



**For immediate release
January 11, 2008**

Press Conference on Verified Voting Issues in New Jersey Presidential Primary 11 AM on Tuesday, January 15 in Room 109 of State House in Trenton

The Princeton-based Coalition for Peace Action (CFPA) will have a press conference at 11 AM on Tuesday, January 15 in Room 109 of the State House to present their latest initiatives and analysis of voting in New Jersey. They will request emergency actions to instill greater confidence in New Jersey's February 5 Presidential Primary, the first time in decades that New Jersey will vote in time to affect the outcome of the major party presidential selection process.

Expected to speak at the press conference are:

US Rep. Rush Holt (D-12), who is the primary sponsor of a Verified Voting bill in the US House of Representatives that would mandate that voter verified paper ballots be part of every vote cast in federal elections in the US, as well as random audits of the results to ensure their accuracy

Prof. Penny Venetis, Co-Director of Rutgers University Law Schools' Constitutional Litigation Clinic and CFPA's attorney in a lawsuit seeking verified voting in New Jersey

Irene Etkin Goldman, CFPA Steering Committee Chair

Stephanie Harris, Chair of CFPA's Voting Issues Task Force

The Rev. Robert Moore, CFPA Executive Director

CFPA has been centrally involved in the verified voting issue for over three years. In October 2004, CFPA was the primary plaintiff in a law suit filed in NJ Superior Court seeking to mandate voter verified paper ballots for all votes cast in New Jersey as a matter of constitutional law. Ms. Harris and Assemblyman Reed Gusciora are also plaintiffs on the lawsuit, which is still pending at this time.

When the lawsuit did not produce rapid results, CFPA spearheaded a lobbying effort that culminated with the legislature adopting, and Acting Governor Cody signing into law, a bill in 2005 that mandated voter verified paper ballots in all New Jersey polling places by January 1, 2008. Despite court monitoring, the State failed to meet the statutory deadline and NJ Attorney General Anne Milgram requested and was granted a six-month extension.



This means that New Jerseyans will, at least for the next six months, continue to have unreliable and unverifiable voting on electronic voting machines, which have repeatedly been shown by reputable scientists to be susceptible to flawed operation and manipulation.

“It is unconscionable that New Jersey officials who are responsible for ensuring our most fundamental, democratic right- the right of all voters to verify their votes and have them counted as intended - have fallen short of the standards of the Constitution, as well as of New Jersey’s 2005 Verified Voting Law. It is time for emergency action to remedy this situation in time for the extremely important February 5 Presidential Primary. If New Jersey’s vote is as close as the recent New Hampshire one, we need urgent action to reclaim our constitutional rights,” said Irene Etkin Goldman, Chair of CFPA.

In December 2007, CFPA and allies successfully lobbied for approval of a bill introduced by Sen. Nia Gill to mandate random audits for voting in New Jersey, to catch any discrepancies and offer some degree of voter confidence. All paper ballots, including emergency, absentee, and provisional ballots, will be subject to a random audit and could be the determining factor in a recount.

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