



## Concerned Voters of Centre County

a nonpartisan group of citizens devoted to election integrity

### PRESS RELEASE

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### **EXIT POLL RESULTS FROM NOVEMBER 7, 2006 MIDTERM ELECTION**

BELLEFONTE, PA, MAY 18, 2007: Concerned Voters of Centre County conducted an independent exit poll in the Fall Midterm elections. Polling was conducted at three Centre County precincts to check out our new voting system. This exit survey was conducted in conjunction with the Penn State Statistics department.

A total of 1092 Centre County voters were polled after exiting their polling places.

The results pose disturbing questions about the accuracy and integrity of the November 7, 2007 election in Centre County.

Exit polls have a distinguished history of reliability in other counties as well as in our national elections. Unlike pre-election polling, exit polls are more accurate since people are polled on what they did as opposed to what they intend to do.

There were major discrepancies found between the exit survey results and the official Centre County results. These discrepancies were statistically significant and outside the bounds of the margin of error of the survey.

The exit poll results for one of the precincts — College North — were significantly different from the official county results. Notably, the exit poll results showed that Edward G. Rendell and Jon Eich won their respective races for Governor and the PA Senate. However, official results gave the "wins" to Lynn Swann for Governor and Jake Corman for the PA Senate.

The people of Centre County are now confronted with serious questions both about Centre County's vote integrity in the Fall 2006 election and the electoral process in general. Possible reasons for these discrepancies include flaws in the voting machine software or hardware, mistakes made during their programming, deliberate criminal behavior, and problems with the survey.

With the voting machines currently in use by the county, there is no way to publicly recount the ballots cast. Thus, we have no way to determine which of these causes to rule out. This inability to determine the true vote throws suspicion on our elections. It also creates doubt about the integrity of future elections in Centre County if we continue to vote on paper-less touch screen voting machines.

The core issue to address is the need for a paper trail that allows each voter to verify their vote before it is cast, and also provides reliable re-count capability. Anything short of that is not good enough for a democracy. It is our right, even our duty, as citizens of a democracy to maintain a healthy suspicion on all matters associated with political control by those who wield power. "Just trust us" is the mentality of dictators. Nothing less than full transparency of the voting process is required. The machines currently in use by the county do not permit that.

Concerned Voters of Centre County supports HR 811 which would require all voting systems to produce a voter-verified paper ballot with audits of every federal election. If passed in its current form, the bill would result in replacing Centre County's current machines with a voter-marked paper ballot optical scan system. It would also provide full funding for the county to make the change.

CVCC wishes to thank Ben Derstine, KB Boomer, Muhammad Atiyat, Cha Li, CVCC exit poll volunteers, and the faculty and students of Penn State's Statistics department who stood in the rain in November and stayed up nights analyzing this data. We very much appreciate their efforts. Thanks also to the Election Defense Alliance for their financial support.

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