasonable effort.
- *Purges:* This bill would require the National Institute of Standards and Technology to establish accuracy standards for states to meet to purge names from the voter rolls for reasons of felony status or death. States must post public notices listing purged names, the reasons for purging, and information about appealing a removal.
- *Provisional Ballots:* This bill would require states to count provisional ballots cast by eligible voters at the wrong poll site.
- *Voting Systems:* This bill would ban wireless, power-line, and concealed communication devices in voting systems and require that all technological information such as voting system software's source code is available for inspection.
- *Impartial Election Administration:* This bill would require states to publish and update information about state election law on the internet. Additionally, states would be required to post a list of the names of all the registered voters within a jurisdiction as well as their poll site assignments at polling places.

- *Deceptive Practices:* This bill would prohibit anyone from providing false information regarding an individual's eligibility to vote.
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Bill No.: H.R. 3557 [[VIEW BILL TEXT](#)]

Short Title: Voter Outreach and Turnout Expansion Act of 2005

Primary Sponsors: Rep. Hastings

Date Introduced: July 28, 2005 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]

Key Issues: Election Day registration, early voting, absentee ballots, Election Day holiday

Description:

- *Election Day Registration:* This bill would amend the Help America Vote Act to require states to permit individuals to register to vote at poll sites on Election Day. If individuals' voter registration applications are received after the voter registration deadline, states must notify individuals of their ability to register to vote at their polling places on Election Day.
 - *Early Voting:* This bill would require states to permit jurisdictions to conduct early voting. At least two of the days during the early voting period must be weekend days. Ballots cast before Election Day would be processed in the same way as absentee ballots. The locations of early voting poll sites must be proportional to the geographic distribution of the voting age population.
 - *Absentee Ballots:* This bill would permit voters to obtain absentee ballots for without providing a reason.
 - *Election Day Holiday:* This bill would make Election Day a federal public holiday.
 - *Voting Leave:* This bill would require employers to allow employees to take up to 2 hours leave in order to vote on any workday on which a federal election is held. This leave may be paid or unpaid unrelated to any employment benefit.
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Bill No.: H.R. 3734 [[VIEW BILL TEXT](#)]

Short Title: Displaced Citizens Voters Protection Act of 2005

Primary Sponsors: Rep. Davis and 41 co-sponsors [[VIEW ALL](#)]

Date Introduced: September 13, 2005 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]

Key Issues: absentee ballots

Related Bills: S. 1867

Description: This bill contains similar absentee ballot provisions for Hurricane Katrina evacuees as S. 1867.

Res. No.: H. Con. Res. 247 [[VIEW RES. TEXT](#)]

Primary Sponsors: Rep. Lewis and 25 co-sponsors [[VIEW ALL](#)]

Date Introduced: September 20, 2005 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]

Key Issues: voter ID

Related Bills: S. Con. Res. 53

Description: This concurrent resolution expresses the sense of Congress that any effort to impose national photo ID requirements for voting should be rejected.

Bill No.: H.R. 3910 [[VIEW BILL TEXT](#)]

Short Title: Verifying the Outcome of Tomorrow's Elections Act of 2005

Primary Sponsors: Rep. Feeney and 10 co-sponsors [[VIEW ALL](#)]

Date Introduced: September 27, 2005 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]

Key Issues: voting systems, impartial election administration, voter ID, voter registration

Description:

- *Voter ID:* This bill would require voters to present current, valid, state-issued photo ID for voting. Acceptable ID must have: (1) the person's full legal name; (2) the person's date of birth; (3) the person's gender; (4) the person's number for the form of ID; (5) digital photograph of the person; (6) the person's address of principle residence; and (7) the person's signature.

In order to obtain the photo ID described above, a person must present: (1) a photo ID or non-photo ID that shows the person's full legal name and date of birth; (2) documentation showing the person's date of birth; (3) a Social Security number or verification that the person is not eligible for an SSN; and (4) documentation of name and principal residential address. No foreign documents other than an official passport can satisfy these requirements.

- *Voting Systems:* This bill would require regular testing of voting systems, as well as the production of a voter-verifiable paper record.

- *Limitation on Who Can Become Poll Workers:* This bill would prohibit people with certain criminal convictions from being poll workers.
 - *Voter Registration Drives:* This bill would prohibit per form payment to anyone who distributes or collects voter registration forms.
-

Bill No.: H.R. 4141 [[VIEW BILL TEXT](#)]

Primary Sponsors: Rep. Millender-McDonald and 9 co-sponsors [[VIEW ALL](#)]

Date Introduced: October 25, 2005 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]

Key Issues: absentee ballots

Description: This bill would permit the use of a national federal write-in absentee ballot in federal elections. Ballots will not be disqualified if voters write in political party names where candidate names are requested or if the ballot contains any abbreviations, misspellings, or other minor variations in names.

Bill No.: H.R. 4225 [[VIEW BILL TEXT](#)]

Short Title: Victims of Violence Confidentiality Act of 2005

Primary Sponsors: Rep. DeLauro and 16 co-sponsors [[VIEW ALL](#)]

Date Introduced: November 3, 2005 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]

Key Issues: voter registration

Description: This bill would require states to keep the addresses of victims of domestic violence confidential on statewide voter registration lists. In order to obtain this protection, voters must provide official documentation or sign an affidavit.

Bill No.: H.R. 4462 [[VIEW BILL TEXT](#)]

Short Title: Voter Verification Act

Primary Sponsors: Rep. Gingrey

Date Introduced: December 7, 2005 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]

Key Issues: voter ID, proof of citizenship

Description: This bill would amend the National Voter Registration Act to require individuals to provide photographic proof of citizenship to register to vote and to vote. Driver's licenses do not satisfy this requirement unless proof of citizenship was required to obtain the driver's license.

Bill No.: H.R. 4463 [[VIEW BILL TEXT](#)]

Short Title: Deceptive Practices and Voter Intimidation Prevention Act of 2005

Primary Sponsors: Rep. Holt and 42 co-sponsors [[VIEW ALL](#)]

Date Introduced: December 7, 2005 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]

Key Issues: deceptive practices

Related Bills: S. 1975, S. 4069

Description: This bill would amend the Voting Rights Act to prohibit a person from "knowingly deceiv[ing]" any other person regarding the "time, place, or manner of conducting" any Federal election or voter eligibility for a Federal election. It also establishes federal enforcement mechanisms for violations.

Bill No.: H.R. 4762 [[VIEW BILL TEXT](#)]

Short Title: Second Chance Voting Rights Act of 2006

Primary Sponsors: Rep. Millender-McDonald

Date Introduced: February 15, 2006 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]

Key Issues: felony re-enfranchisement

Related Bills: H.R. 663

Description: This bill would restore voting rights to eligible people with criminal convictions upon completion of incarceration and sentencing, including parole. States would be entitled afford the right to vote to people with criminal convictions on less restrictive terms than in this Act.

Bill No.: H.R. 4844 [[VIEW BILL TEXT](#)]

Short Title: Federal Election Integrity Act of 2006

Primary Sponsors: Rep. Hyde and 11 co-sponsors [[VIEW ALL](#)]

Date Introduced: March 2, 2006, passed on September 20, 2006 and received in Senate

[\[VIEW STATUS\]](#)

Key Issues: voter ID, proof of citizenship, provisional ballots

Description:

- *Voter ID:* In order to obtain a ballot, this bill would require all voters to show a valid, current, government-issued photo ID for which the individual was required to provide proof of U.S. citizenship to obtain the ID. This bill also requires states to make such photo IDs available to people who do not possess them at a reasonable cost, or in the case of indigent individuals, free of charge.
- *Provisional Ballots:* This bill would permit individuals who do not provide such ID to cast provisional ballots, but those ballots will only count if individuals present the ID described in this bill to election officials within 48 hours.

Bill No.: H.R. 4989 [\[VIEW BILL TEXT\]](#)

Short Title: Electoral Fairness Act of 2006

Primary Sponsors: Rep. Holt

Date Introduced: March 16, 2006 [\[VIEW STATUS\]](#)

Key Issues: provisional ballots, election resource allocation, impartial election administration, poll worker training, early voting, voter ID, purges, voter registration

Description:

- *Provisional Ballots:* This bill would require a provisional ballot cast by an eligible individual at the wrong poll site to count as a vote in an election without the provision of additional ID on or after an election. States would be required to establish procedures for an individual to challenge a determination that a provisional ballot would not count in an election.
- *Allocation of Election Resources:* This bill would require states to establish standards and procedures to ensure adequate and equitable allocation of election resources so that a voter would not wait more than one hour to vote.
- *Election Administration:* This bill would require states to post voter lists online and in each polling place that indicate voters' poll site assignments.
- *Poll Worker Training:* This bill would require states to establish and operate training and compensation standards for poll workers.
- *Early Voting:* This bill would permit states to conduct early voting in polling places.

- *Voter ID*: This bill would require states to issue durable voter registration cards that include the voter’s name and address at no charge to voters that will serve as proof of registration at poll sites even if the individual’s name does not appear in the poll books. The EAC may provide grants to eligible states to cover the costs of providing the voter IDs.
- *Purges*: This bill would amend NVRA to require states to notify registrants if their names may be purged from the voter rolls for reasons other than death or change of address. States must notify registrants by “forwardable mail” at least 30 days before an election describing the reason for removal from the voter rolls and an opportunity to challenge the intended purge.
- *Processing Voter Registration Applications*: This bill would require states to “act under the presumption that applicants should be registered.” It would require states to accept voter registration applications so long as they contain all of the information required on the national mail-in voter registration form or other State-developed voter registration form.

Bill No.: H.R. 5676 [[VIEW BILL TEXT](#)]

Short Title: Federal Election Administration Act of 2006

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Shays and Meehan [[VIEW ALL](#)]

Date Introduced: June 22, 2006 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]

Key Issues: impartial election administration

Related Bills: S. 3560

Description: This bill would establish a Federal Election Administration to implement this Act and policy related to the Presidential Election Campaign Fund Act and the Presidential Primary Matching Payment Act under chapters 95 and 96, respectively, of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. The administration would be composed of three members appointed by the President and staff.

Bill No.: H.R. 5776 [[VIEW BILL TEXT](#)]

Short Title: Voter Bounty Registration Act of 2006

Primary Sponsors: Rep. Pearce

Date Introduced: July 12, 2006 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]

Key Issues: voter registration

Description: This bill would establish standards for the distribution of voter registration forms. It would prohibit people who are not registered in the State or have a felony conviction in any State from distributing voter registration forms. Additionally, it would require individuals who assist others to

register to vote to sign and print their names and provide contact information for themselves and any organization they are working for on the voter registration forms prior to submitting those forms to election officials. Failure to comply with these provisions would render both the individuals and the organizations liable.

Bill No.: H.R. 5777 [[VIEW BILL TEXT](#)]

Short Title: Fair Voter Education Act of 2006

Primary Sponsors: Rep. Pearce

Date Introduced: July 12, 2006 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]

Key Issues: impartial election administration

Description: This bill would prohibit states from using HAVA funding to disseminate any communication that promotes or opposes a candidate for public office or a political party.

Bill No.: H.R. 5913 [[VIEW BILL TEXT](#)]

Short Title: Voter Integrity Protection Act of 2006

Primary Sponsors: Rep. Tancredo

Date Introduced: July 26, 2006 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]

Key Issues: voter ID, proof of citizenship

Description: This bill would require all voters to provide government-issued photo ID that also serves as proof of citizenship in order to vote. A state-issued driver's license is not sufficient identification unless the state requires proof of citizenship to obtain a driver's license. States must provide photo ID free of charge to people who do not possess it. The EAC is required to provide states grants to cover the cost of providing such photo IDs to people.

Bill No.: H.R. 6187 [[VIEW BILL TEXT](#)]

Short Title: Confidence in Voting Act of 2006

Primary Sponsors: Rep. Holt and 31 co-sponsors [[VIEW ALL](#)]

Date Introduced: September 26, 2006 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]

Key Issues: voting systems

Related Bills: S. 3943

Description: This bill would require the EAC to make payments to jurisdictions that use electronic voting systems to pay for the cost of preparation, production, and use of contingency paper ballots in the November 2006 general election to a maximum of 75 cents per paper ballot. Jurisdictions would be required to post notices at polling places informing voters that paper ballots are available and that voters may request to one for any reason. Contingency ballots cast would be required to be treated as regular ballots and counted as such.

Bill No.: H.R. 6200 [[VIEW BILL TEXT](#)]

Short Title: Paper Ballot Act of 2006

Primary Sponsors: Rep. Kucinich and 20 co-sponsors [[VIEW ALL](#)]

Date Introduced: September 27, 2006 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]

Key Issues: paper ballots, Election Day holiday

Description:

- *Election Administration:* This bill would require states to conduct Presidential elections using only paper ballots, beginning in 2008. A maximum of 500 ballots can be cast in a precinct. The ballots must be hand counted at the precinct; the hand count must be publicly observable.
 - *Election Day Holiday:* This bill would make every Presidential Election Day observed as “Washington’s Birthday.”
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Bill No.: H.R. 6414 [[VIEW BILL TEXT](#)]

Short Title: Vote Tabulation Audit Act of 2006

Primary Sponsors: Rep. Holt

Date Introduced: December 7, 2006 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]

Key Issues: voting systems

Description: This bill would establish requirements for the tabulation of votes and aggregation of vote counts by polling place. Election officials would be required to record, among other things, the number of regular, emergency paper, and provisional ballots cast, the number of overvotes, undervotes, and blank votes for each candidate, and the number of people who were prohibited from casting ballots, including provisional ballots. Election officials would be required to publicly post certain vote tabulation information after an election.