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VOTER ACTION UPDATE

Applying findings from our 2008 election monitoring work to support electoral reform initiatives at the federal and state level

Voter Action, in collaboration with the Advancement Project and the NAACP National Voter Fund, will soon publish a report on voting rights concerns emerging from the 2008 election, relying principally on data from InfoVoter Technologies being fed by the CNN and MYVOTE1 voter hotlines. The report will help to educate elected officials, journalists, election officials, democracy activists, and the public at large as to the problems voters encountered this past election in exercising the franchise. The report will also provide a series of recommendations for strengthening our democracy and will serve as an important vehicle in support of electoral reform initiatives at the federal and state level. Findings from the report will be presented at a congressional hearing and will be widely disseminated to the news media. We will also distribute our report and accompanying recommendations to electoral reform activists, allied organizations, and key elected officials to help support new and ongoing reform efforts.

Voter Action's Legal Director John Bonifaz to speak at NAACP Continuing Legal Education Seminar in conjunction with NAACP National Convention

The NAACP is celebrating its centennial anniversary this year and will be holding its annual national convention in New York in mid-July. Voter Action's Legal Director John Bonifaz will serve on a panel, "Election Protection Litigation: Lessons Learned in 2008," at the NAACP Continuing Legal Education Seminar to be held in conjunction with the NAACP National Convention. Bonifaz will highlight Voter Action's federal court victory in Pennsylvania on the eve of the November 2008 election which required the state to provide emergency paper ballots to Pennsylvania voters whenever 50% or more voting machines malfunctioned at any precinct. The NAACP State Conference of Pennsylvania served as the lead organizational plaintiff in that case. Bonifaz will also highlight findings from the voting rights report on the 2008 election to be jointly published by Voter Action, the Advancement Project, and the NAACP National Voter Fund.

Voter Action Endorses Holt Voter Confidence and Increased Accessibility Act

Voter Action is endorsing the Holt Voter Confidence and Increased Accessibility Act, soon to be introduced in the United States House of Representatives by Representative Rush Holt (D-NJ). This bill will create a federal mandate for verifiable and accessible voting systems in federal elections with paper ballots marked by voters by hand or through the use of non-tabulating ballot marking devices. It will ensure that voters in every precinct across the United States are guaranteed the right in a federal election to cast their votes using paper ballots. It will require election audits for every federal election where the winning candidate receives less than 80 percent of the vote. Voter Action is calling the Holt Voter Confidence and Increased Accessibility Act a critical measure for helping to protect our right to vote and the integrity of our elections.