

## **electionlineWeekly—December 30, 2008** **electionline.org**

*Note: Due to the holidays, electionlineWeekly will not publish on January 1. Happy New Year!*

### **I. In Focus This Week**

#### **“The List” 2009**

*Electionline.org staff*

OUT: 1025 F Street, NW  
IN: 901 E Street, NW

OUT: Old voting machines in New York — maybe  
IN: New voting machines in New York — maybe not

OUT: Election Day voting lines  
IN: Early voting lines

OUT: Brad Johnson (Mont.), Betty Ireland (W.Va.), Bill Bradbury (Ore.) and Mike Coffman (Colo.)  
IN: Linda McCulloch (Mont.), Natalie Tennant (W.Va.), Kate Brown (Ore.) and Bernie Beuscher (Colo.)

OUT: Concerns about needing a bigger boat  
IN: Trying to register all voters for the voyage

OUT: Calls for third-party voter registration reform  
IN: Calls for universal voter registration

OUT: Dan Seligson, project manager, electionline.org  
IN: As if anyone could fill those shoes

OUT: Voter ID being argued in the Supreme Court  
IN: Voter ID being argued in the State House

OUT: Election 2008  
IN: Already thinking and planning for 2010

OUT: Florida 2000  
IN: Minnesota 2008

OUT: Traditional voter outreach  
IN: Blogs, Twitter, and Podcasts

OUT: 2008 Chair Rosemary Rodriguez (D) and Vice-Chair Donetta Davidson [R]  
IN: EAC Chair Gineen Bresso [R] and Vice-Chair Gracia Hillman (D)

OUT: Lamenting poll workers' lack of technical skills  
IN: Lamenting poll workers' lack of management skills

OUT: Camping out for tickets to see Hannah Montana  
IN: Camping out to be the first to vote

OUT: Arizona Secretary of State Jan Brewer  
IN: Arizona Governor Jan Brewer

OUT: Voter-verified paper trail  
IN: Automatic voter registration

OUT: Going to the polls after work  
IN: Going to the polls before work

OUT: Worries about allocating voting machines  
IN: Worries about allocating e-poll books

OUT: Election Day registration as the frontier of registration reform  
IN: Election Day registration as a backup to broader registration reform

OUT: States' grumbling about authorized but un-appropriated HAVA funds  
IN: States' relief about appropriated but unspent HAVA funds

OUT: Bush v. Gore-inspired election reform  
IN: Coleman v. Franken-inspired election reform

## II. Election Reform News This Week

With a [Friday deadline set for the senatorial recount in Minnesota](#), tensions are flaring with both campaigns arguing over the number of absentee ballots that should be counted. According to the *Minneapolis Star Tribune*, with the state Canvassing Board holding out the possibility it may certify a winner in the hotly contested race as soon as next Tuesday, and with DFLer Al Franken holding a narrow lead, the absentee ballots may hold the key to the winner of the state's most contentious U.S. Senate race ever. But by the time the second of two meetings with Deputy Secretary of State Jim Gelbmann ended late Monday afternoon, the campaigns remained far apart. Campaign lawyers held dueling news conferences, accusing the other side of trying to prevent an agreement. And even Gelbmann, who at one point asked lawyers from both campaigns to remain "civil," said a late proposal from Sen. Norm Coleman -- to review 654 more votes atop the 1,346 absentee ballots that local officials had already agreed were mistakenly rejected -- threatened to derail the process.

The state of [Maryland filed suit against Premier Election Solutions](#) during the holiday week in an attempt to recover \$8.5 million. The claim seeks costs the state incurred to correct security gaps in the voting system that were uncovered several years ago by independent investigations. The state has paid \$90 million under a contract with Premier, formerly known as Diebold, since 2001. "Under basic contract law, this is money that should be paid by Diebold or its successor and not by the taxpayers," Attorney General Douglas Gansler told *The Baltimore Sun*. "This is sort of the final chapter of the touch-screen machines that we've had issues with in Maryland since we've gotten them." Premier President Dave Byrd said in a statement that the state's claim appears to be based on "inaccurate and unfounded assumptions." He also said the 2008 election, in which Premier's machines were used, was one of the "smoothest" in the state's history, culminating what he called a "seven-year track record of success."

Amongst all the holiday cards Fulton County, Ga.'s election department received something in the mail that clearly was more naughty than nice. The [county got behind in process absentee ballot applications for the November election and hired Federal Express](#), which delivered about 4,000 ballots, according to a FedEx employee who asked not to be identified. The lowest cost per delivery was about \$25, according to invoices obtained through the Georgia Open Records Act, but some individual deliveries made to Georgia addresses the Sunday before the election cost as much as \$355. The total bill is \$327,025.59, but Fulton County is trying to negotiate the cost downward. "Good God!" elections board member Harry MacDougald said Wednesday upon being told of the total by the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*. "We're very unhappy that we incurred that expense." The cost included prepaid return envelopes.

Despite widespread concerns about voter fraud before the Nov. 4 election, Hamilton County, Ohio elections officials said Monday there were [only two problem votes out of more than 400,000 votes cast](#).

According to the Cincinnati Enquirer, the two situations causing the concern are: [A man voted absentee, then called the board later to withdraw his ballot because he lives in Connecticut](#). An inmate voted twice from jail. It is too early to tell whether either of the cases might be considered voter fraud. The out-of-state voter's situation has already been referred to a special prosecutor, Michael O'Neill. The inmate's situation will be investigated by the board; if further investigation is warranted, that case will be referred to the prosecutor. "I think the fears about widespread voter fraud and potentially long lines didn't happen," county Elections Director Sally Krisel told the paper. Republican Board of Elections member Chip Gerhardt told the paper he didn't think pre-election concerns were overblown and said the heightened awareness of potential fraud helped limit it.

### III. Opinion

Alabama: [Overseas voting](#)  
Alaska: [Electoral College](#)  
Arizona: [Maricopa County](#)  
Colorado: [Denver Clerk & Recorder](#); [Secretary of State](#)  
Connecticut: [Refining elections](#); [Human error](#)  
Florida: [Hillsborough County, II, III](#); [Run-off elections](#)  
Indiana: [Vote centers](#)  
Maryland: [Write-in votes](#); [Voting machines](#)  
Minnesota: [Recount, II, III](#); [Election judges](#); [Voting system](#); [Canvassing Board](#)  
Mississippi: [Voter ID](#); [Election reform](#)  
New Jersey: [Voting system, II](#); [Voter lists](#)  
Ohio: [Election reform, II, III](#); [Early voting](#); [Election process](#)  
Oklahoma: [Voter ID](#)  
Oregon: [Online registration, II](#)  
South Carolina: [Vote fraud](#)  
Virginia: [Overseas ballots](#)  
Utah: [Voter turnout](#)  
Washington: [Pierce County](#)  
West Virginia: [Voting system](#)  
Wisconsin: [Election reform](#)

*\*\*some sites require registration*

### IV. Job Opportunities

*All job listings must be received by 12 p.m. Eastern on Wednesday for publication in our Thursday newsletter. Job listings are free but may be edited for length. Whenever possible, include Internet information. Please email job postings to [mmoretti@electionline.org](mailto:mmoretti@electionline.org)*

**Election Administrator, Benton County, Wash.** — position is under the direction of the County Auditor, an independently elected official, and is responsible for the management of voter registration and elections for Benton County. In addition, the County Auditor conducts elections for several junior-taxing districts ranging from cities, towns and school districts to library and drainage districts. The County currently has 87,000 registered voters. The Election Administrator will supervise a full-time staff of 3 plus up to 20 additional staff during elections, as required. **Qualifications:** Extensive management experience with a minimum five years in election administration, or any combination of education and experience that would likely provide the required knowledge, skills and abilities, is qualifying. An in-depth knowledge of election laws, regulations and rules is desirable. In addition, the qualified candidate must have prepared and managed annual budgets, have experience in the management of automated information systems, and must have proven ability to meet deadlines, lead an experienced staff, and have served in some capacity in the public eye. The position requires that the Election Administrator be conversant with pending legislation and its potential impact on Election Department operations. Candidates with a college degree and/or certification as an Election Administrator by the Washington State Secretary of State will be highly considered. **Salary:** \$52,068 to \$67,572. **Application:** Please submit an application (available

online at: [www.co.benton.wa.us](http://www.co.benton.wa.us)), resume, cover letter and five work-related references to: Bobbie Gagner, Benton County Auditor; c/o Benton County Personnel Resources Department; 7122 W. Okanogan Pl., Bldg. A; Kennewick, WA 99336. **Deadline:** Open.

**Election Administrator, Everyone Counts, San Diego, Calif.** — will work day-to-day with worldwide clients to coordinate their elections conducted over the Internet. You will make proposals, arrange contracts, detail job specifications, set up elections using our online administration system, coordinate sign-off and testing, report results to clients, and send invoices. You will also respond to customer and voter inquiries by phone and email. Customer service skills, computer skills, and attention to detail are crucial elements of this position. You will also directly supervise other Elections Administrators.

**Qualifications:** Demonstrated ability to work independently and to supervise others; strong listening skills and ability to show respect for all clients; excellent written, oral, email, telephone, and presentation communications; attention to detail and accuracy; proficiency in general computer software, such as Microsoft Office or Open Office, and a strong comfort level with the use of the Internet and technology, including learning complex new software systems; demonstrated ability to collaborate with a variety of people, taking the initiative to reach out to others, in person and by phone and email; demonstrated ability to accomplish numerous tasks with high quality in a time-efficient manner. Experience strongly preferred: Online business processes, advanced computer skills; administration, project management; customer service, helpdesk assistance; business or government sales, negotiation, and invoicing; bachelor's degree or higher. **Salary:** Based on qualifications and experience. **Application:** Those interested should email a cover letter, one page resume, and salary requirements to [careers@everyonecounts.com](mailto:careers@everyonecounts.com)