Democratic Club Leadership,

On Jan 16, 2017, the Santa Clara County Democratic Club approved the attached resolution calling for our Democratic Party "to aggressively press for changes needed to achieve more democratic voting procedures". In other words, <u>stop ignoring voter suppression and rigged vote-counting machines, and start doing something about both</u>.

During discussion of the Resolution, most people acknowledged that voter suppression was widespread. However, many questioned the rigging of vote-counting machines. In response to those doubters, the following supplemental information was compiled.
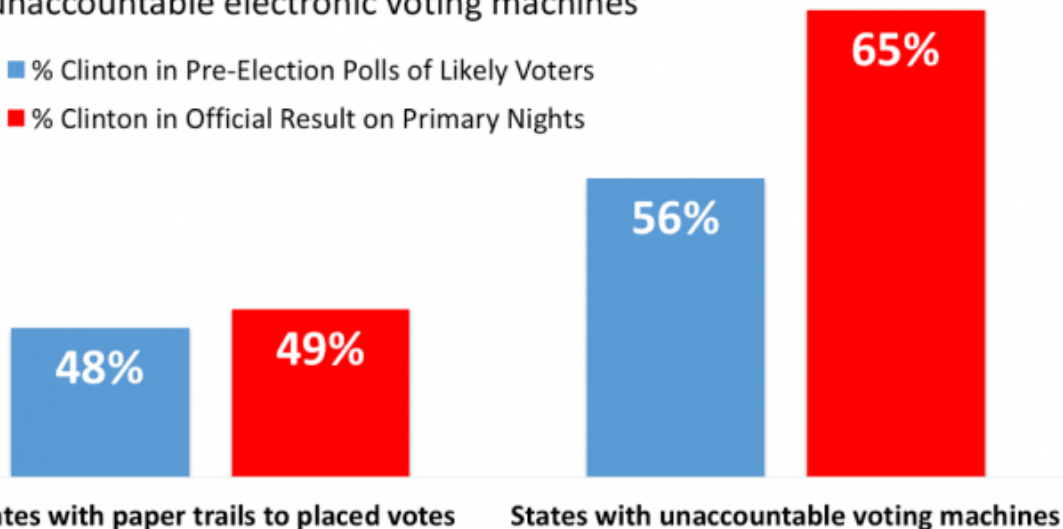
–

"Red Shift" is the tendency of voting-counting machines to report more votes for the Republican candidates than the exit polls predict. Anecdotal stories of friends/relatives who, rather than simply refuse to answer an exit poll, chose to lie to pollsters raises this question: Why doesn't that happen in other countries where exit polls are considered the "gold standard"? And if Trump voters are such liars, does that also apply to Hillary's voters during the primary. If so that would explain the "red shift" that propelled her to victory in the 2016 Primaries in Red states. Find the details in the [analysis of the Democratic primaries](#) from Axel Geijsel of Tilburg University (The Netherlands) and Rodolfo Cortes Barragan of Stanford University (U.S.A.).

On the 4th/last page is a chart followed by an [Appendix link](#). The graphic below (from page 3 of that Appendix) shows how red shift affected Clinton's votes.

Clinton beat expectations **ONLY** in states that use unaccountable electronic voting machines

- % Clinton in Pre-Election Polls of Likely Voters
- % Clinton in Official Result on Primary Nights

48% 49% 56% 65%

States with paper trails to placed votes   States with unaccountable voting machines

Here's the (funny) Redacted video version of the story: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GfN2-uV-ZuI

Here's another question, if Trump and Clinton voters are such liars, why do they all seem to live in Red states? Look at some of the numbers in this article entitled "Exit Polls from November 8 Election Show Patterns Indicating Possible Electronic Election Rigging in Favor of Republicans": http://codered2014.com/possible-election-rigging-seen-exit-polls/, By Jonathan Simon

You will find more confirming data here: http://columbusfreepress.com/article/why-united-states-state-department-would-not-certify-trump%E2%80%99s-election-legitimate
One (linked) chart shows the odds against **Russ Feingold** losing his Senate race was 1 in 1800. That's not just bad luck! http://columbusfreepress.com/sites/default/files/associated/FeingoldWI.D3.pdf

If you really want to dig into the details, watch some of the 1.5-hour interviews by California Election Integrity Coalition's Jim Soper at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC83OPP_TsOACt0SVwDu1rKA

–

All of us want our votes counted correctly. After 15 years of suspicious results, there is ample evidence that something is wrong - and the wrong people are getting "elected". For example, here is a 10-minute video of Clint Curtis testifying about vote-machine rigging in 2000:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JEzY2tnwExs
Here's the BradBlog version: http://www.bradblog.com/?page_id=3980

Ten years ago, the movie "Hacking Democracy" demonstrated that voting machines are not secure:
http://www.hackingdemocracy.com/

One of the most notorious "hacking" cases was the 2002 election fraud that threw Alabama Governor Don Siegelman out of office (and into prison). Here's the story:
http://www.commondreams.org/views/2008/04/30/interview-former-alabama-governor-don-siegelman

Election Fraud is basically a "coup d'etat," an illegal overthrow of a government, whether that government is a federal or state government. Following is a sampling of media that confronts the issue of election fraud. https://free-don.us/election-fraud/

Bringing things back to now, here's a video introduction to the concept of decimalized voting that was used to mis-count the vote in 2016: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HbXu-T-Gfmo
Short story: **there is no need for decimalized votes; integers have been used since the start of voting. Their mere presence is a red flag.** And by changing one parameter on a vote-counting machine, an election can be stolen. Here is Mimi Kennedy's take:
https://www.facebook.com/mimikennedypda/posts/10154507327558689

So, what do reasonable people do when red flags appear? They call for a hand-count of the ballots. Unlike other technologically advanced countries such as Germany, Canada, France, Ireland, Italy, Denmark, Finland, and 53 other countries, election ballots in the United States are not counted by hand and in public. In fact, Republicans stopped hand counts in several states. Here is just one 3-minute video example:

> Watch Wisconsin Election Officials Reject Hand Counts After Electronic Scanners Make Big Mistake. "I am just stunned at how inaccurate the whole thing is."
> http://prx.link.alternet.org/new-video-watch-wisconsin-election-officials-reject-hand-counts-after-electronic-scanners-make-big

For "The Real Story of the Recount" by Bob Fitrakis of TrustVote.org, read this:
http://files.constantcontact.com/9c436dfe501/b1bebed0-2775-4a71-8af4-a95b27c16cf4.pdf

–

The **purpose of this Resolution** to Remedy Voter Suppression is to get the attention of the DNC to fix these problems before some corporate authoritarian is installed in the White House – again!

Additional Resources

http://electiondefensealliance.org/
http://codered2014.com/
http://www.electionlawblog.org/
http://www.velvetrevolution.us/
http://www.verifiedvoting.org/
http://www.truthout.org
http://www.gregpalast.com/
htttps://www.electiondefense.org/
http://www.defendthevote.com/
http://blackboxvoting.org/

News, Blogs and Websites

Voters Unite! -- http://www.votersunite.org

Bradblog -- http://www.Bradblog.com

Voting News -- http://votingnews.blogspot.com

Black Box Voting -- http://www.blackboxvoting.org, http://www.bbvforums.org

Election Defense Alliance -- http://www.ElectionDefenseAlliance.org

Vote Scam -- www.VoteScam.org

Center for Hand-Counted Paper Ballots -- www.handcountedballots.org

Articles from Reputable Sources (chronological)

Texans tally triple match in exceptional election
Published: Nov. 9, 2002 12:00 a.m. in The Deseret News, the first news organization and the longest continuously-operating business in the state of Utah. Owned by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.
"Comal County (Texas) elections officials noticed an extreme oddity after the final votes were tallied in Tuesday's general election: **Three winning candidates each received 18,181 votes**. The odds? Astronomical."
http://www.deseretnews.com/article/947579/Texans-tally-triple-match-in-exceptional-election.html?pg=all

Election Night 2002: That's the Night That the Lights Went Out in Bama
By Steve McConnell, for Mobile Press Register, Baldwin County Now
"Republican Bob Riley edged out a narrow victory over incumbent Democrat **Don Siegelman**, but a midnight vote recount in Baldwin County, giving Riley the edge, stirred a firestorm controversy that still receives national attention to this day."

Fixing the Fixed Voting Machines by **Greg Palast**
Wednesday, December 10, 2003
"iVotronics is owned by a company called ES&S [Election Systems and Software], founded by Senator Chuck Hagel, the Republican senator from Nebraska. Hagel became senator after Nebraska installed his voting machine. It was quite extraordinary, because you ended up with a Republican candidate winning in black districts in Nebraska. So obviously Chuck took his voting machine out for a test spin and did quite well."
"The CEO of Diebold, who has become one of Bush's big donors, promised at a fund-raiser to help deliver the vote to Bush in Ohio."
" I'm not saying Bush has locked up the vote; I'm just saying that if he loses it, the winner's going to have to win a lot more than 50%."
http://www.gregpalast.com/fixing-the-fixed-voting-machines/

Analysis of an Electronic Voting System
[This paper, copyright the **IEEE**, appears in IEEE Symposium on Security and Privacy 2004. IEEE Computer Society Press, May 2004. This paper previously appeared as Johns Hopkins University Information Security Institute Technical Report TR-2003-19, July 23, 2003.]
"Our analysis shows that this **voting system is far below even the most minimal security standards** applicable in other contexts. We identify several problems including unauthorized privilege escalation, incorrect use of cryptography, vulnerabilities to network threats, and poor software development processes. We show that voters, without any insider privileges, can cast unlimited votes without being detected by any mechanisms within the voting terminal software. Furthermore, we show that even the most serious of our outsider attacks could have been discovered and executed without access to the source code. In the face of such attacks, the usual worries about insider threats are not the only concerns; outsiders can do the damage. That said, we demonstrate that the insider threat is also quite considerable, showing that not only can an insider, such as a poll worker, modify the votes, but that insiders can also violate voter privacy and match votes with the voters who cast them. We conclude that this **voting system is unsuitable for use in a general election**."

Government Accountability Office's (**GAO**) 107-page report on the security of Election Voting Machines in America as released in 2005.
Federal Efforts to Improve Security and Reliability of Electronic Voting Systems Are Under Way, but Key Activities Need to Be Completed
"Numerous recent studies and reports have highlighted problems with the security and reliability of electronic voting systems. … Until these efforts are completed, there is a risk that many state and local jurisdictions will rely on voting systems that were not developed, acquired, tested, operated, or managed in accordance with rigorous security and reliability standards—potentially affecting the reliability of future elections and voter confidence in the accuracy of the vote count."
http://www.bradblog.com/Docs/GAOReport_ElectionSecurity_102105.pdf

Preserving Democracy: **What Went Wrong in Ohio**
a report on the 2004 election by Rep. John Conyers, January 5, 2005
"In Auglaize County, there were voting machine errors." [page 65]
"In Cuyahoga County and Franklin County, there were voting machine errors with respect to absentee ballots."

"In Mahoning County, one precinct in Youngstown recorded a negative 25 million votes."
"In Mercer County, one voting machine showed that 289 people cast punch card ballots, but only 51 votes were recorded for president."
"According to a New York Times investigation, "the problem [with spoiled ballots] was pronounced in minority areas, typically Kerry strongholds. … The problem was particularly acute in two precincts in Montgomery County which had an undervote rate of over 25% each – accounting for nearly 6,000 voters who stood in line to vote, but purportedly declined to vote for president. This is in stark contrast to the 2% of undervoting county-wide." [page 70]
http://www.openvotingconsortium.org/files/Conyersreport.pdf

Election Whistle-Blower Stymied by Vendors
After Official's Criticism About Security, Three Firms Reject Bid for Voting Machines
By Peter Whoriskey, Washington Post Staff Writer, Sunday, March 26, 2006
"Among those who worry that hackers might sabotage election tallies, Ion Sancho is something of a hero. The maverick elections supervisor in Leon County, Fla., last year helped show that electronic voting machines from one of the major manufacturers are vulnerable, according to experts, and would allow election workers to alter vote counts without detection."
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/03/25/AR2006032500805_pf.html

Ohio 2004: The **Howard Dean** Interview By Tim Dickinson, June 5, 2006
"Howard Dean: I'm not confident that the election in Ohio was fairly decided. We did our own Democratic party study in Ohio with a panel of experts. We absolutely know that there was a systematic voter suppression. We couldn't say one way or another if the election was stolen. We couldn't rule it out, but we couldn't prove that it was. We know that there was substantial voter suppression, and the machines were not reliable. That's clear."
"We mean that the majority of the reports that we've received, where you push the screen for one candidate and the other name comes up repeatedly —most of those reports are on Diebold machines."
http://www.rollingstone.com/politics/news/ohio-2004-the-howard-dean-interview-20060605

 What Do We Do Now? By **Greg Palast** - Thursday, January 6, 2005
"Civil Rights Commission and Harvard team statisticians went through the pile of ballots in the dumpster and calculated that 54% of those discards ballots were cast by black folks. Your chance a vote-counting machine will "reject" your ballot depends on your skin color. A Black citizen of Florida (see illustration) is 900% more likely to have their ballot tossed out on a technicality than a white one. The sorry truth is that Florida is terribly typical. That horrid ratio holds nationwide."
http://www.gregpalast.com/what-we-do-nowrnmanifesto-for-the-post-112-world-rnjust-released/

THE MACHINERY OF DEMOCRACY: PROTECTING ELECTIONS IN AN ELECTRONIC WORLD
by **BRENNAN CENTER** TASK FORCE ON VOTING SYSTEM SECURITY (2006)
"All three voting systems have significant security and reliability vulnerabilities, which pose a real danger to the integrity of national, state, and local elections."
https://www.brennancenter.org/sites/default/files/publications/Machinery%20of%20Democracy.pdf

Published on Thursday, June 01, 2006 in Rolling Stone

Was the 2004 Election Stolen?   By **Robert F. Kennedy Jr.**

"But despite the media blackout, indications continued to emerge that something deeply troubling had taken place in 2004. … In New Mexico, which was decided by 5,988 votes,(8) malfunctioning machines mysteriously failed to properly register a presidential vote on more than 20,000 ballots.(9) Nationwide, according to the federal commission charged with implementing election reforms, as many as 1 million ballots were spoiled by faulty voting equipment -- roughly one for every 100 cast.(10) … But what is most anomalous about the irregularities in 2004 was their **decidedly partisan bent**: Almost without exception they hurt John Kerry and benefited George Bush. After carefully examining the evidence, I've become convinced that the president's party mounted a massive, coordinated campaign to subvert the will of the people in 2004."

"The first indication that something was gravely amiss on November 2nd, 2004, was the inexplicable **discrepancies between exit polls and actual vote counts**. Polls in thirty states weren't just off the mark -- they deviated to an extent that cannot be accounted for by their margin of error. In all but four states, the discrepancy favored President Bush.(16)

Over the past decades, exit polling has evolved into an exact science. Indeed, among pollsters and statisticians, such surveys are thought to be the most reliable. Unlike pre-election polls, in which voters are asked to predict their own behavior at some point in the future, exit polls ask voters leaving the voting booth to report an action they just executed. The results are exquisitely accurate: **Exit polls in Germany, for example, have never missed the mark by more than three-tenths of one percent.**(17)

''Exit polls are almost never wrong," Dick Morris, a political consultant who has worked for both Republicans and Democrats, noted after the 2004 vote.' … Instead of treating the discrepancies as a story meriting investigation, the networks scrubbed the offending results from their Web sites and substituted them with "corrected" numbers that had been weighted, retroactively, to match the official vote count. Rather than finding fault with the election results, the mainstream media preferred to dismiss the polls as flawed.(21)"

http://www.commondreams.org/views06/0601-34.htm

Security Analysis of the Diebold AccuVote-TS Voting Machine
by **Princeton University**'s Center for Information Technology Policy
[This paper was released Sept. 13, 2006 and published in Proc. 2007 USENIX/ACCURATE Electronic Voting Technology Workshop (EVT'07). For an extended version of this paper and videos of demonstration attacks, see http://citp.princeton.edu/voting.]
"This paper presents a fully independent security study of a Diebold AccuVote-TS voting machine, including its hardware and software. We obtained the machine from a private party. Analysis of the machine, in light of real election procedures, shows that it is vulnerable to extremely serious attacks."
https://jhalderm.com/pub/papers/ts-evt07.pdf   https://citp.princeton.edu/research/voting/

Officials Wary of Electronic Voting Machines
By IAN URBINA / **New York Times** / Sept. 24, 2006
"Their concerns became more urgent after widespread problems with the new technology were reported this year in primaries in Ohio, Arkansas, Illinois, Maryland and elsewhere."
"In the April primary in Tarrant County, Tex., machines made by Hart InterCivic counted some ballots as many as six times, recording 100,000 more votes than were cast. The problem was attributed to programming errors, not hacking. In the past year, the Government Accountability Office, the Brennan Center for Justice at New York University and the Congressional Research Service have released reports raising concerns about the security of electronic machines."

"A Princeton University study released this month on one of Diebold's machines — a model that Diebold says it no longer uses — found that hackers could easily tamper with electronic voting machines by installing a virus to disable the machines and change the vote totals."
http://electiondefensealliance.org/2006/09/officials_wary_of_electronic_voting_machines

E-magine That: 16,000 Votes Missing In Florida District
By Tim Dickinson, **Rolling Stone Magazine**, November 11, 2006
"In a normal election, 1 percent of voters choose not to cast a vote for the top races on the ballot. In Florida's Sarasota County, the percentage of voters who allegedly did not cast a vote in the district's heated House battle was... 13 percent."
http://www.rollingstone.com/politics/news/e-magine-that-16-000-votes-missing-in-florida-district-20061111

Secretary of State Debra Bowen's scathing Top to Bottom Review. Secretary of State Debra Bowen conducted a top-to-bottom review in 2007 of many of the voting systems certified for use in California. The review, led by computer scientists from the University of California, was designed to restore the public's confidence in the integrity of the electoral process and to ensure that California voters cast their ballots on machines that are secure, accurate, reliable, and accessible. Following the top-to-bottom review, on August 3, 2007, Secretary Bowen strengthened the security requirements and use conditions for certain systems. The following documents detail Secretary Bowen's decisions and the independent experts' findings in the review.
http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/voting-systems/oversight/top-bottom-review/

The Strange Case of an Imprisoned Alabama Governor
New York Times Editorial, By ADAM COHEN SEPT. 10, 2007
"He was defeated for re-election in 2002 under suspicious circumstances. In the initial returns, Mr. Siegelman appeared to have won by a razor-thin margin. But a late-night change in the tallies in Republican Baldwin County gave the current governor, Bob Riley, a victory of a little more than 3,000 votes out of 1.3 million cast. Mr. Siegelman has charged that the votes were intentionally shifted by a Republican operative."   http://www.nytimes.com/2007/09/10/opinion/10mon4.html
Movie: "Atticus v. The Architect: **The Political Assassination of Don Siegelman**"
Wikipedia article on Don Siegelman
"Representative Bob Riley defeated Siegelman in his November 2002 reelection bid by the narrowest margin in Alabama history: approximately 3,000 votes. On the night of the election, Siegelman was initially declared the winner by the Associated Press. Later, a voting machine malfunction in a single county, Baldwin County, was claimed to have produced the votes needed to give Riley the election. Democratic Party officials objected, stating that the recount had been performed by local Republican election officials after Democratic observers had left the site of the vote counting, thus rendering verification of the recount results impossible. The state's Attorney General, Republican Bill Pryor, affirmed the recounted vote totals, securing Riley's election. Pryor denied requests for a manual recount of the disputed vote warning that opening the sealed votes to recount them would be held a criminal offense. Some observers have opined that perhaps the most objective observation about this vote shift is that there was no corresponding vote shift in other issues and candidates on these same ballots, a shift that would be expected if they were actually anti-Siegelman voters, probably a mathematical impossibility."   https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Don_Siegelman#2002_election_controversy

Ohio Voting Machines Contained Programming Error That Dropped Votes
By Mary Pat Flaherty for Washington Post, August 21, 2008
"The problem was identified after complaints from Ohio elections officials following the March primary there, but the logic error that is the root of the problem has been part of the software for 10 years, said Chris Riggall, a spokesman for Premier Election Solutions, formerly known as Diebold."
http://voices.washingtonpost.com/44/2008/08/ohio-voting-machines-contained.html

D.C. Election Glitch Blamed On Equipment
No Change in Outcome Despite Phantom Votes
By Nikita Stewart and Elissa Silverman, **Washington Post** Staff Writers, Thursday, Sept. 11, 2008
"D.C. election officials blamed a defective computer memory cartridge yesterday for producing what appeared to be thousands of write-in votes that officials say did not exist."
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/09/10/AR2008091000716_pf.html

California Secretary of State Debra Bowen's Report to the Election Assistance Commission – March 2, 2009 – "GEMS version 1.18.19 contains a serious software error in its Central Count Server. The GEMS Central Count Server tallies votes from central count optical scanners."
"In addition, each of the foregoing defects appears to violate the 1990 Voting System Standards to an extent that would have warranted failure of the GEMS version 1.18.19 system had they been detected and reported by the Independent Testing Authority that tested the system."
https://www.eac.gov/assets/1/AssetManager/Report%20CA%20SOS%20Debra%20Bowen%20to%20EAC%20on%20Diebold%20Premier%20March%202%202009-Revised.pdf

Most electronic voting isn't secure, CIA expert says
By Greg Gordon - **McClatchy Newspapers**, March 24, 2009
"In a presentation that could provide disturbing lessons for the United States, where electronic voting is becoming universal, Steve Stigall summarized what he described as attempts to use computers to undermine democratic elections in developing nations. … Stigall told the Election Assistance Commission ... that computerized electoral systems can be manipulated at five stages, from altering voter registration lists to posting results."
"You heard the old adage 'follow the money,' " Stigall said, according to a transcript of his hour-long presentation that McClatchy obtained. "I follow the vote. And wherever the vote becomes an electron and touches a computer, that's an opportunity for a malicious actor potentially to . . . make bad things happen."
http://www.mcclatchydc.com/news/politics-government/article24530650.html#storylink=cpy

Letter from Susannah Goodman, Director of Election Reform, **Common Cause**, Sept. 24, 2010 raises sharp concerns over the vulnerability to infiltration by hackers, calling the new system a "poorly conceived experiment" that "imperils the overall accuracy of every election on the ballot."
http://voices.washingtonpost.com/debonis/CS_letter_to_Cheh.pdf

"In an age of electronic banking and online college degrees, why hasn't the rest of the nation gone to voting on touchscreen computers? The reason is simple and resonates with the contentious debate that has yet to be resolved after at least 15 years of wrangling over the issue of electronic voting. No one

*has yet figured out a straightforward method of ensuring that one of the most revered democratic institutions—in this case, electing a U.S. president—can be double checked for fraud, particularly when paperless e-voting systems are used." – **Scientific American**, Jan. 9, 2012*

Auditing a DRE-Based Election in South Carolina (2012?)
"We have analyzed these files and have been able to show that votes were not counted, that procedures that should have been checked automatically were not checked, and that vote data to support the certified counts has not been collected or stored."
https://www.usenix.org/legacy/event/evtwote11/tech/final_files/Buell.pdf

How to Rig an Election
The G.O.P. aims to paint the country red
By Victoria Collier [from the November 2012 issue of **Harper's Magazine**]
"Diebold became the most infamous name in the industry in 2003, when its CEO, Walden O'Dell, a top fund-raiser for George W. Bush, made a jaw-dropping public promise to "deliver" Ohio's electoral votes to Bush. The following year, **California banned Diebold's touchscreen system**, and Secretary of State Kevin Shelley blasted the company as "fraudulent," "despicable," and "deceitful." O'Dell stepped down in 2005, right before the filing of a class-action suit that accused Diebold of fraud, insider trading, and slipshod quality control."
[http://admin.cdn.sos.ca.gov/press-releases/prior/2004/04_030.pdf]
"In one Ohio precinct, exit polls indicated that Kerry should have received 67 percent of the vote, but the certified tally gave him only 38 percent. **The odds** of such an unexpected outcome occurring only as a result of sampling error are **1 in 867,205,553**."
"The statistically anomalous shifting of votes to the conservative right has become so pervasive in post-HAVA America that it now has a name of its own. Experts call it the "red shift.""
"There is, finally, South Carolina's 2010 race for U.S. Senate, which Republican Jim DeMint won with 78 percent of the vote. What is **mysterious** is not the ultimate outcome, but the **Democratic primary** that preceded it, which tossed up a fairly fortuitous opponent for DeMint: Alvin Greene, an unemployed thirty-two-year-old accused sex offender living in his father's basement. Greene, often described as "incoherent," ran no campaign: no website, no appearances at Democratic events, not even a yard sign. Yet he miraculously beat his opponent in the Democratic primary, former judge and four-term state legislator Vic Rawl, by an 18 percent margin. Voters and campaign workers reported that the ES&S touchscreen machines "flipped" votes to Greene all day long. Meanwhile, the absentee ballots—which were counted by hand—told a different story. In half of the state's forty-six counties, there was a 10 percent disparity between absentee ballots and those counted by machine; in Lancaster County, Rawl won 84 percent of the absentee vote."
http://harpers.org/archive/2012/11/how-to-rig-an-election/?single=1

America's Voting Machines at Risk
Brennan Center for Justice at New York University School of Law
"Older machines can also have serious security and reliability flaws that are unacceptable today. For example, Virginia recently decertified a voting system used in 24 percent of precincts after finding that an external party could access the machine's wireless features to "record voting data or inject malicious data[.]"

› Smaller problems can also shake public confidence. Several election officials mentioned **"flipped votes"** on touch screen machines, where a voter touches the name of one candidate, but the machine registers it as a selection for another."
https://www.brennancenter.org/sites/default/files/publications/Americas_Voting_Machines_At_Risk.pdf

Democracy Now! Aired on February 23, 2016
Could the 2016 Election Be Stolen with Help from Electronic Voting Machines?
"Harvey Wasserman of Columbus, Ohio, has been a vocal critic of electronic voting machines. He co-wrote the book, "What Happened in Ohio: A Documentary Record of Theft and Fraud in the 2004 Election." His upcoming book is titled "The Strip & Flip Selection of 2016: Five Jim Crows & Electronic Election Theft." We talk to him about his concerns for the upcoming presidential race."
"When you compare exit polls, which are generally accurate to within 1 percent, with the electronic outcome, there are huge variations. And we have documented many dozens of different things that they have done over the years to flip electronic votes."
https://www.democracynow.org/2016/2/23/could_the_2016_election_be_stolen

Have we witnessed a dishonest election?
A between state comparison based on the used voting procedures of the 2016 Democratic Party Primary for the Presidency of the United States of America
by Axel Geijsel (Tilburg University – The Netherlands) and Rodolfo Cortes Barragan (Stanford University – U.S.A.) June 8, 2016
"Conclusion
Have we witnessed a dishonest election? Our first analysis showed that states wherein the voting outcomes are difficult to verify show far greater support for Secretary Clinton. Second, our examination of exit polling suggested large differences between the respondents that took the exit polls and the claimed voters in the final tally. Beyond these points, these irregular patterns of results did not exist in 2008. As such, as a whole, these data suggest that **election fraud is occurring in the 2016 Democratic Party Presidential Primary election. This fraud has overwhelmingly benefited Secretary Clinton at the expense of Senator Sanders."**
https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B6mLpCEIGEYGSlRsV0IxV1ByXzQ/view
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1SdmBLFW9gISaqOyyz_fATgaFupI2-n6vWx80XRGUVBo/edit
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1DqkI7w22u7ofzwaZ4l518S_DYaB5tkeqo91rjB2OLJ0/edit#gid=171164387

Dozens of <u>technical reports and studies</u>, <u>books</u>, <u>films and videos</u>, <u>articles</u>,<u>investigations</u> and even congressional <u>whistleblower</u> testimony have exposed the **depth of this crisis**.

Fraction Magic – Part 1: **Votes are being counted as fractions** instead of as whole numbers
By Bev Harris May 12, 2016
"The results of this study demonstrate that a fractional vote feature is embedded in each GEMS application which can be used to invisibly, yet radically, alter election outcomes by pre-setting desired vote percentages to redistribute votes. This tampering is not visible to election observers, even if they are standing in the room and watching the computer."
http://blackboxvoting.org/fraction-magic-1/

"Surveillance video in Saguache County, Colorado, taken with an ES&S M650 tabulator, shows an unusual sequence of events. First, it is reported that the election administrator, who was running for her own position in the election, lost the election. Then, she sits down with the voting system technician and berates him so aggressively that he reaches for a box of tissue and cries. Then, the technician surreptitiously locks the door and inserts a zip disk into the ES&S M650 tabulator. Next, the elections administrator announced that she has, after all, won the election."

"... the deposition of Shelby County Election technician Dennis Boyce, 23 demonstrates that vendors are sometimes provided with remote desktop access during elections."

http://blackboxvoting.org/fraction-magic-part-6/

How Bernie Won California: The official un-count
Monday, June 20, 2016 by **Greg Palast** with Dennis J Bernstein for Nation of Change
"Hillary Clinton was declared the landslide victor in California, which was an extreme oddity given that the polls taken days before showed her in a dead heat with Sanders. It just evaporated? Because Sanders people are not as enthusiastic as Clinton people for voting? No, it's the games with the registrations… and with the mail-in ballots, and the so-called provisional ballots, what I call the placebo ballots."

http://www.gregpalast.com/bernie-won-california-official-un-count/#more-12110

Perfect U.S. Presidential Election Stealing Software turns Black vote into non-persons
By Tony Johnson, published in **Catholic Online** on 8/4/2016
BlackBoxVoting.org has demonstrated that GEMS "can be used to invisibly, yet radically, alter election outcomes by pre-setting desired vote percentages to redistribute votes. This tampering is not visible to election observers, even if they are standing in the room and watching the computer. Use of the decimalized vote feature is unlikely to be detected by auditing or canvass procedures, and can be applied across large jurisdictions in less than 60 seconds."

http://www.catholic.org/news/politics/story.php?id=70219

Chambers County [Texas] Clerk Heather Hawthorne issued a press release announcing electronic voting would be suspended until the **glitches affecting voting machines** could be corrected. 10/25/16
"The Straight Party vote for both the Republicans and Democrats did not automatically select one race on each ballot," http://www.infowars.com/texas-county-switches-to-paper-ballots-after-electronic-voting-glitches/

You're not just imagining it: the **Hillary Clinton vs Donald Trump vote totals do look rigged**
By Bill Palmer Updated: 10:44 pm EDT Sat Nov 19, 2016
In order to believe that the official vote tallies are legitimate, you have to accept that *all* of these things legitimately happened:

- African-Americans in the south went from turning out in droves for Hillary Clinton in the primary to not caring if she won the general election.
- Donald Trump got sixty-something percent of the same-day voting in Florida.
- The polling averages were wrong for the first time in modern history.
- Trump beat his poll numbers despite having spent the primary season tending to fall below them.

- Clinton fell below her poll numbers despite having spent the primary season tending to beat them.
- In every state where Trump pulled off a shocking upset victory, he just happened to do it with one percent of the vote.
- And in an election that everyone cared particularly deeply about, no one really turned out to vote at all.

http://www.palmerreport.com/opinion/youre-not-just-imagining-it-the-hillary-clinton-vs-donald-trump-vote-totals-do-look-rigged/104/

Data Scientists Encourage Hillary Clinton To Challenge Election Results
They claim electronic voting machine tallies in key states show discrepancies that hurt Clinton.
By Marina Fang in Huffington Post, Nov 23, 2016
"The academics presented findings showing that in Wisconsin, Clinton received 7 percent fewer votes in counties that relied on electronic-voting machines compared with counties that used optical scanners and paper ballots."
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/hillary-clinton-challenge-election-results_us_5834e3a6e4b000af95ed3a34

Global Hackers & the Russians Have Made Hand-Counted Paper Ballots an Issue of Urgent National Security by **Bob Fitrakis and Harvey Wasserman**, MAY 13, 2017
<http://columbusfreepress.com/article/have-russians-made-hand-counted-paper-ballots-issue-urgent-national-security>
We have no evidence at this point that the Russians, or global hackers, hacked our electronic voting machines to put Donald Trump in the White House. But we are 100% certain our electronic voting machines have been hacked by many many others, and could be in the future by virtually anybody with entry-level computing capabilities. As the New York Times documents:
<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/05/12/world/europe/uk-national-health-service-cyberattack.html?hp&action=click&pgtype=Homepage&clickSource=story-heading&module=first-column-region&ion=top-news&WT.nav=top-news>

Special Election in Georgia's 6ᵗʰ District (Ossoff vs. Handel), June 23, 2017
Something fishy about the Georgia 6th district election:
•Normally vote-by-mail ballots in that district go heavily Republican.
•In the special election Jon Ossoff ran way ahead of Karen Handel by 64% to 36% on the mail-in ballots.
•Still, Handel supposedly won from ballots cast at the polling places.
•Those polling places use electronic voting machines with no paper ballots. Hence, there is no way to verify the electronic results.
Here is more detail: https://voterga.files.wordpress.com/2017/06/bulletin-evidence-of-ga6-eleciton-day-hack-continues-to-mount.pdf
A dozen democracy/election-integrity advocates sent a letter to election officials in Georgia expressing "Grave Concerns about the integrity of GA6 Special Runoff Election":https://groups.google.com/forum/embed/?place=forum/electionintegrity&showsearch=true&showpopout=true&showtabs=false&parenturl=http%3A%2F%2Felectionintegrity.org%2Fforum.cgi#!topic/electionintegrity/qm5hndBN8YE

Every Voting Machine at This Hacking Conference Got Totally Pwned by Kate Conger in Gizmodo, July 31, 2017

The 2017 security conference DEF CON ran a three-day Voting Machine Hacking Village to test the security of various machines and networks used in US elections. By the end of the weekend, every one of the roughly 30 machines at the village, including those used to tabulate votes and to check voters in when they go to the polls, had been hacked.
http://gizmodo.com/every-voting-machine-at-this-hacking-conference-got-tot-1797368945

Big Win for Democrats in Virginia, November 7, 2017

This is a comprehensive political victory from statehouse to courthouse. This big win follows Virginia's action to rid their state of touchscreen voting machines in September:
https://www.politico.com/story/2017/09/08/virginia-election-machines-hacking-target-242492

Count Wisconsin's votes—accurately!, Nov 15, 2017
The highest error rate was in the City of Racine's Ward 26, where election officials failed to count 6.1% of the votes, even during the recount. … We encourage every Wisconsin voter to contact his or her municipal and county clerk to demand verification before election results are declared final.
http://www.wisconsinelectionintegrity.org/racinecountymiscounts

FILM & VIDEO

You can watch and share the feature **film STEALING AMERICA** at https://vimeo.com/169243803 . Today Oscar-nominated filmmaker Dorothy Fadiman launches a new campaign: 2016 Election at Risk. She begins with a trailer focusing on the vulnerability of voting machines, unobservable final tallies and other issues related to the 2016 election.
https://youtu.be/OGTYOCX1otk

Researchers at **Princeton University** also hacked a Diebold voting machine. Here is documentation of their work. https://youtu.be/GamR4y_ykA0

An attack on a Diebold touchscreen voting system, created and demonstrated by the Vulnerability Assessment Team at **Argonne National Lab**, allows votes to be changed remotely, without requiring knowledge of, or any change to, the voting software. https://youtu.be/DMw2dn6K1oI

Michael-David BenDor demonstrates how an optical scanner can be hacked in under 5 minutes using everyday tools. https://youtu.be/R5yH78elt7I

Ten years ago, the movie "Hacking Democracy" demonstrated that voting machines are not secure:
http://www.hackingdemocracy.com/

Hacking Democracy is a 2006 documentary broadcast on HBO. Filmed over three years, it documents American citizens investigating electronic voting systems, including anomalies and irregularities that occurred during the 2000 and 2004 elections. The film investigates the flawed integrity of electronic voting machines, particularly those made by Diebold Election Systems, exposing previously unknown backdoors in the Diebold trade secret computer software. The film culminates in on-camera hacking of a Diebold election system in Leon County, Florida—the same computer voting system that has been used in American elections across 33 states.

Dan Rather Reports "The Trouble with Touch Screens" raises serious questions as to whether US voting systems companies have engaged in commercial fraud by knowingly marketing defective products to jurisdictions throughout the country. Uploaded on Nov 2, 2007
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E-CuxPAa3zo

UNCOUNTED is an explosive new documentary that shows how the election fraud that changed the outcome of the 2004 election led to even greater fraud in 2006 - and now looms as an unbridled threat to the outcome of all elections. This controversial feature length film by Emmy award-winning director **David Earnhardt** examines in factual, logical, and yet startling terms how easy it is to change election outcomes and undermine election integrity across the U.S. Noted computer programmers, statisticians, journalists, and experienced election officials provide the irrefutable proof.
http://uncountedthemovie.com/

Fatally Flawed: The Pursuit of Justice in a Suspicious Election
A thorough case study of the pursuit of justice once an election has been compromised. Arizona is the most corrupt state in the nation. Pima County has the added distinction of the highest paid county administrator in the nation. What could go wrong? Fatally Flawed can answer that.
Watch for Bryan Crane's testimony about taking GEMS databases home.

Greg Palast on Democracy Now! says that optical scanners in Detroit and Flint could not read 75,000 ballots in the 2016 election. [Rob: why not the same failure rate in white areas?]
https://www.democracynow.org/2016/12/13/greg_palast_by_rejecting_recount_is

Chicago Election Board Meeting – 2016-04-05
It gets interesting around the 24 minute mark. In one example noted during video (29 minutes in), 21 Bernie votes were erased and 49 Hillary votes added to audit tally in order to match machine count. In this one precinct, this change from the actual results accounted for nearly 20% of overall votes cast. The actual tally was 56.7% in Bernie's favor. After count was manipulated by machine he lost with 47.5% of vote. A whopping 18.4% swing.

BOOKS

Witness to a Crime: A Citizens' Audit of an American Election is an invaluable book with extensive evidence of election theft.

Votescam fills in the blanks for anyone who senses that their ballot is worthless, but does not know why. It tracks down, confronts, and calls the names of Establishment thieves who silently steal votes for their own profit.

Witness to a Crime: A Citizens' Audit of an American Election is an invaluable book with extensive evidence of election theft.

What Happened in Ohio? A Documentary Record of Theft and Fraud in the 2004 Election
Includes mathematical analysis demonstrating the statistical impossibility of voting totals; photos taken of the original exit poll data broadcast on election night before it was retroactively corrected by the networks; and much, much more. For anyone suspicious of the Ohio vote, here's the evidence you've been waiting for.

Was the 2004 Presidential Election Stolen? Exit Polls, Election Fraud, and the Official Count
analyzes the available data, and attempts to answer the question of whether America's sitting president was inaugurated after winning, or losing the 2004 presidential race.
"When you look at the numbers, there is a tremendous amount of data that supports the supposition of election fraud," concludes Freeman. "The discrepancies are higher in battleground states, higher where there were Republican governors, higher in states with greater proportions of African-American communities and higher in states where there were the most Election Day complaints. All these are strong indicators of fraud -- and yet this supposition has been utterly ignored by the press and, oddly, by the Democratic Party."

Black Box Voting: Ballot Tampering in the 21st Century
Author Bev Harris is the 52-year old grandma who found 40,000 secret voting machine files on the Web, which have now been studied by computer scientists all over the world. "Black Box Voting" is the book that resulted from her investigations into the voting industry. What she learned was that modern-day voting systems are run by private for-profit corporations, rely on a few cronies for oversight, using a certification system so fundamentally flawed that it allows machines to miscount and lose votes, with hidden back doors that enable "end runs" around the voting system.

–
On January 10, 2008, analysts at the Election Defense Alliance (EDA) reported that, based on the official results on the New Hampshire Secretary of state web site, there was a remarkable relationship between Obama and Clinton votes, comparing votes tabulated by op-scan to votes tabulated by hand in a head-to-head contest between the two candidates:
Clinton: statewide optical scan tally
91,717
52.95%
Obama: statewide optical scan tally
81,495
47.05%
Clinton: statewide hand-count tally
20,889
47.05%
Obama: hand count
23,509
52.95%
Read more:
http://electiondefensealliance.org/updated_new_hampshire_2008_primary_analysis#ixzz4Yr5DiInT
–

Software programmer Clint Curtis testified before Congress that Rep. Tom Feeney asked him to write a vote-flipping program.

The program Curtis wrote was intended to rig an election and then erase itself. Feeney's program was designed to benefit the Republican Party. West Palm Beach, the intended target, infamously used fraudulent punch-card ballots in the 2000 elections.

Curtis explained that the software could be used in any electronic tabulation machine or scanner. For his whole story, watch [10-minute video] *Murder, Spies & Voting Lies*.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GhBtfiRKaVY

–

-------- Forwarded Message --------
From: Bob Lord <boblord01@gmail.com>
To: Rob Means - MoveToAmend <rob.means@electric-bikes.com>
Subject: Voting Articles
Date: Thu, 14 Sep 2017 22:27:29 -0700

Hi Rob,

In case there are some articles here that you haven't seen here is my collection.

Bob

http://www.democracyintegrity.org/ElectoralFraud/just-doing-the-math.html

http://prospect.org/article/22-states-wave-new-voting-restrictions-threatens-shift-outcomes-tight-races

http://gov.oregonlive.com/election/2014/general/maps/

http://www.democracyintegrity.org/ElectoralFraud/just-doing-the-math.html

http://blackboxvoting.org/fraction-magic-1/

http://www.thedailybeast.com/election-hackers-could-erase-you?source=DDAfternoon&via=newsletter

http://www.politico.com/story/2016/11/clinton-lead-popular-vote-2016-231790

https://petitions.whitehouse.gov/petition-error

http://www.palmerreport.com/opinion/youre-not-just-imagining-it-the-hillary-clinton-vs-donald-trump-vote-totals-do-look-rigged/104/

https://www.change.org/p/demand-an-audit-of-the-2016-presidential-election?recruiter=6057

https://www.thenation.com/article/any-way-abridged/?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=socialflow

http://www.newamericaneconomy.org/voterinteractive/

http://www.nationalmemo.com/fixing-gerrymandering-could-fix-congress/

http://www.truth-out.org/news/item/38553-the-no-bs-inside-guide-to-the-presidential-vote-recount

http://www.wnd.com/2016/12/recount-uncovers-serious-fraud-in-detroit/

https://www.nytimes.com/2016/12/13/us/stein-ends-recount-bid-but-says-it-revealed-flaws-in-voting-system.html?_r=0

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GfN2-uV-ZuI

https://voterga.files.wordpress.com/2017/06/bulletin-evidence-of-ga6-eleciton-day-hack-continues-to-mount.pdf

https://www.hbarel.com/analysis/cyber/secure-e-voting-is-hard-to-get

http://www.nationalmemo.com/pressure-builds-recount/?utm_campaign=website&utm_source=sd&utm_medium=email

Response to Nate Silver/Mark Blumenthal

Response to a "red shift" article link in Emy's e-mail by Nate Silver/Mark Blumenthal blaming the pollsters.
http://skeptics.stackexchange.com/questions/14813/is-there-a-red-shift-in-u-s-elections-a-significant-shift-to-republican-vot
[*After writing the following response to the article's assertions, this article was discovered:*

> *Initial exit polling is a check on stolen elections – or why, in any other country, the U.S. government would have blown the whistle on the New York primary…   Monday, May 9, 2016*
> *http://www.democraticindividuality.com/2016/05/initial-exit-polling-is-check-on-stolen.html*

Contained within the article is a reference to other rejoinders:

> *In 2012, Richard Charnin offered 25 rejoinders. See here and here.*

Here are the links: http://richardcharnin.com/OpenLettertoNateSilver.htm
https://richardcharnin.wordpress.com/2012/11/17/a-reply-to-nate-silvers-ten-reasons-why-you-should-ignore-exit-polls/]

Emy,

Thank you for forwarding that link. As the author states:

> My question therefore consists of two parts:
> > Is there such a "red shift"?
> > If so, can this only be explained by fraud, or is there any evidence suggesting that this can be explained by other, such as demographic, factors?

His answer: There is a so-called "red shift", but it's caused by unreliable exit polls leaning blue (should we call this "blue skew"?), not fraud causing the actual results to "red shift": "In short, any claims that

are based off of the difference between exit poll results and the actual results of an election are only showing how unreliable exit polls are."

Unreliable? According to [Tony Brasunas](link) (Jun 23, 2016) "The State Department considers 2% to be the standard margin of error allowed for an election to be considered fair and authentic." Furthermore, the article [For reliable voting results, look abroad](link) by Peter Ford, Staff writer of The Christian Science Monitor, November 3, 2004 supports the value of exit polls and notes the quality control of elections elsewhere as opposed to the U.S.:
"Almost everywhere in Europe, votes are counted by hand, first at the polling station itself, and then at a regional center, and then again in a central office, if need be."
"Another key difference between the US and almost every other democracy, electoral analysts point out, is the way countries from Japan to India, and from Ghana to Brazil, put their elections in the hands of independent and neutral officials. Only in the US could partisan figures such as Florida Gov. Jeb Bush have had any influence over a vote count."

US Count Votes' National Election Data Archive Project did an Analysis of the 2004 Presidential Election Exit Poll Discrepancies. The 8 Ph.D. "number crunchers" listed on the report stated:

"The exit pollster of record for the 2004 election was the Edison/Mitofsky consortium. Their national poll results projected a Kerry victory by 3.0%, whereas the official count had Bush winning by 2.5%. Several methods have been used to estimate the probability that the national exit poll results would be as different as they were from the national popular vote by random chance. These estimates range from 1 in 959,000 to 1 in 1,240. No matter how one calculates it, the discrepancy cannot be attributed to chance."

"The fact that, in the 2004 election, all voting equipment technologies except paper ballots were associated with large unexplained exit poll discrepancies all favoring the same party certainly warrants further inquiry. The absence of any statistically-plausible explanation for the discrepancy between Edison/Mitofsky's exit poll data and the official presidential vote tally is an unanswered question of vital national importance that demands a thorough and unblinking investigation."
https://www.verifiedvoting.org/wp-content/uploads/downloads/Exit_Polls_2004_Edison-Mitofsky.pdf

Instead of an unblinking investigation, the author used a list of explanations [compiled by Nate Silver](link) (a generally reliable source) which was "lifted from Mark Bluementhal's outstanding [Exit Poll FAQ](link)." Let's examine each.

Exit polls have a much larger intrinsic margin for error than regular polls.
Although they assert this, they give no evidence or no data. Without data, this is blind speculation.

By the 1984 presidential election, all three major networks and the Los Angeles Times were conducting independent, nationwide exit polls. They each crafted their own questionnaires, designed their own sampling methodology to select precincts and voters, and developed their own weighting procedures to ensure the representativeness of their findings. Nonetheless, they were producing results similar to both each other and the actual outcome.
http://uk.sagepub.com/sites/default/files/upm-binaries/47512_ch_1.pdf

The National Election Pool is a consortium of ABC News, Associated Press, CBS News, CNN, Fox News and NBC News. It was formed in 2003 in order to provide information on election night about

the vote count, election analysis and election projections. NEP contracted with Edison Research to make projections and provide exit poll analysis. In addition, the NEP retained the Associated Press to conduct a tabulation of the vote throughout the country.

According to Edison Research: "Exit polls are surveys. As in all surveys, there is a margin of error due to sampling. The margin of error for a 95% confidence interval is about +/- 3% for a typical characteristic from the national exit poll and +/-4% for a typical state exit poll. Characteristics that are more concentrated in a few polling places, such as race, have larger sampling errors. Other non-sampling factors may increase the total error."

The margin of error for a 95% confidence interval is about +/- 3%. However, let's pretend that the author has the data to back up their conclusion: "This makes the margins for error somewhere between 50-90% higher than they would be for comparable telephone surveys." Let's give them 100%, meaning that the standard deviation doubles from 3% to 6%. That still makes variances over 6% unlikely.

Yet, according to Forbes, "In the 1,460 exit poll precincts where Edison/Mitofsky collected both exit poll tallies and actual final vote returns in 2004, the exit poll results overstated the actual difference between John Kerry and Bush by 6.5 points in Kerry's favor." http://www.forbes.com/2008/11/01/exit-polls-election-oped-cx_kb_1103bowman.html

While variances over 6% are unlikely, the odds of a 29% shift is astronomical. "In one Ohio precinct, exit polls indicated that Kerry should have received 67 percent of the vote, but the certified tally gave him only 38 percent. **The odds** of such an unexpected outcome occurring only as a result of sampling error are **1 in 867,205,553**." http://harpers.org/archive/2012/11/how-to-rig-an-election/?single=1

Exit polls have consistently overstated the Democratic share of the vote.
Here the author provides data from the 2000 and 2004 election only. That is called cherry-picking your facts. Before the year 2000, exit polls were as reliable in the U.S. as they were worldwide. After 2000, they became unreliable in the U.S.

As reported on January 19, 2005 by CNN: Report suggests changes in exit poll methodology
"From 1990 to 2002, exit polls were conducted by Voter News Service (VNS), whose exit polls in 2000 led to the networks' decisions to declare Al Gore the winner in Florida. In 2002, VNS was unable to deliver any exit poll data to the networks, resulting in the decision to disband it." Translation: no problem in the 90's; problems starting in 2000.

Speculation of overstated Democratic votes vaporizes when looking at the 2016 Democratic primaries. According to Tony Brasunas (Jun 23, 2016), "To be specific, in the 26 states for which exit polls were released by media outlets during the Democratic Primaries, Clinton received more recorded votes than the amount expected by exit polling in 24 out of 26 states. In eleven of those states the discrepancy in Clinton's favor was larger than the margin of error. Meanwhile, in only two states did Bernie Sanders receive more votes than the exit polls predicted. It is very rare for exit polls to miss in favor of one candidate 24 out of 26 times. It is even more rare for exit polls to be off in favor of one candidate by more than the margin of error 11 out of 26 times. The odds of this happening, to this extent, as calculated by mathematician and election analyst Richard Charnin, is 1-in-77 billion. In other words, we're either witnessing the impossible over and over again, or we're witnessing fraud."

If that is not enough to call into question this excuse, Spencer Gundert (Apr 28, 2016) compares the Democratic with Republican primaries in [Hillary Clinton and Electoral Fraud](#), Why we need an investigation into electoral fraud favoring Hillary Clinton:

"However, this year in the Democratic primaries, the exit polls have been consistently, significantly, and systemically off:" [which is followed by a table showing that reported vote counts for Clinton exceeded exit poll results in 16 of 18 states listed, and exceeded the margin of error in 8 states: Georgia, Massachusetts, Alabama, Tennessee, Texas, Mississippi, Ohio, and New York.]

"In every primary I could find data for, the Republican primaries have been almost exactly right, with every data point in the margin of error, during a more polarizing, contentious, and hard-to-predict race. Hence, this should be enough to prove my point: if exit polls were unreliable, then the Republican primaries would have equally bad exit polling data, but they don't, not even by a long shot."

Exit polls challenge the definition of a random sample.
The author's explanation actually reinforces the randomness of exit surveys.

Democrats may be more likely to participate in exit polls.
The word "may" without substantiating data makes this assertion suspect. The [Forbes article](#) states that the 6.5% error in the 2004 election was due, according to that same post-election analysis by Mitofsky, "to Kerry voters participating in the exit polls at a higher rate than Bush voters."

Adjusting polling data depending upon party affiliation seems logical. As Edison Research explains in their [national polling FAQs](#), "There are questions about demographics such as gender, age, race and issues related to the person's vote choice in different contests." If pollsters are not incorporating into their poll a question about party affiliation, and making adjustments based on that information, I would be shocked.

Apparently they do. According to the Evaluation of Edison/Mitofsky Election System 2004 prepared by Edison Media Research and Mitofsky International for the National Election Pool (NEP) (page 61), "party identification" is included in the poll:
http://abcnews.go.com/images/Politics/EvaluationofEdisonMitofskyElectionSystem.pdf

Exit polls may have problems calibrating results from early voting.
Exit polls may attempt to include people who voted before election day using phone calls. However, any problems estimating that group could only sway an exit poll slightly. More importantly, any error would randomly shift results in both directions, not just the blue direction as the author is implying. Again, without data, this is blind speculation.

Exit polls may also miss late voters.
Although I concede that "this adds another way in which the sample may be nonrandom", I don't quite understand why later voters would be less random than the folks polled earlier, or why they might prefer one candidate over another. Again, without data, this is blind speculation.

In summary, although the author offers a series of so-called explanations for why a **6.5% polling error** occurred, he offers no data to support the assertion. The other explanation – that vote-counting machines erred – has lots of supporting data. It also has the support of Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.

Published on Thursday, June 01, 2006 in Rolling Stone
Was the 2004 Election Stolen?   By **Robert F. Kennedy Jr.**
Over the past decades, exit polling has evolved into an exact science. Indeed, among pollsters and statisticians, such surveys are thought to be the most reliable. Unlike pre-election polls, in which voters are asked to predict their own behavior at some point in the future, exit polls ask voters leaving the voting booth to report an action they just executed. The results are exquisitely accurate: Exit polls in Germany, for example, have never missed the mark by more than three-tenths of one percent.(17) "Exit polls are almost never wrong," Dick Morris, a political consultant who has worked for both Republicans and Democrats, noted after the 2004 vote. Such surveys are "so reliable," he added, "that they are used as guides to the relative honesty of elections in Third World countries. …
The first indication that something was gravely amiss on November 2nd, 2004, was the inexplicable discrepancies between exit polls and actual vote counts. Polls in thirty states weren't just off the mark -- they deviated to an extent that cannot be accounted for by their margin of error. In all but four states [instead of the expected 15 a random distribution would predict], the discrepancy favored President Bush. …
In fact, the exit poll created for the 2004 election was designed to be the most reliable voter survey in history. The six news organizations -- running the ideological gamut from CBS to Fox News -- retained Edison Media Research and Mitofsky International,(22) whose principal, Warren Mitofsky, pioneered the exit poll for CBS in 1967(23) and is widely credited with assuring the credibility of Mexico's elections in 1994.(24) For its nationwide poll, Edison/Mitofsky selected a random subsample of 12,219 voters(25) -- approximately six times larger than those normally used in national polls(26) -- driving the margin of error down to approximately plus or minus one percent. …
As the last polling stations closed on the West Coast, exit polls showed Kerry ahead in ten of eleven battleground states -- including commanding leads in Ohio and Florida -- and winning by a million and a half votes nationally. The exit polls even showed Kerry breathing down Bush's neck in supposed GOP strongholds Virginia and North Carolina.(30) Against these numbers, the statistical likelihood of Bush winning was less than one in 450,000. …
But as the evening progressed, official tallies began to show implausible disparities -- as much as 9.5 percent -- with the exit polls. In ten of the eleven battleground states, the tallied margins departed from what the polls had predicted. In every case, the shift favored Bush. Based on exit polls, CNN had predicted Kerry defeating Bush in Ohio by a margin of 4.2 percentage points. Instead, election results showed Bush winning the state by 2.5 percent. Bush also tallied 6.5 percent more than the polls had predicted in Pennsylvania, and 4.9 percent more in Florida.

Conclusion

Exit polls are generally reliable within their margin of error (MoE). The MoE was exceeded in many instances since 2000, but almost always favoring Republicans in general elections. However, such MoE discrepancies did not show up in Republican primaries in 2016 while they were rampant in the Democratic primaries. Something is

<u>very wrong</u>. We must commit to finding out what – and correcting the problem before the next election cycle.