

**SUMMARY OF FEDERAL ELECTION REFORM LEGISLATION
INTRODUCED IN THE 110TH CONGRESS**

This is a brief summary of federal election reform legislation introduced in the 110th 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

Res. No.: S.J. Res. 2 [[VIEW RES. TEXT](#)]

Sponsors: Sen. Vitter

Date Introduced: January 12, 2007 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]

Key Issues: term limits

Description: This joint resolution would amend the Constitution to limit members of the House of Representatives to 6 terms of service and members of the Senate to 2 terms of service.

Bill No.: S. 453 [[VIEW BILL TEXT](#)]

Short Title: Deceptive Practices and Voter Intimidation Prevention Act of 2007

Sponsors: Sen. Obama and 20 co-sponsors [[VIEW ALL](#)]

Date Introduced: January 31, 2007 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]

Key Issues: deceptive practices

Related Bills: H.R. 1281

Description: This bill would prohibit a person from intentionally communicating information known to be false with respect to the “time, place, or manner” of any federal election, voter eligibility for federal elections, candidates’ political party affiliations, or explicit endorsements of candidates for federal office within 60 days of any federal election. It also establishes federal enforcement mechanisms for violations.

Bill No.: S. 478 [[VIEW BILL TEXT](#)]
Short Title: Federal Election Administration Act of 2007
Sponsors: Sen. McCain and 1 co-sponsor [[VIEW ALL](#)]
Date Introduced: February 1, 2007 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]
Key Issues: impartial election administration
Related Bills: H.R. 421
Description: This bill would establish a Federal Election Administration to replace the Federal Election Commission and implement policy under this Act and chapters 95 and 96 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

Bill No.: S. 559 [[VIEW BILL TEXT](#)]
Short Title: Voting Integrity and Verification Act of 2007
Sponsors: Sen. Nelson
Date Introduced: February 13, 2007 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]
Key Issues: voting systems, impartial election administration
Related Bills: H.R. 811

Description:

- *Voting Systems:* This bill would amend HAVA to for the purpose of increasing voting system security. It would mandate voter-verifiable paper ballots and disability accessible alternatives to paper ballots that could be preserved for manual audits and recounts. It would establish federal enforcement mechanisms for violations. Generally, the paper ballots would be considered the official vote record, except where the paper ballots could be shown to be compromised “by clear and convincing evidence.” This bill would also establish minimum security requirements for voting systems and minimum procedural requirements for the administration of elections relating to voting technology including detailed guidelines for conducting audits.
 - *Impartial Election Administration:* This bill would also prohibit participation in political campaigns by election officials.
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Bill No.: S. 730 [[VIEW BILL TEXT](#)]

Short Title: Voting Opportunity and Technology Enhancement Act of 2007

Sponsors: Sen. Dodd and 1 co-sponsor [[VIEW ALL](#)]

Date Introduced: March 1, 2007 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]

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

Description:

- *Absentee Ballots:* 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 mandate voter-verifiable records on all voting systems including means of verification for people with disabilities.
- *Provisional Ballots:* This bill would require states to count provisional ballots cast at the incorrect poll sites if they are otherwise eligible.
- *Election Resource Allocation:* This bill would require states to ensure that a minimum number of election resources such as voting machines and poll workers are allocated to poll sites.
- *Election Day Registration:* This bill would require states to allow people to register to vote and to vote on the day of a federal election.
- *Purges:* This bill would require states to post public notices of purges of names from the voter rolls at least 45 days before a federal election. It would also require states to mail voters notices of the intention to purge their names from the rolls.
- *Early Voting:* This bill would require states to permit early voting at least 15 days before a federal election. It also establishes requirements for poll sites where early voting is permitted.
- *Election Day Holiday:* This bill would encourage the study of the feasibility of making Election Day a public holiday.
- *Voter Registration:* This bill would permit voter registration applicants to sign an affidavit attesting to citizenship and age eligibility in lieu of checking the age and citizenship boxes on a voter registration form. It would also require states to establish on-line voter registration.
- *Voter ID:* This bill would add as acceptable proof of identity for in-person voting and voting by mail an executed affidavit attesting to one's identity.

- *Impartial Election Administration:* This bill would require states to post public notices of changes in state election laws at least 15 days before federal elections. It would also require states to treat election observers in a uniform and nondiscriminatory manner.
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Bill No.: S. 737 [[VIEW BILL TEXT](#)]

Short Title: Voter Advocate and Democracy Index Act of 2007

Sponsors: Sen. Obama and 1 co-sponsor [[VIEW ALL](#)]

Date Introduced: March 1, 2007 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]

Key Issues: democracy index

Description: This bill would amend HAVA to establish an Office of the Voter Advocate to collect voter data, such as the amount of time voters spent waiting at polling places and provisional ballot voting rates, from a sample of precincts in each state. This office would be required to report on and to publish a Democracy Index ranking states' administration of elections based on the data collection. A pilot program would be established during the fall 2008 general elections.

Bill No.: S. 804 [[VIEW BILL TEXT](#)]

Short Title: Count Every Vote Act of 2007

Sponsors: Sen. Clinton and 7 co-sponsors [[VIEW ALL](#)]

Date Introduced: March 7, 2007 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]

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

Related Bills: H.R. 1381

Description: This bill would provide for a variety of election reforms, including the following:

- *Voter-Verifiable Paper Records:* This bill would require the creation or use of durable voter-verifiable paper ballots, including disability and language minority accessible options, on all voting machines preserved for the purpose of manual audits. These ballots would be the “true and correct” vote in the event of inconsistencies between the electronic tally and the hand tally, unless it can be demonstrated that the paper ballots have been compromised by “clear and convincing” evidence.
- *Mandatory Manual Audits:* This bill would require random, unannounced, manual, mandatory recounts of the voter-verified paper ballots. Each state would have a designated “chief auditor” to

administrate the audits. This bill would also mandate other procedures and standards to ensure the security and reliability of voting systems.

- *Provisional Ballots*: This bill would amend HAVA to permit “properly registered” voters who cast provisional ballots to have their votes counted without any requirement to present ID to election officials. If an individual who has cast a provisional ballot is not registered to vote, the provisional ballot will serve as the individual’s voter registration application.
- *Allocation of Election Resources*: This bill would require states to allocate election resources such as voting machines and poll workers to ensure that voters wait no more than one hour at a polling place to vote.
- *Emergency Ballots*: This bill would provide for emergency ballots in the event of voting equipment failure or other circumstances that cause unreasonable delays at the poll site.
- *No-Excuse Absentee Voting*: This bill would permit voters to cast absentee ballots for any reason. Absentee ballots would count if postmarked by Election Day and received by the state deadline for absentee ballots or 10 days after the date of an election, whichever is later.
- *Election Data Collection*: This bill would require the EAC to collect and report to Congress on state voter and election-related data.
- *Poll Worker Training*: This bill would require states to provide poll workers with a minimum of training on a number of election administration topics and procedures. It would also require the study of methods to encourage high school students and government employees to be poll workers.
- *Impartial Election Administration*: This bill would require states to publish election laws, regulations, procedures, and practices and would generally prohibit states from changing election laws within 45 days of an election. This bill would also establish standards and procedures for election observers and prohibit election officials and voting system manufacturers from participating in certain political campaign activities.
- *Purges*: This bill would require states to make purge processes more transparent. States would be required to post public notices of names removed from the voter rolls. Additionally, states would be required to notify voters before purging their names from the rolls and provide them with an opportunity to challenge a purge notice. This bill would require states to preserve purged records for at least 5 years.
- *Election Day Registration*: This bill would require states to permit individuals to register to vote and to vote in an election on the date of an election at poll sites. Grants would be available to states to implement Election Day Registration programs.
- *Early Voting*: This bill would require states to establish early voting poll sites and permit voting at least 15 days before the date of an election. States would also be required to offer same day voter registration at early voting poll sites.

- *Voter Registration*: This bill would require states to implement new procedures and practices to encourage newly eligible people to register to vote and educate high school students on the importance of the political process. It would also clarify the language on voter registration applications to reduce voter confusion and ensure that registration applications are processed 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. The EAC would be required to study the feasibility of on-line voter registration.
- *Voter ID*: This bill would amend the list of acceptable forms of voter ID to include executed written affidavits attesting to one’s identity.
- *Deceptive Practices*: This bill would prohibit a person from “knowingly deceiv[ing]” any other person regarding the “time, place or manner of conducting” any federal election or the “qualifications or restrictions of voter eligibility” for any federal election.
- *Felon Re-enfranchisement*: This bill would restore federal voting rights to people with felony convictions upon completion of incarceration time, parole, and probation, and states would be permitted to enact less restrictive felon re-enfranchisement laws. It would also require states to notify ex-offenders of their eligibility.
- *Election Day Holiday*: This bill would establish Election Day a public holiday.
- *Democracy Index*: This bill would require the study of the feasibility of creating a “Democracy Index,” a ranking system of state election administration practices.

Bill No.: S. 936 [[VIEW BILL TEXT](#)]

Short Title: Fair Elections Now Act

Sponsors: Sen. Durbin and 3 co-sponsors [[VIEW ALL](#)]

Date Introduced: March 20, 2007 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]

Key Issues: campaign finance

Related Bills: H.R. 1614, S. 1285

Description: This bill would establish a system of voluntary full public financing for Senate campaigns. Candidates who meet certain thresholds of viability would be eligible to receive public funds to conduct their campaigns in exchange for a promise not to accept additional private funds and to abide by spending limits.

Bill No.: S. 979 [[VIEW BILL TEXT](#)]

Short Title: Vote by Mail Act of 2007

Sponsors: Sen. Wyden and 4 co-sponsors [[VIEW ALL](#)]

Date Introduced: March 23, 2007 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]

Key Issues: absentee ballots

Related Bills: H.R. 1667

Description: This bill would establish a grant program to assist states with the implementation of vote by mail systems. Participating states would be required to meet minimum procedural standards in the administration of their vote by mail systems. This bill would also require the study of vote by mail systems.

Bill No.: S. 1257 [[VIEW BILL TEXT](#)]

Short Title: District of Columbia House Voting Rights Act of 2007

Sponsors: Sen. Lieberman and 20 co-sponsors [[VIEW ALL](#)]

Date Introduced: May 1, 2007 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]

Key Issues: DC voting rights

Related Bills: H.R. 328, H.R. 1433, H.R. 1905

Description: This bill would provide for the consideration of the District of Columbia as a Congressional district for the purposes of representation in the House of Representatives. The bill would permanently increase the membership of the House to 437 members. During the 111th and 112th Congresses, Utah would have additional Representative.

Bill No.: S. 1285 [[VIEW BILL TEXT](#)]

Short Title: Fair Elections Now Act

Sponsors: Sen. Durbin and 9 co-sponsors [[VIEW ALL](#)]

Date Introduced: May 3, 2007 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]

Key Issues: campaign finance

Related Bills: H.R. 1614, S. 936

Description: This bill would establish a system of voluntary full public financing for Senate campaigns. Candidates who meet certain thresholds of viability would be eligible to receive public

funds to conduct their campaigns in exchange for a promise not to accept additional private funds and to abide by spending limits.

Bill No.: S. 1487 [[VIEW BILL TEXT](#)]

Short Title: Ballot Integrity Act of 2007

Sponsors: Sen. Feinstein and 11 co-sponsors [[VIEW ALL](#)]

Date Introduced: May 24, 2007 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]

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

Description: This bill would provide for a number of changes in voting systems and other improvements to election administration including the following:

- *Voter-Verified Paper Records:* This bill would amend HAVA to require voter-verified paper records on all voting systems. It would put a moratorium on the purchase of voting systems by states and jurisdictions that do not produce a voter-verified paper record and provide federal funding to states to meet these requirements. This bill would also mandate other procedures and standards to ensure the security and reliability of voting systems.
- *Mandatory Manual Audits:* This bill would require random, transparent manual audits of 2 percent of precincts in each state and publicly report on audit results. Where electronic voting machines are used, the audit would consist of manual counts of voter-verified paper records compared to electronic tallies of voting machines.
- *Absentee Ballots:* This bill would require states to offer absentee ballots to individuals. States would not be permitted to impose additional conditions or requirements on individuals who choose to vote absentee.
- *Third-Party Voter Registration:* This bill would prohibit state limitations on voter registration conducted by third parties. States would be able to prohibit and penalize certain practices related to voter registration.
- *Poll Worker Training:* This bill would establish a training program for poll workers on relevant election law and administrative procedures.
- *Election Resource Allocation:* This bill would require states to allocate election resources such as voting machines and poll workers in an equitable matter to minimize long lines and delays at polling places.
- *Impartial Election Administration:* This bill would prohibit chief state election officials from participating in political activities they supervise in their capacities as election officials.

- *Purges of Voter Lists:* This bill would establish standards for purges of voter lists to prevent erroneous removals and provide voters with an opportunity to be restored to voter lists if they have been erroneously removed. States would be required to post public notice of scheduled purges.
 - *Early Voting:* This bill would require states to allow early voting at least 15 days before a scheduled election. It also establishes requirements for early voting sites.
 - *Provisional Ballots:* This bill would require states to count provisional ballots cast at the incorrect polling place if they are otherwise eligible to vote for an office.
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Bill No.: S. 1869 [[VIEW BILL TEXT](#)]

Short Title: Voting Integrity and Verification Act of 2007

Sponsors: Sen. Ensign

Date Introduced: July 25, 2007 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]

Key Issues: voting systems

Description: This bill would amend HAVA to require voting machines purchased after 2012 to produce voter-verifiable paper records. It would also require manual audits of the voter-verified paper records. If there are inconsistencies between the electronic vote tallies and the voter-verified paper records, the paper records are the true record of votes cast. This bill would also establish a program to award cash prizes to individuals who improve the accessibility of voting machines for people with disabilities.

Bill No.: S. 1905 [[VIEW BILL TEXT](#)]

Short Title: Regional Presidential Primary and Caucus Act of 2007

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

Date Introduced: July 31, 2007 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]

Key Issues: primary elections

Related Bills: H.R. 3487

Description: This bill would establish a rotating schedule for primary Presidential elections to occur during four weeks selected in March, April, May, and June. It would divide the states into four regions, and each region would hold their primary elections during one of the four weeks in the order set forth in this bill.

Bill No.: S. 2024 [[VIEW BILL TEXT](#)]
Short Title: Fair and Representative Presidential Primaries Act of 2007
Sponsors: Sen. Nelson and 1 co-sponsor [[VIEW ALL](#)]
Date Introduced: September 1, 2007 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]
Key Issues: primary elections
Related Bills: H.R. 1523
Description: This bill would divide states into six regions, and each region would be divided into six sub-regions. The six sub-regions within each region would rotate through a schedule of six primary election dates established by the bill.

Bill No.: S. 2295 [[VIEW BILL TEXT](#)]
Short Title: Voter Confidence and Increased Accessibility Act of 2007
Sponsors: Sen. Nelson and 1 co-sponsor [[VIEW ALL](#)]
Date Introduced: November 1, 2007 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]
Key Issues: voting systems
Related Bills: H.R. 811
Description: This bill would require voting systems to produce a voter-verifiable paper records and mandatory manual audits of such records. It also requires the study of accessible ballot verification mechanisms and certain security policies with respect to voting system technologies and conflicts of interest. This bill would require election officials to offer pre-printed blank paper ballots in polling places. This bill would prohibit the use of paperless DRE voting machines in federal elections in 2012 and subsequent years.

Bill No.: S. 2305 [[VIEW BILL TEXT](#)]
Short Title: Caging Prohibition Act of 2007
Sponsors: Sen. Whitehouse and 14 co-sponsors [[VIEW ALL](#)]
Date Introduced: November 5, 2007 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]
Key Issues: voter challenges
Related Bills: H.R. 5038

Description: This bill would prohibit election officials from preventing individuals from registering to vote or voting in any federal election or from permitting formal voter challenges to voters' registration status or eligibility if the basis of information gathered from voter caging documents or lists or unverified match lists. It would also establish requirements of individuals who wish to challenge the voter eligibility of another individual and prohibit challenges based on voter caging documents or lists or unverified match lists.

Bill No.: S. 2624 [[VIEW BILL TEXT](#)]

Short Title: Robocall Privacy Act of 2008

Sponsors: Sen. Feinstein and 3 co-sponsors [[VIEW ALL](#)]

Date Introduced: February 12, 2008 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]

Key Issues: deceptive practices

Related Bills: H.R. 5747

Description: This bill would regulate political robocalls during the 60-day period before general elections and 30-day period before primary elections.

Bill No.: S. 2638 [[VIEW BILL TEXT](#)]

Short Title: Weekend Voting Act

Sponsors: Sen. Kohl and 1 co-sponsor [[VIEW ALL](#)]

Date Introduced: February 14, 2008 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]

Key Issues: Election Day holiday

Description: This bill would change the date of federal elections to the first Saturday and Sunday after the first Friday in November in every even numbered year. It would require polling places to be open beginning Saturday at 10:00 am local time and ending Sunday at 6:00 pm local time. It would allow polling places to close between 10:00 pm local time on Saturday and 6:00 am local time on Sunday.

Bill No.: S. 2959 [[VIEW BILL TEXT](#)]

Short Title: Election Day Registration Act

Sponsors: Sen. Feingold and 4 co-sponsors [[VIEW ALL](#)]

Date Introduced: May 1, 2008 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]

Key Issues: Election Day registration

Related Bills: H.R. 5946

Description: This bill would permit eligible individuals to register to vote and to vote on the date of any federal election.

INTRODUCED IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Res. No.: H. J. Res. 2 [[VIEW RES. TEXT](#)]

Sponsors: Rep. Christensen and 1 co-sponsor [[VIEW ALL](#)]

Date Introduced: January 4, 2007 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]

Key Issues: voting rights

Description: This joint resolution would amend the Constitution to ensure the right to vote for President and Vice President for every eligible person regardless of residency requirements for voting.

Res. No.: H. J. Res. 4 [[VIEW RES. TEXT](#)]

Short Title: Every Vote Counts Amendment

Sponsors: Rep. Green (TX) and 2 co-sponsors [[VIEW ALL](#)]

Date Introduced: January 4, 2007 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]

Key Issues: voting rights

Description: This joint resolution would amend the Constitution to abolish the Electoral College and provide for direct popular election of President and Vice President.

Bill No.: H.R. 101 [[VIEW BILL TEXT](#)]

Short Title: Federal Election Integrity Act of 2007

Sponsors: Rep. Davis and 14 co-sponsors [[VIEW ALL](#)]

Date Introduced: January 4, 2007 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]

Key Issues: impartial election administration

Description: This bill would prohibit chief state election administration officials from actively participating in political campaigns for elections for federal offices which they supervise.

Bill No.: H.R. 281 [[VIEW BILL TEXT](#)]

Short Title: Universal Right to Vote by Mail Act of 2007

Sponsors: Rep. Davis and 84 co-sponsors [[VIEW ALL](#)]
Date Introduced: January 5, 2007 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]
Key Issues: absentee ballots
Description: This bill would allow voters to vote by mail in federal elections for any reason.

Bill No.: H.R. 301 [[VIEW BILL TEXT](#)]
Short Title: Voter Bounty Registration Act of 2007
Sponsors: Rep. Pearce
Date Introduced: January 5, 2007 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]
Key Issues: voter registration
Description: This bill would amend HAVA to prohibit an individual from distributing voter registration forms if the individual: (1) is not registered to vote in the state; (2) has a felony conviction; (3) doesn't sign and print his name on the form; or (4) provide identifying information for himself and, if paid, the organization who pays him. Voter registration organizations and individual circulators would be penalized if they do not meet the requirements described above.

Bill No.: H.R. 302 [[VIEW BILL TEXT](#)]
Short Title: Fair Voter Education Act of 2007
Sponsors: Rep. Pearce
Date Introduced: January 5, 2007 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]
Key Issues: impartial election administration
Description: This bill would prohibit states from using public funds to directly or indirectly promote or oppose political candidates or political parties.

Bill No.: H.R. 328 [[VIEW BILL TEXT](#)]
Short Title: District of Columbia Fair and Equal House Voting Rights Act of 2007
Sponsors: Rep. Norton and 24 co-sponsors [[VIEW ALL](#)]

Date Introduced: January 9, 2007 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]

Key Issues: DC voting rights

Related Bills: H.R. 1433, H.R. 1905, S. 1257

Description: This bill would treat Washington, DC as a Congressional district and have no more than one representative in the House of Representatives. It would also permanently increase the membership of the House of Representatives from 435 to 437.

Bill No.: H.R. 421 [[VIEW BILL TEXT](#)]

Short Title: Federal Election Administration Act of 2007

Sponsors: Rep. Meehan and 1 co-sponsor [[VIEW ALL](#)]

Date Introduced: January 11, 2007 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]

Key Issues: impartial election administration

Related Bills: S. 478

Description: This bill would establish a Federal Election Administration to replace the Federal Election Commission and implement policy under this Act and chapters 95 and 96 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

Bill No.: H.R. 481 [[VIEW BILL TEXT](#)]

Short Title: Federal Election Integrity Act of 2007

Sponsors: Rep. Doolittle and 30 co-sponsors [[VIEW ALL](#)]

Date Introduced: January 16, 2007 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]

Key Issues: voter ID, provisional ballots

Description:

- *Voter ID:* This bill would require all voters to provide photo ID to vote. Beginning 2010, voters would be required to provide photo ID that required proof of citizenship for issuance. States are eligible for federal funding to provide such photo ID to people who cannot afford the fee to obtain it.
 - *Provisional Ballots:* This bill would require voters who cast provisional ballots to provide election officials with the ID described above within 48 hours for their votes to count.
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Bill No.: H.R. 492 [[VIEW BILL TEXT](#)]
Short Title: District of Columbia Voting Rights Restoration Act of 2007
Sponsors: Rep. Rohrabacher
Date Introduced: January 16, 2007 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]
Key Issues: DC voting rights

Description: This bill would treat residents of Washington DC as residents of the state of Maryland for the purpose of Congressional and Presidential elections. It would also permit residents Washington DC to hold Congressional office as residents of Maryland. This bill would also permanently increase the membership of the House of Representatives from 435 to 437 members. Generally, the entire area of Washington DC must be included in the same Congressional district, with exceptions. This bill also details policies relating to election administration in Washington DC.

Bill No.: H.R. 756 [[VIEW BILL TEXT](#)]
Short Title: E-Poll Book Improvement Act of 2007
Sponsors: Rep. DeGette and 5 co-sponsors [[VIEW ALL](#)]
Date Introduced: January 31, 2007 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]
Key Issues: electronic poll books

Description: This bill would require the Election Assistance Commission to develop and adopt voluntary system guidelines for electronic poll books.

Bill No.: H.R. 811 [[VIEW BILL TEXT](#)]
Short Title: Voter Confidence and Increased Accessibility Act of 2007
Sponsors: Rep. Holt and 216 co-sponsors [[VIEW ALL](#)]
Date Introduced: February 5, 2007 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]
Key Issues: voting systems
Related Bills: S. 559, S. 2295

Description: This bill would amend HAVA to for the purpose of increasing voting system security. It would mandate voter-verifiable paper ballots and disability accessible alternatives to paper ballots that could be preserved for manual audits and recounts. It would establish federal enforcement

mechanisms for violations. Generally, the paper ballots would be considered the official vote record, except where the paper ballots could be shown to be compromised “by clear and convincing evidence.” This bill would also establish minimum security requirements for voting systems and minimum procedural requirements for the administration of elections relating to voting technology including detailed guidelines for conducting audits.

Bill No.: H.R. 818 [[VIEW BILL TEXT](#)]

Short Title: Ex-Offenders Voting Rights Act of 2007

Sponsors: Rep. Rangel and 14 co-sponsors [[VIEW ALL](#)]

Date Introduced: February 5, 2007 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]

Key Issues: felony re-enfranchisement

Description: This bill would restore voting rights to people with felony convictions post-incarceration and post-parole or -probation. States are allowed to restore voting rights to people with felony convictions on less restrictive terms.

Bill No.: H.R. 879 [[VIEW BILL TEXT](#)]

Short Title: Verifying the Outcome of Tomorrow’s Elections Act of 2007

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

Date Introduced: February 7, 2007 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]

Key Issues: voter ID, voting systems, voter registration

Description:

- *Voter ID:* This bill would require all voters to show state-issued photo ID to vote in federal elections. This photo ID must contain: (1) the individual’s full legal name; (2) the individual’s date of birth; (3) the individual’s gender; (4) the individual’s ID number; (5) a digital photograph of the individual; (6) the individual’s residential address; (7) the individual’s signature; (8) security features to prevent fraudulent activities; and (9) common machine-readable technology.

To obtain the photo ID described above, a state must require an individual to present: (1) a photo ID, or non-photo ID that includes the individual’s full legal name and date of birth; (2) documentation of date of birth; (3) a social security number, or proof of ineligibility for a social security number; (4) documentation of name and residential address; and (5) proof of citizenship. This bill establishes procedural requirements for the issuance of state-issued photo IDs.

- *Voting Systems*: This bill would mandate regular testing of vote tabulation equipment. It would also require criminal background checks of any individual involved in the tabulation of votes or the certification of the vote tabulation. This bill would also mandate auditable paper records on all voting systems.
- *Voter Registration*: This bill would prohibit per form payment for the distribution or collection of voter registration applications.

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

Sponsors: Rep. Jackson and 51 co-sponsors [[VIEW ALL](#)]

Date Introduced: February 13, 2007 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]

Key Issues: voting rights, impartial election administration, Election Day registration

Description: This joint resolution would amend the Constitution to ensure the right to vote for all voting-age citizens. It would also require Congress to establish election performance standards for the administration of elections in the states and provide for Election Day registration.

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

Sponsors: Rep. Jackson

Date Introduced: February 13, 2007 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]

Key Issues: Electoral College

Description: This joint resolution would amend the Constitution to abolish the Electoral College and provide for the direct, popular election of President and Vice President.

Bill No.: H.R. 1281 [[VIEW BILL TEXT](#)]

Short Title: Deceptive Practices and Voter Intimidation Prevention Act of 2007

Sponsors: Rep. Emanuel and 60 co-sponsors [[VIEW ALL](#)]

Date Introduced: March 1, 2007 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]

Key Issues: deceptive practices

Related Bills: S. 453

Description: This bill would prohibit knowing communication of false information regarding “the time, place, or manner of conducting the election,” voter eligibility, or explicit endorsements of candidates for office with the intention of preventing individuals from voting in federal elections. It establishes enforcement mechanisms for violations.

Bill No.: H.R. 1381 [[VIEW BILL TEXT](#)]

Short Title: Count Every Vote Act of 2007

Sponsors: Rep. Tubbs Jones and 21 co-sponsors [[VIEW ALL](#)]

Date Introduced: March 7, 2007 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]

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

Related Bills: S. 804

Description: This bill would provide for a variety of election reforms, including the following:

- *Voter-Verifiable Paper Records:* This bill would require the creation or use of durable voter-verifiable paper ballots, including disability and language minority accessible options, on all voting machines preserved for the purpose of manual audits. These ballots would be the “true and correct” vote in the event of inconsistencies between the electronic tally and the hand tally, unless it can be demonstrated that the paper ballots have been compromised by “clear and convincing” evidence.
- *Mandatory Manual Audits:* This bill would require random, unannounced, manual, mandatory recounts of the voter-verified paper ballots. Each state would have a designated “chief auditor” to administrate the audits. This bill would also mandate other procedures and standards to ensure the security and reliability of voting systems.
- *Provisional Ballots:* This bill would amend HAVA to permit “properly registered” voters who cast provisional ballots to have their votes counted without any requirement to present ID to election officials. If an individual who has cast a provisional ballot is not registered to vote, the provisional ballot will serve as the individual’s voter registration application.
- *Allocation of Election Resources:* This bill would require states to allocate election resources such as voting machines and poll workers to ensure that voters wait no more than one hour at a polling place to vote.
- *Emergency Ballots:* This bill would provide for emergency ballots in the event of voting equipment failure or other circumstances that cause unreasonable delays at the poll site.

- *No-Excuse Absentee Voting*: This bill would permit voters to cast absentee ballots for any reason. Absentee ballots would count if postmarked by Election Day and received by the state deadline for absentee ballots or 10 days after the date of an election, whichever is later.
- *Election Data Collection*: This bill would require the EAC to collect and report to Congress on state voter and election-related data.
- *Poll Worker Training*: This bill would require states to provide poll workers with a minimum of training on a number of election administration topics and procedures. It would also require the study of methods to encourage high school students and government employees to be poll workers.
- *Impartial Election Administration*: This bill would require states to publish election laws, regulations, procedures, and practices and would generally prohibit states from changing election laws within 45 days of an election. This bill would also establish standards and procedures for election observers and prohibit election officials and voting system manufacturers from participating in certain political campaign activities.
- *Purges*: This bill would require states to make purge processes more transparent. States would be required to post public notices of names removed from the voter rolls. Additionally, states would be required to notify voters before purging their names from the rolls and provide them with an opportunity to challenge a purge notice. This bill would require states to preserve purged records for at least 5 years.
- *Election Day Registration*: This bill would require states to permit individuals to register to vote and to vote in an election on the date of an election at poll sites. Grants would be available to states to implement Election Day Registration programs.
- *Early Voting*: This bill would require states to establish early voting poll sites and permit voting at least 15 days before the date of an election. States would also be required to offer same day voter registration at early voting poll sites.
- *Voter Registration*: This bill would require states to implement new procedures and practices to encourage newly eligible people to register to vote and educate high school students on the importance of the political process. It would also clarify the language on voter registration applications to reduce voter confusion and ensure that registration applications are processed 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. The EAC would be required to study the feasibility of on-line voter registration.
- *Voter ID*: This bill would amend the list of acceptable forms of voter ID to include executed written affidavits attesting to one's identity.
- *Deceptive Practices*: This bill would prohibit a person from "knowingly deceiv[ing]" any other person regarding the "time, place or manner of conducting" any federal election or the "qualifications or restrictions of voter eligibility" for any federal election.

- *Felon Re-enfranchisement*: This bill would restore federal voting rights to people with felony convictions upon completion of incarceration time, parole, and probation, and states would be permitted to enact less restrictive felon re-enfranchisement laws. It would also require states to notify ex-offenders of their eligibility.
 - *Election Day Holiday*: This bill would require the study of making Election Day a public holiday.
 - *Democracy Index*: This bill would require the study of the feasibility of creating a “Democracy Index,” a ranking system of state election administration practices.
-

Bill No.: H.R. 1433 [[VIEW BILL TEXT](#)]

Short Title: District of Columbia House Voting Rights Act of 2007

Sponsors: Rep. Norton and 18 co-sponsors [[VIEW ALL](#)]

Date Introduced: March 7, 2007 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]

Key Issues: DC Voting Rights

Related Bills: H.R. 328, H.R. 1905, S. 1257

Description: This bill would permanently increase the membership of the House of Representatives to 437 members and establish the District of Columbia as a Congressional district to have a representative in the House of Representatives. During the 110th, 111th, and 112th Congresses, one state would be entitled to elect a Representative at large until the next apportionment of Representatives.

Bill No.: H.R. 1523 [[VIEW BILL TEXT](#)]

Short Title: Interregional Presidential Primary and Caucus Act of 2007

Sponsors: Rep. Levin and 1 co-sponsor [[VIEW ALL](#)]

Date Introduced: March 14, 2007 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]

Key Issues: primary elections

Related Bills: S. 2024

Description: This bill would divide states into six regions, and each region would be divided into six sub-regions. The six sub-regions within each region would rotate through a schedule of six primary election dates established by the bill.

Bill No.: H.R. 1646 [[VIEW BILL TEXT](#)]
Short Title: Mail-In Ballot Tracking Act of 2007
Sponsors: Rep. Davis and 10 co-sponsors [[VIEW ALL](#)]
Date Introduced: March 22, 2007 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]

Key Issues: absentee ballots

Description: This bill would require states to implement tracking procedures and systems for any ballots transmitted by mail so that appropriate election officials and voters may check on the progress of their ballots, including if their ballots have been counted or rejected, while ensuring the privacy of information.

Bill No.: H.R. 1667 [[VIEW BILL TEXT](#)]
Short Title: Vote by Mail Act of 2007
Sponsors: Rep. Davis and 14 co-sponsors [[VIEW ALL](#)]
Date Introduced: March 23, 2007 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]

Key Issues: absentee ballots

Related Bills: S. 979

Description: This bill would establish a grant program to assist states with the implementation of vote by mail systems. Participating states would be required to meet minimum procedural standards in the administration of their vote by mail systems. This bill would also require the study of vote by mail systems.

Bill No.: H.R. 1905 [[VIEW BILL TEXT](#)]
Short Title: District of Columbia House Voting Rights Act of 2007
Sponsors: Rep. Norton and 1 co-sponsor [[VIEW ALL](#)]
Date Introduced: April 18, 2007 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]

Key Issues: DC voting rights

Related Bills: H.R. 328, H.R. 1433, S. 1257

Description: This bill would provide for the consideration of the District of Columbia as a Congressional district for the purposes of representation in the House of Representatives. The

membership of the House would permanently increase to 437. Utah would have an additional Representative during the 110th, 111th, and 112th Congresses.

Bill No.: H.R. 2360 [[VIEW BILL TEXT](#)]

Short Title: Voting Enhancement and Security Act of 2007

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

Date Introduced: May 17, 2007 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]

Key Issues: voting systems

Description: This bill would establish new requirements for the improvement of voting systems, including the production of a “contemporaneous, redundant, and auditable trail of votes cast” and technologies for vote verification and accessibility. States would be required to develop and implement audits of election results. It would also require states to develop and implement procedures for securing voting equipment and contingency plans in the event of voting system failures.

Bill No.: H.R. 2457 [[VIEW BILL TEXT](#)]

Short Title: Same-Day Voter Registration Act of 2007

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

Date Introduced: May 23, 2007 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]

Key Issues: Election Day registration

Description: This bill would amend the NVRA to designate polling places as voter registration agencies and require states to permit voter registration on the date of an election.

Bill No.: H.R. 2628 [[VIEW BILL TEXT](#)]

Short Title: Count Every Vote Act of 2007

Sponsors: Rep. Price

Date Introduced: June 7, 2007 [[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. 2835 [[VIEW BILL TEXT](#)]

Sponsors: Rep. Faleomavaega

Date Introduced: June 22, 2007 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]

Key Issues: American Samoa

Description: This bill would amend UOCAVA to extend voter registration and absentee ballot requirements to elections of certain offices in American Samoa.

Bill No.: H.R. 3169 [[VIEW BILL TEXT](#)]

Short Title: Disaster Voting Reform Act of 2007

Sponsors: Rep. Jefferson

Date Introduced: July 24, 2007 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]

Key Issues: natural disaster election administration

Description: This bill would establish procedures for supporting the administration of elections in areas damaged by major natural disasters. It would provide funding for the repair and/or replacement of damaged election supplies and for the outreach and education of displaced voters. This bill would also permit evacuees to use voter registration and absentee balloting procedures established by UOCAVA through the second federal general election following the evacuation.

Bill No.: H.R. 3487 [[VIEW BILL TEXT](#)]

Short Title: Regional Presidential Primary and Caucus Act of 2007

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

Date Introduced: September 6, 2007 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]

Key Issues: primary elections

Related Bills: S. 1905

Description: This bill would establish a rotating schedule for primary Presidential elections to occur during four weeks selected in March, April, May, and June. It would divide the states into four regions, and each region would hold their primary elections during one of the four weeks in the order set forth in this bill.

Bill No.: H.R. 3500 [[VIEW BILL TEXT](#)]

Short Title: Know Your Vote Counts Act of 2007

Sponsors: Rep. King

Date Introduced: September 7, 2007 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]

Key Issues: voting systems

Description: This bill would require voting machines to produce auditable voter-verifiable paper records. The paper records would serve as the permanent record of the vote.

Bill No.: H.R. 3600 [[VIEW BILL TEXT](#)]

Short Title: Voter Freedom Act of 2007

Sponsors: Rep. Paul

Date Introduced: September 19, 2007 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]

Key Issues: ballot access

Description: This bill would establish procedures by which individuals may be placed on a ballot as a candidate for office.

Bill No.: H.R. 4026 [[VIEW BILL TEXT](#)]

Short Title: Voter Access Protection Act of 2007

Sponsors: Rep. Ellison and 29 co-sponsors [[VIEW ALL](#)]

Date Introduced: October 31, 2007 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]

Key Issues: voter ID

Description: This bill would amend HAVA to prohibit election officials from requiring voters to show photo ID as a condition to vote in Federal elections.

Bill No.: H.R. 4145 [[VIEW BILL TEXT](#)]
Short Title: Provisional Ballot Fairness in Counting Act of 2007
Sponsors: Rep. Holt
Date Introduced: November 9, 2007 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]
Key Issues: provisional ballots

Description: This bill would ensure that provisional ballots cast by eligible registered citizens at incorrect polling places are counted. It would require election officials to notify provisional voters within 24 hours of casting their ballots whether their votes will be counted in the election, and if their votes will not be counted, the reason for that determination and procedures to challenge that determination. Provisional ballots would be treated as an application for registration if they are rejected because the individuals are not registered to vote in that election.

Bill No.: H.R. 4173 [[VIEW BILL TEXT](#)]
Short Title: Overseas Voting Education and Reform, Safeguarding Every American's Vote Act ("OVERSEAS Vote Act")
Sponsors: Rep. Honda and 15 co-sponsors [[VIEW ALL](#)]
Date Introduced: November 14, 2007 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]
Key Issues: absentee ballots

Description: This bill would prohibit election officials from refusing to accept or process absentee ballots from overseas or uniformed services voters whose ballots are not notarized or witnessed by officials authorized to administer oaths. It would also amend UOCAVA to permit voters to request absentee ballots in all subsequent elections. The provisions of UOCAVA would be extended to certain individuals who have never resided in the United States but have a parent or guardian who resided in the United States. It would require the EAC to establish and operate a program for making grants to organizations that assist overseas voters.

Bill No.: H.R. 4237 [[VIEW BILL TEXT](#)]
Short Title: Overseas Voting Practical Amendments Act of 2007
Sponsors: Rep. Maloney and 11 co-sponsors [[VIEW ALL](#)]
Date Introduced: November 15, 2007 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]
Key Issues: absentee ballots

Description: This bill would prohibit election officials from refusing to accept or process voter registration applications or absentee ballot applications submitted by overseas or uniformed services voters for failure to meet nonessential requirements such as paper quality and method of delivery. It would also amend UOCAVA to permit voters to request absentee ballots in all subsequent elections. The provisions of UOCAVA would be extended to certain individuals who have never resided in the United States but have a parent or guardian who resided in the United States.

Bill No.: H.R. 5036 [[VIEW BILL TEXT](#)]

Short Title: Emergency Assistance for Secure Elections Act of 2008

Sponsors: Rep. Holt and 92 co-sponsors [[VIEW ALL](#)]

Date Introduced: January 17, 2008 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]

Key Issues: voting systems

Description: This bill would establish funds to reimburse to certain jurisdictions for the costs of implementing paper voting systems for the November 2008 elections. It would also establish funds to reimburse jurisdictions for the costs of conducting post-election audits as described in the bill.

Bill No.: H.R. 5038 [[VIEW BILL TEXT](#)]

Short Title: Caging Prohibition Act of 2008

Sponsors: Rep. Conyers and 21 co-sponsors [[VIEW ALL](#)]

Date Introduced: January 17, 2008 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]

Key Issues: voter challenges

Related Bills: S. 2305

Description: This bill would prohibit election officials from preventing individuals from registering to vote or voting in any federal election or from permitting formal voter challenges to voters' registration status or eligibility if the basis of information gathered from voter caging documents or lists or unverified match lists. It would also establish requirements of individuals who wish to challenge the voter eligibility of another individual and prohibit challenges based on voter caging documents or lists or unverified match lists.

Bill No.: H.R. 5628 [[VIEW BILL TEXT](#)]

Short Title: Make Provisional Ballots Count Act 2008

Sponsors: Rep. Ellison and 2 co-sponsors [[VIEW ALL](#)]

Date Introduced: March 13, 2008 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]

Key Issues: Election Day registration, provisional ballots

Description:

- *Election Day Registration:* This bill would permit individuals who are eligible to cast a provisional ballot in a federal election to re-register to vote on the date of the election and cast a regular ballot instead of a provisional ballot if the individual: (1) completes a voter registration application; (2) provides proof of current address to polling place election officials; and (3) executes a written affidavit stating that the individual is eligible to register to vote in the jurisdiction and has not yet voted in the election. Proof of current address may be presented as: (1) a current and valid photo ID of the voter with her current address; (2) a current and valid photo ID without her current address and a utility bill that bears the voter's name, current address, and is not due later than 30 dates after the date of the election; or (3) other evidence considered sufficient by the State or jurisdiction.
- *Provisional Ballots:* This bill would require that provisional ballots cast at incorrect polling places be counted if election officials determine that the individual is a registered voter in the State and is eligible to vote in the federal elections in the district in which the provisional ballot was cast. The appropriate election official would be required to notify voters if their ballots will count within 24 hours of the determination. If they will not, the voters must be informed of the reasons and of the individual's right to challenge the determination. States would be required to establish procedures for voters to challenge determinations that their provisional ballots will not be counted.

Bill No.: H.R. 5673 [[VIEW BILL TEXT](#)]

Short Title: Military Voting Protection Act of 2008

Sponsors: Rep. McCarthy and 35 co-sponsors [[VIEW ALL](#)]

Date Introduced: April 1, 2008 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]

Key Issues: absentee ballots

Description: This bill would establish procedures to ensure that absentee ballots of overseas and military voters are timely delivered to State election officials to be counted in an election.

Bill No.: H.R. 5695 [[VIEW BILL TEXT](#)]

Short Title: Noncitizen Voting Prevention Act of 2008

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

Date Introduced: April 3, 2008 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]

Key Issues: voter registration

Description: This bill would amend the National Voter Registration Act to include a statement on mail-in voter registration forms that aliens who falsely represent themselves as citizens for any benefit under the law is deportable. It would also require that notices posted in polling places containing a statement that it is a violation of federal law for noncitizens to vote in federal elections.

Bill No.: H.R. 5747 [[VIEW BILL TEXT](#)]

Short Title: Robocall Privacy Act of 2008

Sponsors: Rep. Lofgren and 4 co-sponsors [[VIEW ALL](#)]

Date Introduced: April 9, 2008 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]

Key Issues: deceptive practices

Related Bills: S. 2624

Description: This bill would regulate political robocalls during the 60-day period before general elections and 30-day period before primary elections.

Bill No.: H.R. 5946 [[VIEW BILL TEXT](#)]

Short Title: Election Day Registration Act

Sponsors: Rep. Ellison and 15 co-sponsors [[VIEW ALL](#)]

Date Introduced: May 1, 2008 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]

Key Issues: Election Day registration

Related Bills: S. 2959

Description: This bill would permit eligible individuals to register to vote and to vote on the date of any federal election.

Bill No.: H.R. 5971 [[VIEW BILL TEXT](#)]

Short Title: American Elections Act of 2008

Sponsors: Rep. Heller and 22 co-sponsors [[VIEW ALL](#)]

Date Introduced: May 6, 2008 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]

Key Issues: voting language assistance

Description: This bill would generally require that ballots and voting information for federal election be provided only in English. It would only provide for bilingual language assistance to certain jurisdictions with Native American or Native Alaskan populations.

Bill No.: H.R. 6077 [[VIEW BILL TEXT](#)]

Sponsors: Rep. Norton

Date Introduced: May 6, 2008 [[VIEW STATUS](#)]

Key Issues: early voting, absentee ballots, provisional ballots.

Description: This bill would permit jurisdictions to conduct early voting for federal elections. It would also require election officials to accept absentee ballots even if they are not sent with sufficient postage. This bill would require that provisional ballots cast at incorrect polling places by eligible voters be counted.