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*Advocating for Life, Faith, and Freedom in the Public Square*

Immediately following the Nov.6, 2012 Presidential elections the Ohio Christian Alliance, along with a network of citizen volunteers, began an investigative research of more than 40 boards of elections, a combination of urban, rural and suburban counties, requesting poll worker notes and incident reports from Election Day November 6, 2012 Presidential Election. In response to reports of irregularities, problems at polling locations, and suspected voter fraud, the citizens' audit was conducted by volunteers in counties across the state. Other citizens stepped forward to provide sworn statements which are included in this report, detailing some of the problems that they experienced, including problems with voting machines, problems with provisional ballots, suspicious activity and irregularities at polling locations. A number of problems came to light while volunteers were requesting information from various boards of elections. It became apparent that there is no uniform reporting process for boards of elections. Each board has its own unique way of processing the issues and problems that are reported by the precinct poll workers. Some counties are very astute in providing a detailed memo sheet preprinted with the precinct indicated on each sheet so that the report can be easily processed as to where the occurrence took place. Some of the rural counties have a very poor reporting process, and some counties provided no documentation at all, claiming that they did not retain records, (i.e. VanWert County).

The poll worker notes tell a story from the citizen precinct workers who work the polls on Election Day. These reports are very helpful, as they document what kind of problems occurred and how and if they were handled. Incident reports are written on SOS Form 450. These forms are used when issues rise to a higher level of concern. The form clearly states that it is to be forwarded to the Secretary of State's office. However, during the audit, we discovered that some counties, i.e. Medina, chose not to forward them on to the Secretary of State, believing they had handled the issues on a local level. The form clearly states, however, that it is to be forwarded to the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State's office cannot address what was not reported to them.

It is our hope that the findings of this report will help legislators to address the issues through legislation, correcting some of the problems that exist currently with Ohio's election laws, specifically provisional ballots, absentee voting, voter identification, Golden Week, and better training of poll workers.

We have provided a list of recommendations that have been offered by citizens who have participated in this audit. It is our hope that this research and evidential material will be of benefit to the Secretary of State and legislators as they seek to address these issues and problems with Ohio's election process. The men and women who take time out to work the polls exercising their civic duty are to be commended. Young people need to be encouraged to do their part and work the polls in coming elections. A public service campaign needs to be mounted to encourage more young people to participate in the elections process by working the election polls. Additional information will be made available on the Ohio Christian Alliance website at [www.ohioca.org](http://www.ohioca.org).

*Here is the list of counties from which reports were pulled for the statewide citizens' audit.*

*ADAMS, ASHLAND, ASHTABULA, ATHENS, AUGLAIZE, BELMONT, BROWN, CLARK, CLERMONT, COLUMBIANA, CUYAHOGA, DARKE, DEFIANCE, ERIE, FRANKLIN, GREENE, GUERNSEY, HAMILTON, JEFFERSON, LICKING, LORAIN, LUCAS, MAHONING, MARION, MEDINA, MONROE, MONTGOMERY, MUSKINGUM, PICKAWAY, PORTAGE, RICHLAND, ROSS, SANDUSKY, SCIOTO, SENECA, STARK, SUMMIT, TRUMBULL, UNION, VAN WERT, WARREN, WASHINGTON, WILLIAMS, WOOD*

Here is a partial list of the recommendations submitted as a result of the findings of the citizens' audit:

- 1. More thorough training of poll workers.** Poll workers should not work the same location year after year. Presiding judges become territorial with their role as "leader" and are not open to new and perhaps better ways of doing things. When a new poll worker questions a procedure or offers a suggestion, the PJ becomes defensive and an adversarial relationship begins.
- 2. Provisional ballots should be printed a different color.** These ballots have tended to make their way into the regular ballot box because of confusion at the polls. We suggest that the provisional ballots be printed a different color – not just the envelopes, but the ballots themselves.
- 3. Replace faulty machines.** Voters lose confidence in the voting process when machines malfunction.
- 4. Early voting should not be the weekend before the election.** The federal court got it wrong. When a federal judge ordered that the Ohio polls be open on the Saturday, Sunday, and Monday before the Tuesday election, the bench did not take into consideration that boards of elections had already maxed out at their hiring levels and that there would be no time to rectify the poll books before the Tuesday morning Presidential Election. What ensued was an atmosphere of chaos at polling stations across Ohio. Sworn statements in this report detail some of the problems that took place in Cuyahoga County, for instance, but it was not unique to Cuyahoga County; this problem occurred in counties around the state.
- 5. Photo ID requirement polled favorably at 70% in Ohio. Ohioans overwhelmingly want voter photo ID.** **UPDATE:**

Other recommendations are being considered and will be presented to the Secretary of State and members of the Ohio Legislature.

**SB 200 – Voter registration database bill passed the Ohio House on Wednesday. A bill to help clean up the state voter database. PASSED**

**S.B. 238, sponsored by Senator Larose, reduces early voting to 28 days, gets rid of so-called "Golden Week". H.B. 250 limits early voting (Rep. Becker). First hearing Feb. 11, 2014. PASSED!**

**S.B. 216 provisional ballot bill that requires more information for applicants of provisional ballots. State Rep. John Adams will be offering an amendment to make provisional ballots a different color. This will help to clear up the confusion at polling locations when provisional ballots are cast with regular ballots. PASSED!**

**H.B. 269, sponsor Rep. John Becker – photo ID requirement bill that provides for people at or below the poverty line to acquire a photo ID at the BMV at no cost. PENDING!**