



Media Contacts: Kathy Stone, 651-646-3224, kathy@ceimn.org
Mark Halvorson, 612-724-1736, mark@ceimn.org

Minnesota to make election history with first-ever post election review

St. Paul, MN – October 24, 2006 – The accuracy of Minnesota’s electronic voting machines will be assessed this fall thanks to a new state law that takes effect with this year’s elections. Races for congress and the governor’s race will be reviewed to assess the accuracy of the machines.

Numerous problems have been documented nationally with electronic voting machines, particularly direct recording electronic (DRE) systems. While Minnesota does not use DREs, the optical scanners that Minnesota uses are subject to many of the same risks for potential programming errors as DREs.

“The post-election review offers the best way to assess the accuracy of our voting machines and help ensure an accurate vote count,” according to Mark Halvorson, director and co-founder of Citizens for Election Integrity Minnesota. “The optical scan voting machines used in Minnesota are considered reliable but have never been reviewed to assess their accuracy.”

The new review law requires a hand count of randomly selected precincts in every county. If the hand count from the review shows a difference greater than 0.5 percent compared to the machine count from election day, further hand counts are required.

Citizens for Election Integrity Minnesota, along with the League of Women Voters Minnesota, is recruiting and training nonpartisan teams of volunteers in every county to observe the review. Minnesota is one of only 13 states to require a review and the only state where a review will be observed. To volunteer as a review observer, contact CEIMN at 800-976-8086 or visit www.ceimn.org.

Other Minnesota election notables:

- Minnesota enacted same-day voter registration in 1974 which opens voting to more residents who may have moved or are voting for the first time.

- Minnesota had the highest citizen voting rate at 79 percent during the 2004 presidential election. (U.S. Census Bureau)
- The statewide efforts to observe the review will be the first in the nation.

Citizens for Election Integrity Minnesota is a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to ensuring an accurate vote count. CEIMN educates citizens about our election system, publicizes news about voting technology, encourages citizen participation in the election process and advocates for election reform. For more information visit www.ceimn.org.

The League of Women Voters Minnesota is a multi-issue, grassroots volunteer organization of concerned women and men working together to better understand and influence the issues that affect us, our families, and our future. It is a political, but non-partisan, organization dedicated to researching complex questions from all viewpoints. The League does not support or oppose any political party or candidate. For more information visit www.lwvmn.org.