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OREGON'S ELECTORAL VULNERABILITIES

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1) Voter Registration:

Despite the Federal Identity proof requirement imposed by the Help America Vote Act (HAVA), the rule was interpreted to only apply to voting for federal candidates.

As a result, voter registrants who fail to submit identity proof still get a ballot mailed to them. Worse still, shortly after they submit/mail their registration application, they are sent a Voter Notification card, effectively an I.D. credential.

This policy needs to be changed, either by statute, or class action litigation seeking equal protection from HAVA non-compliant voters, as given to federal candidates.

2) Ballot Handling:

Ballots can currently be opened, their vote contents reviewed, and where deemed necessary by election boards, have vote “enhancements” and/or ballot duplications done, as early as 7 days prior to the election. In short, people whose agendas and backgrounds are unknown, are privy to voting trends that should be a secret, days before an election. Information that can be leaked to well financed campaigns, and other fraudulent activity can occur.

This policy needs to be changed, requiring ballots to remain in SEALED “Secrecy” envelopes until election day morning. This can either be done by statute, or via county initiative/s in Home Rule Charter counties.

3) Ballot Collection from “Ballot Drop Sites”:

Ballots are picked up from the “drop-sites” by temporary hires. However, unlike the pick-ups from polling places, prior to Vote By Mail, there are no documented records of how many ballots are picked-up, when, or when how many arrive at the election

offices. In fact when voters tried to track their ballots during the November 2010 election, as recommended in the Voter Pamphlet, they found that their ballot/s had not been received. Shortly after several complaints to that effect, the tracking program was terminated. In short, the policy that does not require records of ballots picked up from “drop-sites” needs to be reformed before 2012. Drop-sites should either be eliminated, or moved inside government buildings, where an official should be assigned to oversee a count of the ballots being taken away, and the count entered and signed for in a register.

4)The Timing of Destruction of Unused Ballots:

Currently Oregon statute ORS 254.483 requires “unused ballots” to be destroyed IMMEDIATELY after 8.00 p.m. election day. However that is NOT happening, with the result that there are tens of thousands of “unused ballots” lying around in the election offices, and vulnerable to fraudulent usage. In fact those “unused ballots” remain in the building/s until well after election results are certified. The excuse given, is that ballots are needed if ballots need to be duplicated. Though why such ballots can’t be hand counted and the totals included in the “Count Reconciliation Process”, is incomprehensible. If a machine count is needed, duplicate ballots should both be, a different color, and clearly marked as duplicate ballots.

It is also worth noting that Secretary of State Kate Brown who, when elected, swore to uphold Oregon laws and Constitution, has her staff telling County Clerks that ORS 254.483 is an antiquated law, and NOT applicable to Vote By Mail. Is that acceptable? Should some form of reprimand be issued. Also given the early opening of ballots, shouldn’t the destruction of “unused ballots” occur BEFORE ballots are removed from Secrecy envelopes?

In closing, during the 2006 and 2007 Immigration Fraud Trials, the Coyotes that transported the thousands of illegal immigrants to Washington County gave some most disturbing testimony. They said that Oregon’s agencies’ inept policies regarding identity proof requirements, made Oregon the desired location to transport illegal aliens. After those trials the Federal Justice Department demanded tighter I.D. rules from the Department of Vehicles. Unfortunately, such reforms were not enforced by Oregon’s electoral authorities.

As the Voter Integrity Chair for Washington County, I urge the earliest implementation of safeguard reforms for voter registration and ballot handling.

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P.S. Please also support the Taxpayers Association of Oregon’s Foundation in their efforts on behalf of voting integrity. Their address is P.O. Box 23573 Tigard 97281