

# War on the Dispossessed

by Robert J. Fitrakis and Harvey Wasserman

The foundation of election theft is the manipulation of race as a “divide and conquer” strategy. The advent of Jim Crow-style photo ID and other restrictive registration laws indicate massive intentional disenfranchisement through the 2016 primaries and into the general election. Fitrakis and Palast have estimated hundreds of thousands of disenfranchised voters in Ohio alone. The ACLU of Ohio sued Secretary of State Jon Husted for purging two million voters from the voting rolls in the run-up to the election.

But the Jim Crow restrictions on our purported democracy have been with us a long time. Once again, in revised modern form, they’ve swept through the nation’s electoral system like a plague.

As we approach the 2016 election, we fear yet another fiasco aimed at rendering our grassroots nation powerless amidst the worsening realities of social injustice, perpetual war and ecological catastrophe

The electronic voting machines that will record more than half the nation’s votes are mostly a decade old, easily hackable and controlled in numerous key swing states by secretaries of state and governors that can manipulate the official outcome.

In March 2015, the Harvard Electoral Integrity Project reported that over fourteen hundred international election experts gathered data from 2014 and pronounced that the United States was 45th in election integrity among the world’s long-standing democracies. The Project reported that on a 100-point scale, the US received an integrity rating of 69.3%, one notch ahead of the narco-drug state Colombia at 69.1%.

As of this writing, the 2016 primaries have already been marred by voting machine shortages, elimination of precincts and long lines, resulting in mass disenfranchisement in Arizona and Wisconsin. In Latino areas of Arizona, voters stood in line for five hours and more.

The New York Times and others have estimated some 300,000 citizens were stripped of their right to vote in the Wisconsin primary by photo ID and other laws. More Republicans were reported as having voted in that primary than Democrats, with the margin likely to carry through the fall general election, thanks to the mass disenfranchisement.

Statistician, Dr. Beth Clarkson’s work noted that in certain elections, Democratic candidates seemed to benefit from vote flipping. In 2016, Josh Mitteldorf pointed out that the exit polls strongly suggested that Bernie Sanders had won



graphic: Caglecartoons.com

Massachusetts, but the official result gave the state implausibly to Hillary Clinton.

The unadjusted exit polls showed Sanders winning 52%–46% over Clinton. The actual vote count showed Clinton barely squeaking by 50–49. This seven-point disparity in the exit polls — the gold standard for indicating election fraud worldwide — should have caused a major scandal in the United States. Many political commentators felt that if Clinton lost to Sanders in Massachusetts it would shift her to an underdog position in the primary race.

In fall 2016, more than half the ballots in the general election will be cast on electronic voting machines whose tallies cannot be independently verified. In swing states like Florida, North Carolina, Ohio, Michigan, Iowa and Arizona, among others, Republican governors will have the opportunity to swing the electronic vote count without public disclosure or accountability.

Most of the nation’s electronic voting machines will have been purchased with funds from the Help America Vote Act of 2002, making them a decade or more in age, and highly vulnerable to even amateur hackers. Because court rulings still protect voting machine manufacturers, there will be no meaningful way to monitor or confirm the veracity of the vote count in the 2016 presidential race, or in those for the US Congress, governorships, statehouses and virtually all other elected offices in the United States.

As we approach the 2016 election, the prospects for a truly democratic outcome are grim. We face devastating crises of corporate domination, social injustice, military madness and ecological catastrophe. The only cure is a bottom-up revolution in human consciousness and action.

*Excerpted from The Strip & Flip Selection of 2016: Five Jim Crows and Electronic Election Theft.*

*Robert J. Fitrakis is a lawyer, political author and Professor of Political Science at Columbus State Community College. Harvey Wasserman is an American journalist, author, and democracy activist. They are senior editors of Columbus Free Press.*

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