

# More Than a Year to Save Democracy: Completely Doable and Absolutely Necessary by November 2008

**MORE FLEXIBLE DEADLINES** -- the House Administration Committee addressed concerns raised by election officials in its mark-up of HR 811 by replacing the original January 2008 deadline with a new bifurcated deadline that:

- Gives all jurisdictions that used any paper-ballot-based voting system in 2006 (including thermal reel-to-reel systems and accessible systems that used a paper ballot in any manner) until the first election in **2010** to meet new requirements;
- Gives all jurisdictions that had ***no*** voter verified paper ballots in 2006 until **November 2008 (not January 2008)** to meet the new requirements

These changes give the states with no voter verified paper ballots **more than a year** to meet the new requirements, and states that are partially compliant **more than two and a half years**.

**EQUIPMENT IS READILY AVAILABLE** -- Optical scan systems accompanied by ballot marking devices already meet the requirements of the bill and are certified and widely in use across the nation. States are not limited to that option, and only 6 states will require a statewide change by November 2008.

**STATES HAVE REPLACED SYSTEMS IN MERE MONTHS** -- Many states have moved quickly to replace voting systems without negatively impacting the orderly conduct or integrity of the electoral process. For example:

- **New Mexico** converted to paper-based voting in 8 months (2006)
- **Nevada** all but one county converted to paper-based voting in 8 months (2004)
- **North Carolina** converted to paper-based voting in 8 months (2005-2006)
- **Idaho** converted to ballot marking devices in 6 months (2005-2006)