



Democracy Counts

Same-day election audits

Democracy Counts, a nonprofit tech startup, is pioneering same-day CPA-quality audits of elections to insure that the people who take office were genuinely elected.

Our Solution

- Audit elections using mobile devices and instant analysis
- Produce independent CPA-quality direct evidence of fraud if and when it occurs

Our Strategy - Disrupt to open up

- Provide evidence to people and entities with legal standing to request injunctions and investigative orders
 - *The audit goal is to meet the burden required by courts to enjoin certification of suspect elections pending investigation of discrepancies and their causes.*
- Release evidence to public and media
- Put defenders of status quo on the defensive
- Open political space for reformers to get traction with their solutions

Core audit functions

Record and preserve official data as it is created
To expose any changes made after creation



The “Data Preservation App”

Record the votes of those denied their right to vote
To quantify voter suppression and identify plaintiffs



The “Voter Suppression
App”

Re-record the votes of those who voted normally
*To independently establish minimum vote
counts to compare with official results*



The “Exit Vote App”

Delivery of audit functions

Democracy Counts audits deploy trained volunteer auditors using mobile devices running our mobile app to collect and upload data. All data transmission and storage is encrypted at the SHA 512 (milspec) level or above. Data is redundantly stored in databases distributed across numerous political jurisdictions worldwide.

Managing multiple apps is logistically problematic so we have combined all functions into one app containing multiple firewalled zones corresponding to different audit functions, i.e., data preservation, voter suppression measurement, exit voting, incident reports, auditor training and education, and audit security. We refer to these colloquially as separate apps, but technically they are subparts of one app.



How it works

1. Auditor photographs poll tapes; photos are encrypted and uploaded.
2. Auditor manually enters vote totals from races being audited plus other data such as number of voters. This data is then encrypted and uploaded.
3. Polling station data posted on the Secretary of State's website is automatically compared to the data entered by auditors and flagged if discrepant.
4. The probability of exposure of changes between polling place and website is so high that this audit function will have high deterrence value.

The Voter Suppression App

How it works

1. Voters who are prevented from voting, for any reason -- broken machines, long lines, shortened polling place hours, polling place closures, onerous I.D. requirements, removal from rolls, etc. -- cast their their intended votes on the app. This data is encrypted and uploaded.
2. If vote counts are large enough that they might have affected an election, the data and contact information are turned over to legal teams for further action.
3. Large plaintiff classes whose aggregate voting preferences are known will meet the twin burden of showing a) significant constitutional injury and b) potential effect on the election outcome, thereby establishing standing.
4. The goal is to create case law protecting the right to vote.

How it works

1. Upon leaving the polling place voters cast their votes again (audited races only) and answer demographic questions. Their votes are separated from their identities, and all data is encrypted and uploaded.
2. Exit-vote counts at each polling place are compared with official results for that polling place. Official counts that are lower than audit counts are grounds for suspicion and are flagged.
3. Data is tested and analyzed and, if suspicious, turned over to legal teams for legal analysis and then provided to candidates and others with standing to sue.

How they work

1. Ad hoc incident reports are qualitative by nature unless and until a particular incident type becomes so common as to allow the inference that it reveals a pattern of conduct.
2. Qualitative data from auditor incident reports will be used in real time to guide audit-process decisions about, e.g., distribution of personnel on election day, when to communicate with election administrators, where to send security personnel and/or notify law enforcement, etc.
3. We will enable “informal election monitors” to load our app on their own mobile devices in order to report incidents to us directly.
4. Eventually we will use multiple social media feeds to gather additional incident reports.

Future processes/functions/tools

Scrape public data flows (e.g., reported exit poll results, incident reports on social media) for comparison and flagging purposes

Build historical database of demographics, polling place results, voting system technology strengths and weaknesses, to assist with audit design and post-election analysis and flagging

Develop algorithms based on control theory to (pre-election) apply historical data to predict the best places to look for fraud and (post-election) to improve analytic acuity

Key processes flow chart

