



Protecting the Integrity and Accessibility of Voting in 2004 and Beyond: A Statement of Principles on Voting Systems and Voter Verification

People For the American Way

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People For the American Way believes that maintaining the integrity of our electoral process is critical to America's democratic institutions. We also believe that providing people with disabilities with the opportunity to vote in an independent and private matter is essential to comply with the moral and legal imperative of equality. We are confident that there is a clear way forward that will allow states to achieve both goals to the maximum extent feasible for this year's elections, while encouraging additional advances in technology to fully serve the needs of all voters and election officials in future elections.

We believe action by election officials should be guided by four fundamental principles:

- 1) The voting process, particularly the voting systems and the administration of elections, must be uniform and nondiscriminatory;
- 2) Voters must be able to independently and privately cast and verify their ballot;
- 3) Any voting system must comply with national certification standards; and
- 4) Voter confidence and reliability in the electoral process must be maintained.

We believe that adding voter-verified audit trails, with appropriate alternate technology to accommodate voters with disabilities and voters with limited English proficiency, would provide a necessary layer of security that would also improve voter confidence in the election process.