



Fighting for Voting Rights and a Democratic United States

DEMOCRATIC LAW BRIEFS

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WELCOME TO DEMOCRATIC LAW BRIEFS, the official newsletter of the DC Chapter of the National Lawyers Council. If you would like to be on our mailing list, please sign up at <http://www.democraticlawyers.org/join.php> or e-mail your name, title, company, addresses, and phone numbers to [signup @ democraticlawyers.org](mailto:signup@democraticlawyers.org). We'll happily add you to the list.

EVENTS

PRESIDENT OBAMA

[note new rate for young professionals]

**You're invited to a special event
at the Capital Hilton**

with President Barack Obama

Thursday, February 4th
3:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Capital Hilton
1001 16th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036

\$100 Special Gen44 Ticket Price
\$250 per person
\$1,000 per person + VIP Reception (Details upon RSVP)

Click [here](#) to RSVP.

(<https://donate.barackobama.com/page/contribute/dnc08HiltonCNCLS>)



Friend --

On Thursday, February 4th, President Obama will be speaking at an exciting event at the Capital Hilton.

I'm hoping you, as one of Organizing for America's most generous supporters, will be able to join the President on this extraordinary night. During the evening, President Obama will take a few minutes to speak to the Organizing for America community and answer some questions from the audience.

This is a truly unique opportunity to hear President Obama's vision for our upcoming opportunities and challenges.

I hope you can join us. Here are the details:

What: President Obama event at the Capital Hilton

Where: Capital Hilton
1001 16th Street, NW
Washington DC 20036

When: Thursday, February 4th
3:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

You've been an instrumental part of all of the progress we've achieved this past year. Your support has made it possible for the OFA community to continue to push this country forward with calls to Congress, events held in town centers all across America, and conversations with friends and neighbors.

I hope we can count on your continued commitment in the year ahead. And I hope that in this moment you will take advantage of this special opportunity to hear President Obama.

Visit this website to RSVP to this unique event with President Obama:

<http://my.barackobama.com/FebruaryEvent>

Hope you can make it,

Mitch

Mitch Stewart
Director
Organizing for America

VOTING RIGHTS NEWS

PUBLIC AGENCY REGISTRATION PROJECT

National - In preparation for the 2010 legislative season, Project Vote's Election Administration Program released a series of election administration policy recommendation memos for 11 states: Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Michigan, Missouri, North Carolina, Nevada, New Mexico, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. The Public Agency Registration Project is a joint effort by Project Vote, a leading nonpartisan, nonprofit provider of voter engagement services and Demos, a national voting rights and election reform policy organization. The Project assists states, social service agencies, and election officials with implementation of public agency registration. In addition to technical assistance, the Project documents noncompliance and, when necessary, initiates litigation to enforce the NVRA. Read more about this project here:

<http://www.projectvote.org/public-agency-reg.html>

MODEL BILL FOR PROVISIONAL VOTING

National - Project Vote announces the release of a model bill for provisional voting to ensure that a "Provisional ballot" is a ballot issued at the polling place on Election Day for any reason authorized by the Help America Vote Act or state law to a person who would otherwise be denied an opportunity to vote a regular ballot. Read the model bill here:

<http://www.projectvote.org/images/publications/2010%20Issues%20in%20Electi%20Administration/2010%20Provisional%20Voting%20Model%20Bill.pdf>

PAPERLESS REGISTRATION

National - Project Vote has released a new report, "Paperless Registration: Innovations in Three States." Writer Steven Rosenfeld talked to election officials in Kansas, Delaware, and South Dakota to learn how motor vehicle offices in those states successfully implemented technological improvements to make the integration of voter registration services more efficient, more effective, and more economical. In addition to providing valuable lessons for other state DMVs, these innovations could also be important models for improving the way public assistance agencies provide voter registration services around the country. In the coming year Project Vote will be working to help state agencies and election officials understand the advantages of paperless registration systems, and to help pass legislation to implement these improvements. Read the details here:

<http://projectvote.org/images/publications/2010%20Issues%20in%20Election%20Admi%20nistration/Paperless%20Registration%20Case%20Study%20FINAL.pdf>

VOTER IDENTIFICATION COMPROMISE

Columbia, SC - The South Carolina State Senate reached a compromise Thursday on a controversial Voter ID bill that phases in over two years new requirements for a picture ID in order for a person to vote in South Carolina. The bill also establishes a new 15-day early voting period prior to elections, maintains walk-in absentee voting for 30 days prior to an election and retains mail-in absentee voting beginning at 45 days before an election. The photo identification requirement takes effect Jan. 2, 2012, and the State Election Commission must begin issuing voter registration cards with photo ID by July, 1, 2011, pending state funding being made available for the cards. The system carries an educational, public outreach component, so that currently-registered voters for whom obtaining a photo identification may pose a difficulty, could be assisted....Read more here:

<http://www.thestate.com/local/story/1133041.html>

FELON VOTING SUSPENDED

Olympia, WA - A federal appellate court has agreed to temporarily suspend its controversial ruling that cleared the way for felons in Washington State to vote from prison. The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals put their ruling on hold at the request of Secretary of State Sam Reed, Attorney General Rob McKenna and Gov. Chris Gregoire while the state tries to convince the U.S. Supreme Court to take the case, Reed's spokesman Dave Ammons said Thursday. According to Ammons, the inmate challengers did not object to the stay. Read the details here:

http://www.seattlepi.com/local/414775_voting28.html?source=myspi

INTERNET VOTING

New York, NY - In a *New York Times* editorial, internet voting is discussed. The *Times* in its editorial, calls internet voting as the "beta version" and states that internet voting is not ready for prime time yet. According to the editorial "Internet voting is in its infancy, and still far too unreliable, but states are starting to allow it and the trend is accelerating because of a new federal law that requires greater efforts to help military and other overseas voters cast ballots. Men and women in uniform must have a fair opportunity to vote, but allowing online voting in its current state could open elections up to vote theft and other mischief. Read the editorial here: <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/01/28/opinion/28thu4.html?ref=opinion>

DC DLC BRAIN TEASERS

DC DLC BRAIN TEASERS - Each week we have a puzzle or a brain teaser or a trivia question for you to answer. You can e-mail your answers to [editors @ democraticlawyers.org](mailto:editors@democraticlawyers.org). Please put "Brain Teaser" in the subject line. We will run the names of all those who get the right/best answer in the following issue.

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

Thomas Jefferson became the first President to send his State of the Union Address in writing. Which President changed that tradition by speaking in person?

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION

Several Senators from Massachusetts have run for President; name the two who actually were elected to the Presidency.

ANSWER

John Quincy Adams and John F. Kennedy were Senators from Massachusetts who were elected to the Presidency. We had a correct answer from Jesse Wald. Congratulations Jesse. Good Luck this week.

WHO ARE WE?

The DC Democratic Lawyers Council (DC DLC) is a group of Democratic lawyers, affiliated with the National Lawyers Council of the Democratic National Committee, volunteering their legal skills to strengthen the democratic process. We work to ensure that every eligible citizen is allowed to vote and that every vote cast in every election is counted. The DC DLC was formed out of a concern that voting rights are increasingly under attack in our country and an understanding that now is the time to put the skills of Democratic attorneys to work to ensure that every citizen's right to vote will be upheld in future elections. Our activities include advocating for better laws and regulations and initiating litigation when necessary to guarantee the fairness of and the widest participation in the U.S. electoral process.

The Democratic Lawyers Council was founded by attorneys who have served on the front line of election law for the Democratic Party in numerous elections, including

most recently, the 2000 and 2004 presidential elections. The lesson learned from the recount debacle was that post-election day litigation will hardly ever fix any election injustice. Given that, many of the recount lawyers, particularly those based in Florida, engineered a comprehensive voter protection program to confront and deal with voter and election issues before Election Day. One aspect of this effort was the recruitment of 3200 lawyers who, after receiving specialized election law and procedures training, worked inside the polls in key precincts in Florida on Election Day to assure that every citizen who showed up to vote, was able to do so.

Our mission statement is simple:

We are a coalition of lawyers and others dedicated to fostering universal participation and trust in the electoral process by ensuring that:

- All eligible persons can register to vote easily;
- All registered voters are able to vote simply, fairly, and without intimidation; and
- All votes are counted accurately and all voting systems are open and reliable.

We encourage you to send us an e-mail if you would like more information or are interested in becoming a part of our organization.

Please e-mail us at [erika @ democraticlawyers.org](mailto:erika@democraticlawyers.org).

[READING SOMEONE ELSE'S COPY???](#)

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[GOT NEWS?](#)

If you have news for Democratic Law Briefs, we'd love to get it. E-mail your news, ideas, rumors and thoughts to Paul Roath and Arielle Harry-Bess at [editors @ democraticlawyers.org](mailto:editors@democraticlawyers.org). We reserve the right to use, not use, edit, paraphrase, or otherwise play with your submissions.

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