



Your gifts go to make sure every vote is counted...

MassVOTE conducts first-ever independent audit of Massachusetts voting machines

Historic first sparks staunch opposition from Secretary of State

Lawsuit considered as possible next step

WITH YOUR BACKING, MassVOTE recently conducted the first-ever independent audit of an election machine in Massachusetts.

In June, using the Public Records Law, your team at MassVOTE asked to see all 1,007 anonymous ballots cast in a randomly selected precinct in Shrewsbury during the 2010 special election for U.S. Senate.

1,002 ballots were correctly counted. On the remaining five,

Read more on page 2.

With your donations...

MassVOTE is building the largest Get-Out-The-Vote machine in state history for this fall's elections

Nearly 100 organizations prepare to hit the streets

MASSVOTE IS TURNING UP the heat for Election Day. Your contributions are at work, building the biggest get-out-the-vote machine this state's ever seen!

Almost 100 groups from Boston to Springfield have been assembled. This includes groups like the Disability Policy Consortium, Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition, Pioneer Valley Planning Committee in Springfield, and the NAACP's Worcester branch.

And, your support is allowing us to provide these organizations with state-of-the-art technology to track voters better than ever before. Fully trained and equipped, volunteers are hitting the streets statewide—organizing door to door and registering voters.

To kick off our Get-Out-The-Vote campaign, MassVOTE's Young Civic Leaders trained and led more than 150 youth in voter registration drives, focusing on Boston in July and Springfield in August.

High-income, suburban white voters are much more likely to vote than low-income people of color in the cities. In the January special election to replace Ted Kennedy, voter turnout was over 70% in areas like Dover and Hingham. That same day, only 40% of Boston and 25% of Lawrence voted. The story was the same around the state.

With your help, the story will be quite different this November.



Using your money to get their money out of politics...

Campaign Finance Reform: What you've made possible

➡ Opinion polls, statewide conference calls, petition drives – oh my!

LAST WINTER, MassVOTE sent you a survey and asked you, what issue that we work on is most important to you? An overwhelming number of you said “campaign finance reform.” You want corporate money out of politics. So do we.

Here's what your financial support has allowed us to do, so far:

- In May, MassVOTE conducted a poll with Suffolk University to find out what the public thinks about Citizens' United – the January 2010 Supreme Court decision that lets businesses spend unlimited amounts of money in federal elections. Four out of every five Massachusetts residents agree with you – and oppose the ruling.

- Congressman Michael Capuano and voting rights expert Brenda Wright from the Democracy Program at Demos, a national think tank, joined us for a conference call. They answered your questions about campaign finance reform and the Citizens' United ruling.

- In July, you may have been among our crews of volunteers on Centre Street in Jamaica Plain and Broadway in Southie. Clipboards in hand, you asked people what they thought about the role of big money in politics. More than 800 people agreed that something needs to be done and signed our petition.

Without you, none of this would have been possible. With you, anything is possible.

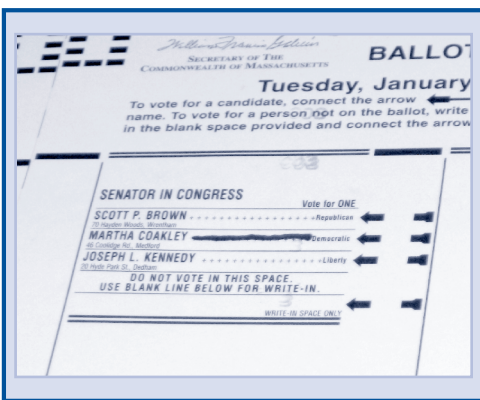
Victory on National Popular Vote and Bilingual Ballots!

Thanks to you, MassVOTE was able to support Common Cause and the Chinese Progressive Association to pass two important pieces of legislation this year.

➡ **The National Popular Vote**, if passed by enough states, will give the presidency to the candidate who wins the most popular votes nationwide. Massachusetts is the 6th state to pass this legislation.

➡ **The Bilingual Ballots Law** will protect voting rights by extending the use of English-Chinese and English-Vietnamese ballots in Boston's Chinatown and other neighborhoods through 2012.

First-ever independent audit of Massachusetts voting machines (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)



An uncounted ballot discovered during MassVOTE's audit of Special Election results from January 2010 in Shrewsbury, Massachusetts. This first-ever independent audit of your voting machines in state history was shut down by Secretary of State William Galvin after reviewing just one precinct.

the voters had mismarked their ballots. But their intent, in all five cases, seemed clear.

While this may affirm your confidence in the count, it also highlights the importance of well-trained poll workers and clear signs at the polls to instruct voters how to mark their ballots. After all, as Al Gore knows all too well, miscounting 1 in 200 ballots can make a huge difference in a close election.

Sadly, your own Secretary of State doesn't agree. The officeholder responsible for the integrity of the electoral process opposes our attempts to ensure that the state's voting machinery is working properly. Secretary Bill Galvin told city

and town election officials to deny our requests for additional audits.

As your newsletter goes to press, we're looking at our options. We may bring a lawsuit. We may push for new legislation. One thing is for sure – we won't give up.

As Charles Stewart, Political Science Professor at MIT, says, “Post-election audits of voting machines are now a best-practice among states who are interested in making sure that the machines remain in good shape and that election procedures were followed.”

More than half the states in the U.S. require random audits of voting machines after elections.

Your financial support pushes us up Beacon Hill time and again...

MassVOTE stormed the State House in support of voter pre-registration bill

➡ Youth led the charge to allow voter registration in advance of your 18th birthday

“I’M THE NEXT GENERATION and I want to be taken seriously,” says Shaughnessy Cole, a 17 year-old senior and one of MassVOTE’s Young Civic Leaders. “But, right now, politicians have no incentive to care about what we think. We’re fighting to pass pre-registration so they’ll listen to us.”

Pre-registration would allow 16½ and 17 year-olds to register to vote before their 18th birthday.

Every day this year, your donations sent MassVOTE volunteers, interns, and staff to the State House to tell legislators why getting youth registered to vote early is so important.

Letting teens pre-register means fewer 18 year-olds will need to register at the last minute. And, fewer will miss the deadline and end up unable to vote on Election Day.

Current programs to register high school students just don’t work.

No one knows that better than our Young Civic Leaders, nine high school students who work part-time at MassVOTE thanks to your committed support. The Young Civic Leaders teach their peers about democracy and voting. And they’ve learned that very few teens can actually register in



Rayanna West, a 15 year-old Young Civic Leader with MassVOTE, visits Senator Robert Hedlund to ask him to support pre-registration. Pre-registration would let 16½ and 17 year-olds register to vote early—and make your lawmakers take younger constituents more seriously.

TOP LEFT: With your support, “Pre-Registration Chocolate Bars” were delivered to legislators throughout the State House. Hershey nutrition details were replaced with facts on how pre-registration would impact youth engagement in voting.

Civic Engagement Facts	
Serving Size 1 State	Please pass H603 Pre-Registration this year!
* This will not create tons of new work for elections officials.	
Total People In MA	6.5 million
Total Registered Voters	4.2 million
Total Citizens Between 16.5 and 18:	117,874
Between 11% and 34% of 17 year olds will pre-register	
Total Citizens who Currently Pre-Register under Existing Law:	7,950 OR 8.62%
Per Precinct:	9 new registrants OR up to 20,644 new registrations statewide
Cost:	\$ 0.00
The Central Voter Registry is already set up to handle registrations younger than 17 with the "pending status".	
Registration Date: Please pass by 7/31/10. Please implement in 2011!	

Massachusetts, due to out-of-date registration laws.

Right up to the closing bell of this year’s legislative session, on July 31, your gifts enabled us to keep up the fight for pre-registration. While the session ended without a final vote, MassVOTE isn’t giving up. And neither are

your friends in the legislature...

“When this session began, no one was talking about pre-

registration. Now, it’s on everybody’s radar screen. We’ve got momentum and we’re going to get this done next year,” said Ellen Story, the bill’s lead sponsor and a State Representative from Amherst.

“Seeing these youth up at the State House,—they’re inspiring,” said Representative Mike Moran, the Chair of the House Committee on Elections Laws. “While we didn’t pass pre-registration this time, I’m looking forward to working with you to get it done.”

State Rep. Mike Moran

“Seeing these youth up at the State House, day after day – they’re inspiring.”



MASSVOTE NEEDS YOU!

Are you ready to knock doors, hold signs, or register voters? There are so many ways for you to get involved with MassVOTE this election season and beyond. For more info, contact **Manolia Charlotin** at **617-542-8683 x201** or **mcharlotin@massvote.org**



Luckily, because of your donations, Robeson isn't depending on Senator Brown to fund his job...

You give "Young Civic Leaders" more than a job, you give them hope

- ➡ MassVOTE teen speaks at press conference on reducing youth violence
- ➡ Senator Brown urged to support more jobs as one way to curb violence



"I spoke out because not a lot of youth have the same opportunities that MassVOTE gives me. If I wasn't working here, I wouldn't be as productive."

Robeson Rogers

MassVOTE Young Civic Leader

JUST LAST WEEK I got attacked walking home. In the summer, kids in my neighborhood just don't have anything better to do. Jobs will help."

Talking to Robeson Rogers opens your eyes to what a lot of urban youth live with as their everyday reality.

Robeson is one of nine Young Civic Leaders who work at MassVOTE thanks to your donations.

Earlier this summer, Robeson spoke at a press conference at Boston City Hall. At the event, sponsored by coalition partner Teen Empowerment, he responded to a shooting that left a 14 year-old dead on a basketball court in Jamaica Plain.

Robeson understands what contributes to this kind of violence. "Boston's schools are underfunded. We get nothing but the bare bone essentials. There are more army recruiters than college representatives at school." Add the lack of jobs and safe places to go... it's a combination that leads some teens to violence, and puts others at risk.

Robeson credits his job at MassVOTE for making a difference. "If I wasn't working here, I wouldn't be productive. This place has made a big impact in my life."

Unlike many of his peers, as a Young Civic Leader at MassVOTE, Robeson gets help preparing for his SATs. He practices writing college essays and filling out college applications. And, he develops skills in public speaking, leadership and organizing.

At the press conference, Robeson called on Senator Scott Brown to reverse his position and support money for summer jobs for your state's youth. We're still waiting for Brown.

Luckily for Robeson, he isn't dependent on the Senator to fund his job. That's supported by generous donors like you.

With your contributions, you give all of our Young Civic Leaders jobs that develop life skills, help get them into college, and inspire them to advocate for other teens to do the same.



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