Who we are:

The Open Voting Consortium is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to the development, maintenance, and delivery of open voting systems for use in public elections. We are comprised of computer scientists, voting experts, and voting rights activists. We have a growing membership base and have Open Voting Meetups around the country (see back).

What we do

Voting System Development:

We have developed a prototype open-source voting system including (1) an electronic voting machine that prints a paper ballot, (2) a ballot verification station that scans the paper ballot and lets a voter hear the selections, and (3) a system to tally the paper ballots.

This system is the only voting system that combines (1) the advantages of computer-based voting (where visually impaired people can vote without assistance, and each voter's choices are clear and unambiguous), (2) the security of hand-countable, voter-verified paper ballots, and (3) the trustworthiness of open source software. Open source means that anyone can see how the machines are programmed and how they work.

Legislation:

We helped California enact Senate Bill 1438, which requires a paper trail for all electronic voting machines by 2006. We helped draft and garner support for Assembly Concurrent Resolution 242, which encourages the California Secretary of State to investigate open source software for voting systems. We worked with activists in Utah to stop the purchase of paperless electronic voting systems. We offer expert advice and strategy planning to groups working on election reform legislation.

Events and public education:

Our members organize events around the country, including Open Voting Meetups, to educate their communities about the need for an open voting system. We work with other political groups to organize events.

We have a Speaker's Bureau providing access to documentaries, activists, and voting system experts. We supply tools for organizing events (including a "how to" guide). Members of our Speaker's Bureau often appear on the radio, television, and in public meetings to educate people about the need for a secure, transparent, accessible, and reliable voting system.

Endorsers of OVC

Maxine Waters
Congresswoman, U.S. Congress

Medea Benjamin
Founding Director of Global Exchange
and Co-Founder of Code Pink

Nancy Matela
National Chair of the Election Reform Committee,
Alliance for Democracy

Bob Fitrakis
PhD/JD, Editor of FreePress.org

Bob Kibrick
PhD, Legislative Analyst, Verified Voting.org

Penny Little
Producer/Director, Electile Dysfunction movie

Brad Friedman
Co-Founder, Velvet Revolution.Us

Sheri Myers and Sarah Rath
Co-Founders, Citizens Act

Open Voting Meetup Groups
Join online at:
http://**electionreform.meetup.com**
Silicon Valley, Santa Cruz, Oakland,
San Francisco, Berkeley, Sacramento, L.A.,
San Diego, Santa Barbara
and many more...

To start a group in your area contact:
patti@openvoting.org, **(831) 458-9504**

Information Updates about Election Reform:
OpenVoting.org
Verified Voting.org
Nov2Truth.org

20050325

The Open Voting Consortium

Transparent Liberty

Accountable Election Systems

www.OpenVoting.org

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What's Wrong with Current Voting Systems?

Problems with Electronic Voting Machines:

Paperless
- Most have no voter-verified paper record to ensure the voter's ballot was correctly recorded and counted or to do a recount.

Black Box Secrecy
- No way to know how machines work, and hard to tell if they are working properly.

Expensive
- Parts and service available only from the original vendor. No after-market competition.

Corporately Controlled
- Revolving door among vendors, politicians, and election officials.

Problems with Optical Scan & Punch Cards:

Inaccessible to the Disabled
- Sight-impaired and other reading-impaired people cannot vote without assistance.

Voter Intent Unclear
- Hard to erase mistakes on Optical Scan ballots.
- Punch cards are not always punched cleanly.
- Hard for voter to verify a punch card ballot.

Difficult to Run Non-traditional Contests
- Not all Optical Scan and Punch Card systems are programmed to run approval voting or instant run-offs.

Inaccessible to Non-English Speakers
- Difficult to offer ballots in multiple languages.
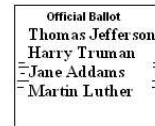
Chance for Fraud
- Potential for ballot-box stuffing, pre-punched cards, pre-marked Optical Scan ballots.

The Open Voting Consortium's Solution:

1. Voter makes selections on computer.

2. Prints a summary paper ballot.

Official Ballot
Thomas Jefferson
Harry Truman
Jane Addams
Martin Luther

3. Scans the bar code and listens to their selections (optional).

4. Casts their summary paper ballot in a secure ballot box.

5. Votes are counted by scanning the bar codes and/or hand-counting the paper ballot summaries.

**ALL MACHINES USE
OPEN SOURCE SOFTWARE
(Everyone can see how all machines are programmed.)**

What People Are Saying…

"It is the best system I have ever seen! This system has so many safeguards."
—Kathy Dopp, US Count Votes

"I refer people to the Open Voting Consortium all the time."
—Bev Harris, Black Box Voting.org

"Diebold has proven that the federal oversight process for voting systems failed. We the people have to take over that process and that means open source. Open Voting Consortium is the furthest along with an open source product."
—Jim March, board member, Black Box Voting.org

"Election integrity, not financial gain, is the foremost interest of these eminent computer experts including Alan Dechert of California, Doug Jones of Iowa, and Kurt Hyde of New Hampshire. The group has perfected the design through open discussions, and the product is ready to be developed. They need funding to allow for the development and testing period and the cost of qualification."
—Ellen Theisen, Voters Unite!

Support the Open Voting Consortium!

The Open Voting Consortium is a not-for-profit, member-supported organization. In order to have a voting system owned by the people and free from corporate interests, the people must invest in their voting system.

Please make a donation or become a member online at www.OpenVoting.org

Or mail a check made payable to the
Open Voting Consortium to:
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Granite Bay, CA 95746