



*Fighting for Voting Rights and a Democratic United States*

## **DEMOCRATIC LAW BRIEFS**

A Publication of the DC Chapter of the National Lawyers Council

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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.

### **VOTING RIGHTS NEWS**

#### **PUBLIC AGENCY REGISTRATION PROJECT**

**National** - In a survey conducted with public assistance agencies in 40 states and the District of Columbia, Demos asked about the feasibility of implementing an upgrade of voter registration databases based upon the records kept by these agencies.

Responses enforce the conclusions of the voter registration modernization movement: collaboration among election officials and public assistance agencies will increase the efficiency and accuracy of our voter rolls, and lower the cost of maintenance. Read the report here:

[http://www.demos.org/pubs/vrm\\_report-edit7.pdf](http://www.demos.org/pubs/vrm_report-edit7.pdf)

#### **MODEL BILL FOR PROVISIONAL VOTING**

**Mercer County, NJ** - Ruling in a five-and-a-half-year-old case, Mercer County Superior Court Judge Linda Feinberg ordered the creation of a new panel of computer security experts evaluate the security of New Jersey's 11,000 voting machines on February 1, but stopped short of decommissioning the Sequoia Voting Systems devices or requiring them to be retrofitted to produce a paper trail. The judge ordered the re-evaluation of the machines within 120 days to determine whether they comply with a law requiring that they be accurate and reliable, plaintiffs said Monday. Read more here:

[http://www.nj.com/mercer/index.ssf/2010/02/judge\\_orders\\_more\\_testing\\_of\\_v.htl](http://www.nj.com/mercer/index.ssf/2010/02/judge_orders_more_testing_of_v.htl)

## 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

What President delivered the longest State of the Union Speech?

### LAST 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?

### ANSWER

Woodrow Wilson delivered his State of the Union address in person thus changing the tradition started by Thomas Jefferson.

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).

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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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