

Dear Member of the Presidential Commission on Election Administration,

I am Rashad Robinson, Executive Director of ColorOfChange.org, the nation's largest online Black civil rights organization. We appreciate the hard work of the Presidential Committee on Election Administration to tackle the complex and important task of improving the voting experience for all Americans.

Our members and voters across the country are fed up with long lines and unnecessary obstacles that make it harder to vote. Black and Latino voters waited nearly twice as long as white voters to cast their ballots in 2012. I strongly urge you to make bold recommendations for national standardization and reforms that employ technology to ensure that every American who wants to can enjoy the freedom to vote.

To aid your efforts to improve the process for voters, we have collected personal stories from our members about their voting experiences. Our members faced a wide range of obstacles when trying to vote in the 2012 election from under-resourced polling sites to reduced early voting hours to voter intimidation by poll watchers. Their comments are included in the attached pages.

Not included for brevity's sake are the several hundred comments we received from members in states like Washington, California and Oregon stating their appreciation for the ease and efficiency of vote by mail programs. We strongly encourage the commission to include a recommendation that all states offer a vote by mail option to their citizens.

As you make your recommendations, you surely will be reviewing many detailed and complex reports about the voting experience across the 13,000 election districts in this country. As you're doing so, I urge you to read the stories from our members and hear how election laws impact their lives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rashad Robinson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and "R".

Rashad Robinson

**ARTHUR B.** | Hampton, GA

Long line, I had to stand up and I am disable and use a walker.

**LEN K.** | DeBary, FL

I live in Florida. I voted early and it took an hour and a half. We need to make voting easier by allowing more days prior to the election. Governor Scott eliminated days and shortened hours. Shame on him and the ALEC controlled republican legislature.

**SYLVIA M.** | Charlotte, NC

I am disabled and I saw many disabled and elderly like myself having t wait in long lines. People were not considerate of our age or disability.

**O G.** | New York, NY

The 2012 Presidential election was the most disorganized, over crowded, poorly handled voting experience I have ever had; it undermined the community.

**ELISA G.** | San Antonio, TX

I took a friend to vote. She is originally from Mexico, but became a citizen a couple of years ago. She wears indigenous clothes. She was the only one in line who was asked for ID. I told the poll worker that ID's were not necessary. She argued with me. I did report the polling place. Then I was speaking in Spanish with my friend to help her know how to go about voting. I was asked to stop talking out loud. There is no doubt in my mind that my friend was singled out to make voting difficult for her.

**NANCY A.** | Richmond, CA

I live in a small town in CA, and while they are pretty friendly, they were disorganized and the lines were longer than I expected. Their logistics were disorganized and it took longer than necessary to process people.

**VIRGINIA F.** | Cocoa, FL

We went to vote early, on Saturday, so we could be sure our vote would be counted. There was a long line outside the building and it was hot in Florida. We waited outside and then inside a long corridor that doubled back. People who were elderly had no where to sit. We almost had to leave ourselves since we are seniors and it was difficult to stand that long. There were only a few voting booths that could be used at one time.

**GORDON B.** | San Antonio, TX

I was difficult to see the signs posted. I also know of multiple precincts being lumped together, which was confusing to some voters.

**DEXTER L.** | Jonesboro, GA

Too many people waiting over 6 hours. Many gave up.

**IAN D.** | Cornelia, GA

I registered by mail 8 weeks before the elections. When I arrived at the polling place for early voting, the polling place had no record of me immediately available. They had to dig around in multiple shoe-box-sized files to find my record. I had to sign a provisional ballot before I was allowed to vote. If I had been a member of a minority or been easily discouraged or intimidated, I might not have voted that day.

**ADAIR V.** | Chicago, IL

When I walked into the library there was no one to tell you to get a number (which they wrote numbers on papers). People waiting in line told me to get a number. So then I had to knock on a door and ask for a number. After I got the number I went and sat for 3 hours before my number was called and then I went into the room where the voting machines were and sat and waited another 10 to 15 minutes before I was able to vote. I will ask for a mail in ballot for now on. Sitting in a library for 3 1/2 hours does not make any sense and you can not eat or drink anything. I am 60 years old and they need to do better. And I mean a lot better.

**GERALD F.** | Dearborn Heights, MI

Me and my wife were able to vote absentee. Our daughter had problems because her signature did not match the one on file so she was unable to vote. Our city clerk is a republican.

**NANCY M.** | Sun City Center, FL

They had to double check my ballot and called in a 'higher ranking' authority before accepting it. The worst thing was the documentation required to register to vote; it took 3 months for me to be registered to vote!!!

**NICOLE C.** | Peekskill, NY

First of all, they changed our polling place and no one knew where it was. We went from place to place and each poll worker sent us back to the next place. Secondly, my husband and I registered at the same time. I got my mailed registration confirmation but he did not. He was visible online as being registered but not in the polling place. They gave him a special ballot but we received a letter that it had not been accepted and his vote was not counted. We have no idea why.

**DANIEL Z.** | New York, NY

Previously the space was large enough to handle the

half dozen precincts. the last election was in a space where only one precinct could fit but still half dozen precincts trying to get voting done. Not the workers fault. NYC lower east side.

**LINDA M.**

We attempted to vote 4 times and the lines were too lon,around and around the buildings.Finally we decided we had to wait went towards the end of the day,finally waited only one hour.Our voting days were shortened just to disenfranchise large portions of the populations.Disgusting tactics.

**ED G.** | Chicago, IL

During SOME elections there have been people that harrass people attempting to vote. The law says something about these people must keep 100 feet away but that is not always honored.

**STEVEN S.** | Chesapeake, VA

Had to wait over almost 2 hours to vote. A very big obstacle for most people. In this modern era, why is voting still so antiquated and slow?

**BARBARA W.** | Cheltenham, PA

I never waited so long to vote in all my years of voting. I believe there was a deliberate attempt to frustrate people so they would not vote.

**REGINA Y.** | Los Angeles, CA

The polling place is close to where I live, but I work downtown so it takes me a while to get back uptown. I think the polls should be open early in the morning and at least one hour later to accommodate those who work far from home.

**FRANK G.** | Deerfield Beach, FL

every time I moved , it was a nightmare to re register

**JACQUELINE M.** | Charlotte, NC

I voted early as I work out of town Monday-Thursday. Reducing or closing early voting will severely hamper my ability to vote at my leisure

**MICHAEL J.** | Ruther Glen, VA

Other than the third party intimidation, every one who came to vote had their opportunity to cast their vote despite the long line.

**MICHAEL M.** | Littleton, CO

We are mail-in voters in Colorado and dropped our completed ballots at a regular polling site near our home. However, many voters we canvassed either did not get mail-in ballots due to CO Secy of State Gessler's action, or thought they would get them since they got Dem primary ballots in the mail.

**SUE L.** | Sugar Land, TX

I am white have never had any problems voting, never asked for ID, treated respectful, however, I have seen/heard poll workers ask minorities for ID, speak to them in hostile manner and question then as to when they voted last. I

**CHERYL K.** | Blue Springs, MO

Most of the time things are great, but we do not have bilingual poll workers or for blind folks to vote. They will go out to a vehicle to allow the handicap to vote. Most of the time the wait time is minimal except for Nov ones which can be a 30 minute one.... Could use more machines then. I have been an election judge. We must bring out food & drink and eat at the sign in table at times. We may not leave to vote so we vote absentee.

**BRIAN W.** | Gainesville, FL

Florida Governor Rick Scott repeatedly denied requests from Floridians to extend the early voting period. Afterwards, Governor Scott publicly stated that not extending the early voting period in the 2012 election was a mistake, but it's no coincidence that Rick Scott acts rigidly along Republican party lines, nor is it a coincidence that the (Republican dominated) Florida legislature added many needless Constitution Amendments to the Florida ballot. (Very few of which got the mandatory 60% majority of votes.) The early polling precinct I voted at was too small to handle the crowd at the time I voted, and there were people far luckier than I was to get a parking spot.

**SANDRA D.** | Monument, CO

As you may know, Colorado changed at the last minute that if someone did not vote in the last election, they had to re-register if they wanted a mail-in ballot. Much of our population thought that it was easy because it could be done online. Many do not know that we have a large population that has no experience doing anything on-line. I took my little card table and sat outside bus terminals, food banks, shelters, Family Dollar stores, Mercados Latinos, flea markets... and registered about 400 people on paper. Most registered "independent" because the election was so polarized they did not feel comfortable with any party. Many said that they would not have known they weren't going to receive a mail-in ballot and many had no idea where to vote. Some where unable to fill out their own form for physical or other reasons. I know that we still missed many, many citizens who did not get a chance to let their voice be heard. To me, trying to get this group registered was not easy, was time consuming but very rewarding. I felt that I was fighting "voter suppression" for these citizens. It should not be difficult for anyone to vote!!!

**ELIZABETH C.** | Albany, NY

The last time I went to vote, I was very disturbed by part of the "procedure." After I was given my computer ballot sheet, I was asked by the woman behind the table what the number on the ballot was. I showed her and she wrote the number down on a lined tablet. Since voting is supposed to be private, why is my name and ballot number being recorded? I asked and she waved me off saying it is just part of the process. I could not stay argue the point so I voted and planned to report the incident later. The next day I set about trying to find out how I report this, or just find out why it happened and if it is a legitimate activity. The process of doing so was so time consuming and complicated (every web site I went to directed me to someone else) that I gave up. In my opinion: a) ballot number should NOT be recorded with voter names for any reason and b) reporting or questioning these kinds of incidents should be far easier.

**MARY JANE A.** | Potomac, MD

I voted early because of a predicted storm on voting day. The line was very long, and it took over 2 hours to reach the voting machine.

**RITA O.** | Minneola, FL

We voted early but my husband had trouble voting because someone else had already voted for him. We live in Lake county in FL which is very Republican so we always vote. If we don't vote, it is guaranteed someone else will. We must show official ID's; however, this did not stop someone from voting under my husband's name. When you live in FL, you're really not sure your vote counts or is thrown out.

**JEAN K.** | Bristol, PA

Big white guy thugs shoving flyers in your face. No help for the handicapped/elderly/special needs. Some of them could hardly hold a pen, let alone pull out a photo ID. Unbelievable!

**SHARON S.** | Evansville, IN

There was one broken machine, however, while I was there, that wasn't a problem, as I arrived in the middle of the day with my Mother, so we could vote together. There was not handicapped access to the voting area, sadly, and there were a lot of steps, which was hard on my Mother (80 years) to climb. We voted within approximately five to eight minutes of our arrival, and there were five people ahead of us when we lined up. As we were leaving, there were about fifteen people in line, and there were approximately fifteen machines for voting.

**CASSANDRA B.** | Richmond, VA

My experience was fine. However, the new voting laws in Virginia will discourage young ex-cons and senior citizens without IDs.

**KAREN D.** | Brooksville, FL

I stood in line with mostly white elderly people for over 2 hours to early vote. The ballot had too many initiatives. That alone causes long waits because most people aren't prepared to answer without reading each one. I had to quick find a restroom after voting. That alone would keep many older people from waiting.

**MICHAEL G.** | BRONX, NY

It is clear that voters should have at least one week to vote. Many people cannot necessarily make it to the polls on a single day of voting.

**SONIA L.** | Newport Beach, CA

The line was too long.

**JACKI M.** | Bowling Green, OH

During the 2000 election there were intimidating people eyeing everyone & there was a 30-minute wait. Fortunately for me the precinct I reside in is predominantly white & Republican (I am white & a Progressive). Therefore, there are always more voting machines than needed & the wait time is negligible. I live in a college town (Bowling Green State University) & the students really do need more voting booths. They could use the extra ones from my precinct.

**MARTHA P.** | Portland, OR

My daughter and I have similar names, so when I did not receive a ballot by mail, I found out that it had been sent to my daughter's address. I had to take the bus, and fill out a ballot in person instead. What a huge inconvenience! Is this how ballot-by-mail is supposed to work???

**AMANDA Y.** | Chesapeake, VA

I waited because it's important, but the wait was approx. 1.5 hours to vote and if I didn't have an understanding boss, I wouldn't have been able to vote. I know many people who had to leave the line in order to get their children to school or get to work (I know it's the law you can miss work to vote, but not everyone will actually make that happen plus many cannot miss any pay!)

**CHARLOTTE J.** | Chicago, IL

My polling place is directly across the street from my house at a Chicago Public School. I have voted in every election for the past 44 years. I was asked (and

refused) to present a photo ID at the last election. Considering that Title II of the Voting Rights Act had not been voided I saw no need to present a photo ID, voting by affidavit is an option in Cook County. What we need are better informed election judges, instead of the political hacks that "parrot" whatever they are told to say.

**RICHARD F.** | Bonita Springs, FL  
For older people, or others with minor disabilities, not easy to stand in line for over 2-4 hours.

**WILLIAM P.** | Lehigh Acres, FL  
Florida's early voting in the last election was an absolute train-wreck... and if Rich Scott has his way, it's going to be worse in 2014 and let's not even consider 2016!

**PHILLIP W.** | West Palm Beach, FL  
there were lines around the public library bldg and people had to wait in the hot sun...

**DEBBIE D.** | Los Angeles, CA  
I used to work as a precinct manager for various votes for a number of years and was also a voter. One year, our entire area did not receive their voting info or polling location in the mail. The area I lived in was democratic and did have a mixture of ethnicities, such as Jewish people, Caucasian Christian, Hispanic, and a small percentage of African Americans & others, such as Pilipino, Oriental, & more. Another time, we were forced to turn so many voters away because we could not find their names on the voter registry, that is we were not allowed to allow them to vote. It was awful! These were mostly Hispanic folks and I did not know what to do so I made calls and got nowhere. No one had any answers for me and I had to give them a map of other polling locations and they told me that their polling place last year was at my polling place. Somehow the polling places were divided and I guess they may have not been told either. Lines were extremely long that day and the parking very difficult to find, so I am assuming to say that many just did not vote because of the time stress involved in finding a location to vote and finding parking. In another area, more recently just as a voter & looking at results I noticed that most, if not just about all of the black population did not vote. There are over 450,000 in this community here and many African Americans. I could barely believe when I viewed the online results for the Mayor vote and only saw approximately 9,000 who did vote. I guess not everyone wanted to vote for an all white, more extremist type of Christian government so they just didn't have a choice but not to vote. There was no one else on the ballot and no one else to vote for.

Although a smaller community than downtown Los Angeles or areas of San Fernando Valley the ratio seemed really low in votage and turnout. Older folks who have a right to vote who live in nursing homes also are sort of left out sometimes. If they do not mail out all the information and packets to areas also, many will be confused about where to vote. That may be a problem nationally but I only experienced this in one area one time. Also, it's also a matter as to a choice the people have! If in very solid racial areas people are only given a choice of a certain type of judge, mayor, or the like WHO DO THEY VOTE FOR if the choices all seem like bad choices?

**GRETCHEN B.** | New York, NY  
Presidential election was a nightmare. Long lines all day; poll workers not allowed to leave at all during the entire 20+ hour day. Not enough paper ballots, ballots hard to read and use, scanners broke down repeatedly - scanner voting machines a total waste of NYS taxpayer dollars (bring back the lever machines!); Superstorm Sandy made matters worse, as people from all over the NYC tri-state area were allowed to vote at other polling sites, so all that had electricity and not underwater were inundated with voters from other districts. I hope this never happens again, but I know it will.

**TONI C.** | Kew Gardens Hills, NY  
We got there to find there was only one ballot machine working. There were at least 50 people when we walked in already waiting. The lines went around the entire room and there was a lot of confusion about what line one needed to be on. Then, after finally signing the correct poll book, we had to wait in another line. Then fill out our ballot and finally waited on another line just to put it into the voting scanner.

**ANDREA B.** | Boca Raton, FL  
Since 2000 having just moved to Florida I had studied the sample ballot carefully (hole punch vs NY's voting booth with levers). I wanted to get it right. I practiced at the polls before voting, pushing all the way through with my pencil. I asked for help because I had been clearly told to punch to hole to the right of the name of the person I was voting for. Al Gore had 2 holes to the right. The poll worker told me to push the top one. Well -- that was PAT BUCHANAN I learned afterward! When I came outside everyone was saying, I don't know who I just voted for! It was 10 AM. I called Democratic headquarters. By the 5 o'clock news we all knew about the butterfly ballot. Since then, I only vote by absentee ballot! I have time to peruse the overly complex ballot and carefully take my time choosing what and who I wish

to vote for. I think we should all vote by absentee ballot! The Supreme Court, as you know, decided the 2000 election. They chose to rule that not every vote counts! I was on chemotherapy at the time, but got up out of bed and stood with a sign, demanding a recount! I was impassioned. Because this was unprecedented, the Supreme Court selected the next President of the United States, and changed the course of history. Absentee ballots, I pray, are actually counted. The ease and pressure free method is for me the only way to vote!

**BELVIA J.** | Los Angeles, CA

I started out walking across the street at a high school gym in my neighborhood. It was so crowded that I decided to go elsewhere, which was a little better except they didn't have enough machines. It was so hectic of an ordeal.

**LAURA R.** | Brooklyn, NY

Election workers were disorganized.

**BARBARA P.** | Greensboro, NC

The polling place was only opened for 1 day.. But now the Republican appointed election boards in NC are restricting places that voting takes place. This will increase the time it takes to vote and the time it takes to get to the polls. This is horrible for the elderly or poor. Drive time increases with distance and that adds expense to the entire process. Now these boards are also decreasing the time the polls are open. Here in NC if you end up at the wrong polling place, your vote may not count at all. Every rule has changed. It only makes sense if these boards are intentionally restricting voting. Barbara Presnell

**JESSICA M.** | Tempe, AZ

My most recent dilemma with voting occurred in 2009, when it was my first time voting. I had registered with my address at the time, but since I had just graduated from high school, I had moved out into temporary housing before I was able to move into my dormitory housing. I had moved two days before it was time for me to go down to the polls, of which I did not feel there was adequate time to adjust the voter registration. The problem came about when my identification card (state issued) had my new address on it.

**KENT G.** | Swansboro, NC

Came in with cane and in pain because of need for hip replacement. No one ask if I needed a chair or handicapped voting booth.

**THERESA A.** | New York, NY

Despite having registered immediately after mov-

ing to the neighborhood two years ago, and having voted at least once, my name wasn't listed and I was able to vote but separately, (not sure how this was registered.) and this hold up was upsetting to me as this was an important election to me. (I wanted to vote for Obama. Dr Theresa Aiello

**CINDY S.** | Wichita, KS

We did a mail in ballot and mailed both in 1 envelope. They got mailed back. Sent them in under separate cover and husband did not send in a copy of Drivers License as it did not say to- or we could not find that instruction so vote did not count. He has voted in the same area town for nearly 50 years, same area for 40 and the same address for over 20. Just a hassle! Never had to show ID before. Now lines are very slow and the whole thing is awkward as we know everyone and it used to be a fun place to see your neighbors.

**SHOMARI J.** | Detroit, MI

Generally my voting experience for Presidential elections has shown long lines consistently. otherwise the experience was acceptable. For non-presidential races, there were no problems.

**GLENNA S.** | Whitewright, TX

Last midterm elections we arrived at our usual polling place to find a note on the door. They decided to move to the next town 8 miles away. My husband was late for work due to longer lines.

**MAXINE J.** | Tallahassee, FL

We were directed to 3 different polling areas each of them were wrong. So after returning home on limited gas we tried it again the next day we finally contacted someone was finally able to get us where we needed to be. But we were not going to give up!

**ROGER C.** | Detroit, MI

Super long lines outside, confusing when you got in the building, even more confusing when you got thru the doors into the big room because there were many different precincts and no real clear signage (it was pretty much word of mouth from the people in front of you as to which line to be in),long waits before you even got to the table where your precinct was and then you had to wait for a voting booth to open up and then you finally got to vote. Altogether it took me about 3 hours to get in and out.

**MATTHEW F.** | Minneapolis, MN

There was a very long line out the door at my polling place. After snaking into the building a poll worker came through and explained that the line was for same day registration and there was a shorter line

further up for those who had already registered (including me!). Still it was a long wait because there were in a large gym only about 5 voting booths. This was especially silly since we use optical scan ballots so no booth is necessary, tables work fine and the community center has plenty of tables in the closet. After finally getting a ballot it turned out that there were not enough working pens because the election officials did not buy new pens but left us with a mismatched assortment of corporate swag, most of which did not work. I guess the lesson is make sure to pre-register and take your own pen.

**JUDITH A R.** | Sunrise, FL

The lines are too long at all polling places in Florida I have waited in line for more than 3 hours already to cast my vote.

**KATHLEEN Q.** | Springboro, OH

waited one hour in line where there was a republican complaining to everyone in the back of the line about not being able to approach people in line to hand out flyers, basically complaining to us all about having to follow the law- she was embarrassing and just SO REPUBLICAN! John Husted in his (sarcasm) effort to encourage voters cut the hours to vote, why on earth does he hold the job he does- his Job, which he clearly does not understand is to HELP people vote, NOT HINDER!!

**DON C.** | Greenville, NC

We, in Greenville, NC, depend heavily on early voting (as many as 65-75% of the votes cast in the most recent elections were before election day. Our Republican-dominated State Legislature has just passed the most regressive anti-Voting Rights Bill that will surely suppress the vote of 70 y.o. like myself and my mostly African American neighbors and friends. Prior to this draconian legislation, the best turnout we've had was on Sundays, after church. The NC Legislature has eliminated Sunday voting altogether and reduced the number of early voting days and discouraged the convenience of previous sites (underfunding accomplishes similar outcomes as deliberately making it harder to exercise our franchise by increasing the distance to arrive @ the polls). My family depends upon curbside voting due to 2, sometimes 3, women who are not fully ambulatory. We are deeply concerned that the Tea Party-dominated Boards of Elections will cut back on staff so as to make voting access for the disabled more difficult. don cavellini, for the Cavellini/Willoughby(African American) family

**KAREN G.** | Seffner, FL

Lines were incredibly long, it took as long as 3 to 4 hours just to vote, they were only letting 5 people vote at a time. Some police presence.

**DAVID R.** | Sugar land, TX

I witnessed minorities (Asians and Hispanics) being mocked for having broken English.

**SANDY W.** | Port St. Lucie, FL

In Florida the ballot was long and confusing. Even if you researched and marked it ahead of time it took time to go through the ballot that in my opinion was designed to be complicated, long and confusing so you might vote for something you didn't mean to. Many people stood in line for hours during early voting and on election day. I was lucky because I don't work and I have a car so we came back for three days until we found lines a bit shorter. But if you did work and/or you didn't have a car you had to wait because it was difficult if not impossible for these voters to return to the polls. Of course here in Florida they want to cut the early voting days and hours.

**JENNY C.** | Annapolis, MD

I don't want churches used for polling locations. The religious people are aggressive and hateful towards anyone who isn't a Republican.

**BOYD W.** | Cape Coral, FL

It took me a little over 3 hours to vote, and I was comparatively lucky. Many reported 6 or 7 hours. The ballot was very long, was written in "legalese," and they only had one machine to read the ballots. The people I saw leaving were mostly working age people who probably had families. I've no doubt that these problems were knowingly caused by our Republican governor, wanting only votes from elderly retired people who had the time to spend, and typically vote Republican. A total outrage!

**BARRY F.** | Wainscott, NY

Many, many polling places w/ waiting times of 3,4,5,6 hours

**ARLENE G.** | Fort Myers, FL

Had 2 seniors with us....88 and 91 years of age who had to wait with us

**R B.** | Los Angeles, CA

steep steps to get to polling place. Signage re: curb side voting available not visible until right at polling place and no parking for same.

**BEVERLY H.** | Columbus, OH

My story was nothing special because I voted early on a weekday at a time when it wasn't busy. However, my polling place was one of those featured on the news as having extremely long lines and my husband had to wait in one.

**MONICA W.** | Rock Hill, SC

My voting experience was draining. The lines were very long and there volunteers running all over.

**CL G.** | Raleigh, NC

I am handicapped and had to get out of my car to flag someone down to get a ballot. very disorganized.

**GEORGE T.** | Philadelphia, PA

The governor of my state and the supreme court of my country have waged war on the right to vote

**SHARON E.** | Memphis, TN

The machines were old and broken. There was not enough machines to handle the crowd. They also had machines that wre not in operation.

**WANDA M.** | Bronx, NY

I was aware that there were not enough poll workers so the lines were longer than usual. Also my name couldn't be found in the book so I had to use the paper used when that occurs. I noticed that the supply was very low. These methods of making it difficult for people to vast we're quite apparent.

**PETER S.** | Knox, IN

It took forever to place a simple number of votes at my local poll place.

**DAVE K.** | Effort, PA

My Poling place has been moved from 1 mile away to about 13 miles away from me. My area has a concentration of Democratic voters. many don't travel to the new voting location because they commute 4 hrs a day to NYC from the poconos in PA.

**NZINGHA M.** | Detroit, MI

I usual vote at Detroit Election Commission the Saturday before the election. We in the City of Detroit do not TRUST Detroit Clerk- Janice Winfrey she has made many mistakes!!! Billboards with the wrong primary election date.....

**ELIZABETH S.** | Lehigh Acres, FL

We need more early voting days and hours, more polling locations, more poll workers and machines. All the problems were intentionally created by Republicans in FL to suppress the vote.

**JOHNNY W.** | cleveland, TX

The Line Was Long And The People Working The Voting Pole Were Moving Slow And They Had May Machines Someone Could Have Used But They Didn't And Had Just 2 People Working.

**PAUL H.** | Chicago, IL

I was told by Mitt Romney's son that the election would be held on the subsequent Tuesday of the following week!

**DOUG L.** | St. Petersburg, FL

In Florida, even in November, standing in line for hours is bad for your physical health.

**DARRELL W.** | Hyattsville, MD

I went to the poll to vote in the last election is stood in the line for at least 5-6 hours.It took me for ever to get to the poll to vote.

**PELAURIA A.** | Scottsdale, AZ

I have reason to doubt that my early voting ballot was ever even counted in Arizona. I'm trying to find out where my actual polling place is, and it is NOT posted on Arizona's website. This SUCKS.

**PETER B.** | Van Nuys, CA

Since November 2004 I have worked as either a precinct clerk or precinct inspector in Los Angeles County, California. Everyone works diligently as a team. However, the provided equipment frequently fails to work properly, or if it does work, it works poorly. The voters usually need to wait less than five minutes, but if the polls are really crowded, they may need to wait about 15 minutes, but never longer than 20 minutes. We do our utmost to facilitate curbside voting for the handicapped and assist anyone who has language barriers by providing bilingual clerks (I am fluent in Japanese). For a seventeen-hour day, the pay for clerks and inspectors are given a pitance; we are also required to attend two to three hours' training.

**PAULA H.** | Rogers, AR

I have sciatic problems and am in pain much of the time. Standing there for over 2 hours took me 2 days to recover from. Also, my son and I had a hard time finding a parking spot.

**LORETTA A.** | Myrtle Beach, SC

The lines were ridiculously long. If we can file our taxes online, why can't we vote online?

**DEIDRE C.** | New Orleans, LA

There seems to be a pattern that there are insufficient machines in Federal elections. The number of voting machines does not vary from elections where there is little interest to hotly contested elections. When I wrote to complain to the state election commission, my comment was not acknowledged.



**ALICE Y.** | Irvington, NJ

I was so overjoyed to see so many people lined up voting in my polling place, that I did not mind the wait in the least. We had an opportunity to discuss what issues mattered to us while waiting in line and who among the candidates we believed had our best interest at heart. Clearly there were no Romney fans at my polling place even though the ethnic makeup was quite mixed. I enjoyed the voting experience. I heard that other areas were not so organized or lucky, that is unfortunately for no one should be stopped from voting but encouraged to vote regardless of whom they vote for. Reform is needed even if not in my area.

**EMILY H.** | Brooklyn, NY

I had to wait more than 1 1/2 hours to vote and the security officer was very controlling. Luckily I was able to stay and vote but many people had to leave and either didn't vote or had to go again in the evening.

**PAUL W.** | New York, NY

The polling location/address that was listed in a mailing was changed on election day. It ended up taking about 30 minutes to find the new location. If I didn't have the day off I might not have been able to vote.

**MARTIN W.** | Frankfurt am Main, CA

I am very fortunate to be a registered Voter in Alameda county, California have never experienced irregularities, my only bad experience was in Sacramento, California, I was the Election Inspector, and a drunk racist harassed me and I had to have an escort to bring the ballot box to the county recorder. Other than that I have not experienced irregularities. Please stop Voter Repression!

**DEE W.** | Hampton, VA

No accessibility for disabled. There were elderly people with no where to sit waiting in the cold for hours. Is this how Americans treat our elders and disabled? Shameful!!

**WALTON S.** | Lehigh, PA

Here in Pa. I was told that I needed a Pa. ID with my picture on it. That was false. After I told them that I WOULD REPORT THEM TO THE FBI, they let me vote.

**EARON G.** | Marianna, FL

I have weak legs for standing, but had to stand for awhile before getting inside to vote.

**ARTHUR C.** | Erie, PA

To the best of my knowledge Pennsylvania does not

have a law that says I have to show my ID (drivers license). The poll workers still ask for ID which makes my blood boil!

**MASAMI Y.** | Miami, FL

took my 72 year old mother with me to vote in the early election. she could not make it all the way, so she waited in the library till I got close to outer door. it took about 4 hours, but we did vote.

**NATHANIEL F.** | Richmond, VA

We only had 5 voting machines and 1 of them was broken. I still don't understand who we got redistricted from the 7th district to the 9th. Bobby Scott don't need our support up here in Richmond to help him win his seat. The republicans made sure Eric Cantor could win the 7TH district by taking out a large area that he knew would vote against him.

**RACHEL G.** | Orlando, FL

I voted in Florida, and there was only one week for early voting and a limited number of polling places. I am elderly and use a walker so I was able to sit on it for part of the time I was waiting. My daughter did not vote because of the long lines and her work schedule. Many people waited in line over six hours to vote.

**MICHAEL K.** | Kalamazoo, MI

What I have found in watching the way voting is handled over the last couple decades is that there is no consistency in the mechanism, unless one counts consistently poor as a response. We have failed to automate the process, failed to standardize the process, failed to make the process clear and easy to follow and have failed to give voters a single means of identification free of charge and free of difficulty in obtaining it. If a person exists and was born in the US, there should be no other requirement. These problems have led to confusions, low voter turnout and people being turned away from exercising their fundamental rights. When going to a polling place, I have presented the card I received from my voter registration place in my local government office. Every time it has been refused as a means of identification. What exactly is its purpose then? Why are we still using manual ballots? Why are we never given a receipt, even when we ask? Why can't things just be fair, clear, equal and intuitive? We need the system brought up to the standards of the twenty-first century.

**STEPHEN B.** | Manassas, VA

The waiting time at my precinct did not exceed 45 minutes. The precinct at which my fraternity volunteered had lines that varied in length from 400+ to

600+ voters. Wait times varied from 3 - 5 hours. Many voters gave up and left. Most did not. I provided photos to the office of Congressman Gerald Connolly.

**SIOBHAN WOLF S.** | Gahanna, OH  
I did not experience any difficulty voting this time. In the past I have had my ID questioned.

**JOSEPH B.** | Sunrise, FL  
Lines were unnecessary long because early voting was condensed to a shorter period.

**DOUGLAS W.** | Severn, MD  
My only complaint is the long line and wait time.

**YVETTE G.** | Kings Mountain, NC  
Issue is lack of early voting sites. One site further away. Shortened number of early voting days. No Sunday voting. Last Local election poll workers intimidating voters and telling them they had to vote for 5 people instead of just the 3 they wanted or their votes would not count.

**CAROL D.** | New York, NY  
I've seen all these problems...and I'm a POLL WORKER.

**WILLIE B.** | South Plainfield, NJ  
I felt somewhat intimidated by the stares from the polling workers, as they were all white, and I am Black... some looked like teenagers.

**JOHN E.** | Grand Coulee, WA  
I was upset, because they made me sign my name twice. I had to drive 50 minutes, just to get to the court house, then there was a line, then it took them for ever to get the signing board. It was the exact same signature. All that, for nothing. The GOP, tried to make it so I couldn't vote, I made sure my vote was counted. I even warned the democrats in congress, to send extra people to my county, so the GOP wouldn't get away with this again.

**PETER M.** | Scottsdale, AZ  
The polling workers have missed my name on a list of voters on several occasions and have caused me to run from polling place to polling place looking for my name on the roster to find it was there all the time at the first polling location. It may have been a simple mistake, but the same things has often been done deliberately to discourage democratic voters in Arizona in the past. Additionally The locations of polling places should be in Public buildings when ever possible to avoid intimidation based on religious preference. My polling place has been moved several

times in 20 years. There no reason why it shouldn't be held in a town facility or school.

**ALAN P.** | Littleton, CO  
In the Jefferson County, Colorado, poll books, the early voters were listed separately from the voters yet to vote. The election judges did not initially realize this. When voters' names could not be found in the book, the voters were given provisional ballots and were allowed to vote that way. Within the first half hour or so, the election judges had discovered the two lists in the poll book and were able to find voters' names more easily.

**CYRILLE P.** | Brooklyn, NY  
Way too long to get the poll.

**MICHELE K.** | Central Islip, NY  
There were very long lines, and we waited at least 1 hour. There weren't enough voting machines or enough poll workers.

**KEN G.** | Jupiter, FL  
50 hours volunteer work for/with 866-Our-vote.org down in Delray FL. I saw it all, heavy police presence, lines reaching 3.5 hours long. the works. (Protect your vote)

**KATHY B.** | Berlin Center, OH  
For the first time in the 34 years that we have lived in the same location, our polling place was changed to the volunteer fire department; this was a very small cramped area for the volume of voters that we normally get in our area. There was far less help in the polling place than usual and more confusion. The machine for vote counting was something new and did not operate well-it kept kicking the ballots back out, it took several attempts to get your ballot accepted. I hope this is not a permanent arrangement.

**DONNA W.** | St. Louis, MO  
Lack of poll workers, polling place options and confusing ballot wording makes voting time dreadful for even me, a college graduate that knows the importance of voting!

**MARION L.** | Brooklyn, NY  
At the last minute my polling place was changed to another location. The signs on the buildings were confusing and i went to the wrong buiding where there was no voting. When i arrived at the proper building, i was lucky, while i was waiting on a very long line which i did not know if it was the right line, a poll worker directed me to the beginning of the line, because of my handicap. So i am giving the voting scenario mixed reviews.

**BRENDA B.** | APO AE, NY

I am a teacher for the Department of Defence In Germany. Voting here is always a lot of extra work. Democrats Abroad always helps as many people as possible here with it's get out the vote efforts. Someone in my position has to be totally committed to voting to stay in touch with this process. When states decide that we have to re-register every year from abroad that is obviously only an effort to keep our Democratic constituency from voting. I would like to see huge efforts made to make it easier, not harder, for me and for the Patriots in the Armed Forces to vote. It is a good thing that Dems Abroad exists or less voting in the Services of the country would be taking place each time there is an election. But more controls on changing the rules for us to prevent states from keeping us out of the process would be a good thing to do.

**WALLACE R.** | Cazadero, CA

My first year in Cazadero, CA and I went to the polling place at the FireStation there. The clerk looked up my name and exclaimed, "Your a DEMOCRAT"? Several people in the polling place looked at me as if I had committed a murder. I signed up for Vote by Mail, and have voted that way for the past 30 years. Some still stare at me if I should visit the Post Office, the General Store or the Hardware.

**WILLIAM W.** | Houston, TX

Most of the people working their were of the elephant party,white,with killer stares because i'm a member of the donkey party who only vote at this polling place.

**TINA S.** | Sarasota, FL I'm speaking as a poll watcher for the Democratic Party. Our highly partisan republican supervisor of elections put in a complete incompetent clerk in the predominantly black polling station. She made so many mistakes and when I questioned her she called the SOE who threw me out of the polling station. It was reprehensible!

**DINAH P.** | Suitland, MD

The line was outside of the door in the elementary school where, I was able to vote. The line ran along the longest route of the inside of the elementary school. There were about 15 machines once in the polling area but I believe that the setup for voting could be done differently; so that more of us can vote and not have to stand in long lines. There should be a separate line for the elderly and one for the handicapped. There should be more than fifteen voting machines to speed up the voting process.

**REBECCA H.** | New York, NY

The poll workers asked for IDs. They weren't try to prevent anyone from voting, I don't think. They wanted to read the person's name from the ID rather than ask for it. It was disconcerting, however, after all the controversy over voter ID laws. It seemed like the workers were poorly trained.

**ELIZABETH O.** | Honolulu, HI

Our ballot was deliberately confusing. We reported it but were told there had been mistakes made when the ballots were printed. Also, now with a voting suppression bill here in Hawaii, it will be very difficult for me to vote because I've been divorced and have to get elaborate documentationf dating back to 1976 from 3 different states!

**RENEE B.** | O'Fallon, MO

I lived abroad during the year of the election. During my summer holiday in the US I had checked that I was registered. I was assured that all data was provided and accurate. I was told that the ballot should arrive in plenty of time for me to vote and return my ballot to the proper election site. I waited throughout September but no ballot envelope arrived. I emailed my election site and was assured that the ballot had been sent. I waited throughout most of September, then telephoned a relative (my sister) to check. She did. Same results. I finally called the election authorities and then realized that I could possibly vote at the embassy in Helsinki, Finland. They said I could not come to the embassy, but they would send me a ballot. I am still waiting for the ballot to arrive, several years later! The ballot from St. Charles election site finally arrived but left only a few days in which to return to St. Charles, my voting precinct. I finally sent it at a high cost in postage. I doubt that it was ever counted. Sr. Renee Brinker

**MIKE H.** | Houston, TX

Poll-watchers felt intimidating in their presence.

**NATALIE G.** | Decatur, GA

To renew my license I have to show 5 different forms of identification. Just to get my drivers license renewed!!! This will affect my ability to vote!!!

**BENJAMIN O.** | Palmetto Bay, FL

I had to wait 3 and a half hours to vote. There were thousands of people in line. The problem was they had 5 machines and they were only using 2. This was ridiculous. Of course I am happy I voted.

**AMY B.** | Spring Hill, KS

I was not asked for ID, but the Latino woman who followed me in line was. I cannot express how furious

I was. The woman, however, acted resigned to it all.  
SAD COUNTRY.

**CHERLYN P.** | Lakeland, FL  
Limited parking spaces.

**IRIS P.** | Poughkeepsie, NY  
Several of us were given incorrect information, incorrect forms and miss directed. I live Upstate New York.

**MATT E.** | Sarasota, FL  
In some places in FL the line was 12 hours long and people did not get to vote until after midnight.

**MONICA S.** | Fishers, IN  
The biggest problem I had was the wait because it is difficult for me to stand for a long period of time. We in Indiana have early voting but some of the locations have been limited or closed.

**KATHERINE D.** | Moseley, VA  
My story is not significant in that I was able to vote, it was my very first time and I do not get intimidated easily. But there were people who could have used assistance and it was not available. I made calls across country for CA, MA, FL and support reforms for all. A driver's license need not to be asked for any ID card should suffice, I'll be glad to help go take applications and pictures where needed. Let's everyone have EQULA opportunity and ability to exercise their voting rights.

**JUANA C.** | No Plainfield, NJ  
I moved from a predominately AA area where there were very long lines not enough poll workers trying experience for the elderly mothers with babies and people that had to work, to a new county that was white conservative a few years ago no lines several poll workers the experience was like night and day every need was accommodated for, toward me it seemed that the poll workers were cold and not friendly, I felt out of place. But what got me was no lines open very early and walking distance from my house, what a difference what white people have and the poor are so very inconvenient for the same constitutional right. At times I am so ashamed of this country 2013 and we still have emancipation without a fair plan. We need to organize a boycott these corporations that treat us so poorly as well as these hateful GOP Gov who denigrates us.

**LARRY G.** | Boston, MA  
The wait was entirely too long

**MARY P.** | Midland, GA  
During the last presidential elections the number of

places to vote decreased. This made the wait longer and a greater distance from where I live.

**JAMES H.** | Rockville, MD  
I was only able to vote by arriving one hour before the polls opened. If I had arrived any later like my brother, my wait would have been over two hours. The polling place was run well, but was inadequate for the volume of voters.

**CHRISTOPHER W.** | Brooklyn, NY  
With that long of a wait to vote, I seriously considered whether it was worth it or not. I almost didn't bother.

**ISAAC W.** | Cleveland, OH  
During last year's general elections was the first time I witnessed the unwillingness of the poll workers at my polling place to assist voters who did not speak English well enough; I stood in a line behind a Spanish speaking gentleman who had recently moved into the precinct and was grilled by a poll worker who kept asking for multiple forms of ID with his address on it, hoping he did not belong there; after he produced his driver's license, a utility bill, and a couple of pieces of other mail with his new address on it was he allowed to vote - but the poll worker was really rotten to him.

**SHARON M.** | Trenton, NJ  
First they said I was at wrong site and couldn't find my name

**LEROY P.** | Sterling Heights, MI  
I am an experienced Election Chairperson in Michigan. The Secretary of State ordered a delay tactic in 2012, ordered asking an unauthorized citizenship question. A lawsuit was filed, posted online at <http://www.aclumich.org/sites/default/files/check-boxcomplaint.pdf> I provided a statement in that lawsuit, posted online at <http://medicolegal.tripod.com/michiganvotersuppressionplettendeclarationexhibit7g.pdf> I was evidently the only Election Chairperson to provide a statement. Michigan's Attorney General moved to strike my declaration. The federal judge denied the motion to strike. Indeed, in the Court's Preliminary Injunction, the federal court cited my declaration at page 13, posted online at <http://www.mied.uscourts.gov/Opinions/bormanpdf/12-14114Johnson.pdf> On my own initiative, to prevent long delays in line, which can be up to an hour, I have taken the following pro-active steps, including but not limited to: handing out applications to vote to the entire line waiting in line for filling out before arriving at the election table; posting sample ballots by taping them to the wall and entrance; increasing

number of voting booths from the normal ten or so up to twenty-five, by informing voters they could use ANY available desk or space in the school room, i.e., that they did not HAVE TO wait until an “official” voting booth became available. Many voters availed themselves of that option. Letting twenty-five people vote at one greatly speeds up the line! thus avoiding preventable delays. My background is history. I have written a history of voter disenfranchisement, posted online at <http://medicolegal.tripod.com/dwb.htm> , with suggestions for “fighting back” on disenfranchisement. This includes suggesting that people with a pro-voter attitude become election staff, so as to be on-site able to resist and countermand suppression activities.

**VALERIE B.** | Miami, FL

Lines were extremely long and the wait was excessive.

**TARINA L.** | Indianapolis, IN

My husband and I are interracial and bought a house in 2009 in a neighborhood that has some diversity. For some reason, nearly every single election (primary or main) has been moved to a different location. Last year’s primary the “notification postcard” was not received timely and I drove to FOUR different locations being told where I was once again moved to. The last one was a white country club tucked away- I parked quickly and saw someone retreat into the building so I RAN to the door which they locked at 5:58pm instead of 6pm! I don’t run, but after being bounced from a church to an elementary school to a middle school to a country club, I was serious about voting in the primary and yet was still denied. During the actual election, my husband and I waited in line with our son for longer than we have ever had to. We had planned on having him to daycare in time- as usual- but instead it took so much longer that he was late (as we were for work across town).

**VALERIE R.** | Charlotte, TN

we live in a small tennessee town. we are 2 white women and we have an adopted daughter who is african-american and 26 years old. we have always gone to the polling place together. both my partner and i went through the line with no problem. when our daughter stepped up to the desk they “couldn’t find her name in the book.” after voting and seeing that she still was at the poll worker’s desk, my partner stepped up behind her and asked, “sweetheart, is there a problem?” All of a sudden they “found” her name in the book and she voted.

**DIANE W.** | Buckhead, GA

We were OK but now they want to change the voting

places from 11 to 5. I call that voter suppression. You know the places they are closing will affect the older and black Americans.

**KIM M.** | Bowie, MD

In the 2012 election, I voted on the first day of early voting in Maryland. I arrived 30 minutes BEFORE polls opened. I stood in line for FIVE HOURS to vote! I know of people who were not physically able to stand in line for that length of time or who had work schedules that prevented such a long wait. There were not enough voting machines. Early voting needs to be expanded, not reduced. And there need to be UNIVERSAL VOTING LAWS AND PROCEDURES in all aspects of voting (i.e., early voting, absentee ballots, etc.)

**LYNN S.** | Margate, FL

i feel governor rick scott deliberately shortened the early voting time so democrats that are the majority of early voting would be prevented to!!!

**RHONDA F.** | Bowie, MD

I voted after work at my city library. I took my children who were 12 and 7 at the time. We waited in line for 4 hours to vote. My daughter fell asleep and I had to put her in the car to rest. The line was so long that my friend and I had to take turns getting out of line to watch her before we finally got a chance to vote. A nice person in line saved the spot so that we could both vote that night. It was totally ridiculous the time we had to wait. However, everyone there was patient and cooperative.

**CATHLEEN T.** | Woodbury, TN

My difficulty came \*before\* I voted. I relocated from Michigan to Tennessee in August 2012. In researching what I needed to bring to change my driver’s license, I discovered that I now needed to show my birth certificate (unlike when I moved in 2000 from California to Michigan, when all I needed to show was my California driver’s license). When I tried to find my birth certificate - the original copy, which was actually issued to my mother upon my birth - it was not where I thought it was, and no amount of searching could turn it up. So I researched how I could get an official copy of my birth certificate from San Diego, and discovered that the fee charged by the San Diego County Registrar was approximately \$40. But if I wanted it any time that year (in other words, in time to register as a voter before election day), I would need to go through a third party who would “expedite” it and send it to me. This “expedited” service would cost approximately \$70, not including the extra \$20 cost of “express” shipping the final document to me. But first, I needed to get a

statement \*notarized\* attesting to my identity, which cost \$5, plus \$10 to have the notarized document faxed to the third party “expeditors,” plus the \$30 in gas it cost me to get to a notary who could also fax the document. That one document ended up costing me \$175. I live on Social Security Disability. It took me more than three years to save enough just to move, and the donated help of at least a dozen people to accomplish that. The \$175 came out of my food budget, and I ate oatmeal and chicken broth for two months. I can just imagine the difficulty faced by people who don’t have even the meager resources I am fortunate enough to have. A birth certificate is a punitive, onerous requirement, especially disenfranchising poor people. If I have already proven my identity to the federal government (I had to show my birth certificate to get a Social Security card, after all.), and in two different states, why should I have to prove it yet again in a third? Is this not the \*United\* States?

**BARBARA L.** | Saint Albans, NY  
Because of Sandy more people were sent to my area to vote. They didn’t send more people pole people with them. So I waited for two hours on line. This is the longest I ever had to wait. I’ve been voting since I was 18, I am 58!

**DIANA T.** | New London, WI  
Scott Walker of Wisconsin is now going to have people placed at polling places to watch over voters. This is intimidation in another form.

**PATRICIA W.** | Columbia, SC  
I feel that it could have moved along quicker if there had been another voting machine, but my wait was easy compared to others here in Columbia, SC, who had a 6-7 hour wait.

**SHEILA M.** | Piscataway, NJ  
The 2012 presidential election was the 1st. time we ever encountered long lines in order to vote and we have been voting for over 45 years. I’m hoping this will not occur again.

**MARY S.** | Rochester, NY  
There were several election districts and it was difficult to ascertain where to line up.

**STEFAN T.** | Arlington Heights, IL  
First, I know my experience is nowhere near as bad as those of other people. The only issue was that the signature in the poll book was decades old. For some reason, this year, the poll worker decided that the signatures didn’t match. I was able to convince them that it was old and that I was me but it took a little effort.

**VALERIE L.** | Chicago, IL  
I was an early voter, however, when I got to the polling place there was a block long line to wait to vote. This was not my regular voting place but it was the closest from my JOB. Even the elderly people older than myself had to wait and with no assistance. Once we got in to vote, my vote was cast ok but my friend’s vote may or maynot counted because the machine broke down and the voting personnel said that it need ribbon. So this was a long evening.

**BRIAN N.** | Windermere, FL  
Ballot scanner was broken and they had to wait for another one. In the meantime they collected ballots in a box and told people they could leave and they would scan them in when the replacement machine got there. Obviously, I was concerned by this procedure and I waited until I could scan my ballot in personally.

**LISA & MARK H.** | Glenarden, MD  
My husband & I were so glad to be voting for a President we truly felt cared about all races of people, we didn’t mind the very long wait in line!

**KELLIE R.** | Kent, OH  
We voted on Sunday because we work and take classes so we weren’t available during the voting hours on Tuesday. The line was VERY long and there were a lot of black voters. I must say I enjoyed meeting all the other Democrats from the area and commiserating about the political issues in this country. It was a sacrifice to give up almost 3 hours on a Sunday just to exercise our right to vote but we think it is very important.

**THELMA T.** | Chicago, IL  
My ward was changed without providing me with prior notice. When I went to the new polling place, the poll workers had to call downtown to confirm which ward I actually belonged in. Their books were not updated. Can u imagine the confusion when u multiple this problem by the number of voters countywide...

**STEPHEN S.** | Bonita Springs, FL  
Everyone had to wait over 2hrs to vote and with the voter backup things started to go wrong. The polls not being prepared for the back up, made people have to wait even longer.

**ELIZABETH H.** | Beaumont, TX  
False information was being promoted on major media here, giving the impression that voter ID was required. When I called out the media, it did not stop saying voter ID was required, No retractions/corrections were made on air, only one media

outlet I confronted, eventually put the proper info in fine print at the bottom of a lengthy article on its website. I live in a “minority majority” city; I live in a “majority minority” neighborhood that tends to vote for Dems. Although I am white, I felt intimidated by a white poll observer because I was wearing an Obama t-shirt. He made a point of asking me my name repeatedly, even though the other poll workers had already verified my voter’s registration card. He also appeared to monitor my voting over my shoulder. As I was leaving, he asked my name AGAIN. The one time I had to vote outside my neighborhood, it was in an affluent white neighborhood here that typically votes for Republicans. White people in the line were making loud, inappropriate comments about “make sure you vote for the ‘RIGHT’ candidate’ -- a not so thinly veiled threat to anyone who might be voting for Dems. The all white poll workers said nothing to these people who were repeating this mantra as the line moved forward.

**CATHY R.** | Newport, RI

First we had redistricting in Rhode Island and some voting places in Newport were no longer available. Voting locations were pooled together. I got there early, 8:15 AM. By the time I voted and left the lines were down the street and around the corner on another street. It stayed that way all day. Many people did not know that their polling place had been moved. I can see why many people got frustrated and left, not voting. Allowing multiple days to vote would solve a lot of the problems.

**PATRICIA B.** | Bloomington, IN

While I had no difficulty voting myself, I volunteered to register voters for two or three months before the election. It was a laborious process because of the Voter ID law in Indiana that disenfranchised many local voters.

**TRACY P.** | Catonsville, MD

My polling place was at my local elementary school in Baltimore county. I arrived around 1 pm. Two separate districts were set to vote there, one in the gym the other in the cafeteria. It was not clear which district was to vote in which location. The other district had nearly no line, the local district was quite busy. I waited for over two hours to vote. Eventually workers sorted some of the people out of the line. I was disappointed there was no signage and it was unclear for many which room they were supposed to vote in. When I finally made it to the gymnasium I was pretty annoyed and it only got worse. After waiting more than two hours in a line that barely moved I naturally presumed there must not have been enough polling machines. However, that wasn’t the case at all. There

were a dozen machines but only up to three people at a time were voting. The reason being there were only three workers confirming people’s information so that they could vote. There were four other workers making sure people didn’t have trouble using the machines or try to bother anyone. Another handed out “I voted” stickers. Again, that means there were 9 machines not filled at any given time. I watched people leave for fear of reprimand from their employers. There was no reason for all of this confusion. Those machines should have all been filled. A two hour wait was unacceptable.

**DONNA C.** | Virginia Beach, VA

I arrived early around 6:00a.m. to avoid staying in line for an extensive period of time. However I experienced a 40-60 minute wait.

**MEREDITH C M.** | Jackson, MS

We vote at Precinct 68 in Jackson, MS and we haven’t encountered any serious issues beside long lines during Presidential Elections.

**LOURDES B.** | East Palo Alto, CA

Well the lines were to long. I arrived early but others in back of me had to wait.

**SUSAN G.** | Davis, CA

I worked as poll worker on UC Davis campus. Many students were disenfranchised because the “absentee ballot” system is confusing -many thought they could turn in their out of town ballots at any polling place- wrong -the CA election law requires ballots to be returned only in county of origin.Voter registration is a major cause of confusion. Students registered in other CA counties or states believed they could vote in federal elections at any polling site in the country. Election education even on college campuses is very poor. Imagine the confusion for your average uneducated voter. I think voter registration must be reformed to allow same day registration in every state. In particular, why are states allowed to impose their own rules in presidential elections? We need uniform national election rules for presidential elections

**J. W. T.** | Chicago, IL

I attempted to vote early three times. the first two times the lines were too long and there was no nearby parking. On my third attempt which was the last day for early voting I waited nearly two hours and finally got to vote. This needs to be corrected.

**SHEILA J.** | COLUMBIA, SC

Soldiers in uniform were not given the option to go to the front of the line. Some were going to work afterward. Poll workers were not willing to make such

a decision. One older lady became dizzy standing in line, she was placed in a wheelchair and still had to wait pending her place in line

**TERI N.** | Columbus, OH, OH  
people were told they were at the wrong polling place and sent to another place to vote.

**PAUL D.** | Newport, NH  
As someone who is disabled and can't drive, even just the basic steps already in place to register and vote can be difficult. Adding hurdles, which are blatantly partisan, would only make voting less feasible.

**KATHRYN S.** | Pittsburgh, PA  
I have worked at a polling place here in Pittsburgh, PA for several years. Requiring a formal ID is expensive and unnecessary. When any one comes to a polling place in PA, they have to show an ID and sign a card which we compare to the signature they provided when they started to vote or when they moved their current polling place. Many people here in their 70's and 80's began to vote when they were young and have lived in their same home since their 20's. We have never had a problem with someone trying to vote when they were not able. I would love to see a much more common approach to voting through the United States. This whole issue is just an attempt to keep the elderly and people of color from voting. By the way I am white and I USED to be a moderate Republican. There is no where for us with the crazy people who are trying to ruin this company

**NIK K.** | San Diego, CA  
I had to wait in line for an hour, it should be less than 10 min.

**MIKE H.** | Sarasota, FL  
The wait was an hour. The wait in 2010 was three minutes. I drove to the polling location three times, before I decided I would tough it out and wait in line. I voted early, but since the legislature and Scott cut back the number of days by 8, it just made it a less than favorable experience.

**NIKKI S.** | Columbus, OH  
Last year I was living in North Carolina and voted in Charlotte. I made sure to register in time and I looked up where my voting location was. I took off time from work to go vote. Except when I got to my polling location it was closed. There was a sign that said it had been relocated to a location WAY outside of my neighborhood. I had walked to the first location, but now I had to get on a train to the next. It was way too far to walk. I had to call my boss and tell her I would be even later. I had to go several

neighborhoods over to my new polling location. It was extremely frustrating because I looked up my polling location that day and it had given me the closed polling place as my location. I was also upset that there wasn't a polling location in my area. Luckily, my boss was understanding, but I felt awful that I had to take off more time and I feel like a lot of other people wouldn't have the flexibility and just wouldn't vote. Finally, I will add, though I think these issues are extremely important no matter the neighborhood, it may be worth noting this was a primarily African American and/or low income neighborhood.

**NIKK C.** | Bronx, NY  
you have Flintsones (elderly poll workers) operating in a jetsons era w/ no Elroy Jetson around

**KATHY LYNN K.** | Ft Myers, FL  
My neighbors of color were confused at the polls and before voting by "eligibility" issues, identification issues and a very long and confusing ballot. My latino friend was treated disrespectfully by person working in the voter registration office. Also, they did not correct my address in time for the election so I am not sure they counted my vote.

**BEVERLY H.** | Dayton, OH  
Our polling location keeps getting pushed farther and farther away from our home. The polling location was very crowded and we did have to wait a little while. Machines were broken so that made the wait longer.

**MARILYN G.** | Brooklyn, NY  
It was cold and windy. The lines were around the schoolyard and down the block. After about 1 hour they let seniors go ahead of the line. There was confusion as to whether people were on the right line for their district.

**MICHEAL C.** | College Park, GA  
The voting place was a 30 minute drive from my home. Not enough voting places in the community. All of the personal ID I had to present in order to get registered was at best ridiculous. I can go anywhere and make a purchase and get a receipt, why not after I vote !! after all of the stupid rules and regs...why not?

**VIRGINIAE D.** | Matthews, NC  
Just waiting in long lines. However I am determined. I have voted since age 18 and I am 72. I have also worked the polls, because in all my years there were no people of color working. I challenged that. That's how I became involved. I vote in every election, I also encourage people to do the same. My mother lived



in another state ,sc she went to heaven this year in march.She was 93 and voted in every election and took people to the polls.We wrote a letter to you before she died but there was no return letter from your office.I have a daycare and I am always encouraging and taking people to the polls.I votednearly in another polling place but I live 5 minutes away. My prayers and support will always be there.I just wanted her to know that the White House appreciated her support before she passed away!She was a great person and lived to see an African American President and wanted to work extra hard to make that happen.thank you, Virginia E.Davis,1116 Somersby Ln.,Matthews,NC 28105.I am also a financial supporter!

**VALERIE S.** | San Diego, CA

Watching returns, vote for Prop 8 Anti-Gay in Ca was flipped; gap for Council Wayne was widened; ROV arrested poll observer; ROV made rural communities mail in vote when could have voted and counted locally re Blackwater; our ROV is a Diebold ex-employee; we have 4 Diebold computer polls on 3 mile-road, 2 next to each other and another 2 next to each other; our ROV bubbled in votes for Republican Mayor Murphy, discounted write-in names for Donna Frye without bubbles; ROV blocked a recount for Rep. Francine Busby; changes polling places often to obscure private homes and churches, taking them out of well-known public schools and rec centers; woman from True the Vote came to public libraries attempting to suppress voters by asking people to poll watch and stop unions from helping people vote; legalization ceremony at which we try to register people to vote often has date changed at last minute; police arrested people trying to register people to vote at Occupy protest in City Hall Civic Center; business, media and law enforcement just falsely over-prosecuted our newly-elected Mayor out of office; FBI and locals conspired to falsely prosecute first Dem-majority 3 City Council out of office, one died, one was exonerated by Judge after false jury verdict; ROV will not identify parties of people running for office, will not have separate primaries; ROV calls asking to observe 'getting an invitation,' as if they pick and choose who can observe; ROV is building a new building and the gallery appears to be a long way off from vote scanner-counters; ROV uses high school students to count the vote in middle of night; ROV does not finish counting mail-in votes (half) for a month, but counts walked-in vote same night, pushing off any recount; ROV charged exorbitant price for recount of party they don't want to win; Local media is biased in which candidates they interview; local media does not allow all candidates in debates; candidates are allowed to lie on TV ads

and in mailers; candidates are not able to compete with expensive TV ads that are allowed.

**KENNETH J.** | Ferndale, MI

To their credit, the poll remained open until everyone in line was able to cast their ballot. Still, 2.5 hours is a long time to stand in line and I'm sure many potential voters took one look and decided not to vote rather than endure the wait.

**JUDY S.** | Hallandale, FL

What I'm saying there may have been enough workers but those workers were poorly trained, if trained at all. The Poll Capt, was an advid smother who couldn't stop smoking and if we said anything, she blew smoke in our face. They made up there own rules and allowed the City Mayor, Vice Mayor, and County Commissioner Gunzburger to campaign inside the room where voting took place. Vice Mayor Shechter openly said, I can do what I want because I am Carl Shechter and rules do not apply for me. Beside, says the mayor and vice mayor,"we don't have to allow any of you faggot bastards here. Go vote elsewhere or mail it in."

**MICHAEL B.** | C, MD

Long lines will be experienced as long as the number of voting stations is limited by the cost of voting machines. When voting is returned to voter-marked ballots it will be much easier to expand the number of voting stations to meet peak demand. This cannot be done using costly voting machines.

**TERRANCE N.** | Virginia beach, VA

I didn't have much trouble voting although I thought my wait was long. I don't see why voting shouldn't be early, for a whole week, even done on computers, and there should be a record available for the voter.

**MARK B.** | Washington, DC

On Presidential elections, it takes a long time waiting in long lines to vote. So it detracts from doing other duties on election days. I was willing to wait because I felt that past election was so important to the countries' future.

**KYRA C.** | Indianapolis, IN

I had moved in the last 2 years and contacted the office to get info regarding the change in my new neighborhood and where I could vote, I never received a reply, I then contacted The League Of Women voters and was sent a form to change my address and re register in my new neighbor, I sent the info and waited several months , but prior to that had 2 get a copy of my birth certificate, which cost quite a bit since it was from a different state, so

finally went 2 BMV 2 register and was also charged by them, so yes GOP states make it so hard 2 vote especially if you are a Dem. I can understand why people are upset, especially the older community who may not have access 2 the polls or other forms of ID's and they keep changing the place you go 2 vote and some people do not have transportation, and one place 2 vote is within walking distance 2 my house and my next door neighbor a Republican goes 2 this neighborhood poll and I had 2 go 2 a different one which required driving and waiting in line. In my 63 years I still remember my Mother and Father working the Polls in West Virginia 2 elect President Kennedy and how people felt about voting and now we have people that will lie, cheat and steal 2 keep people from voting. Indiana where I live now is very one sided and even the news stations are very partial, The GOP. is trying 2 turn us into a 3rd world country, so that the only people who can vote is for their benefit, and keeping people in poverty

**RHONDA B.** | Mayfield Heights, OH  
I voted at the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections prior to the November 2012 elections. I did stand in a long line but everything was well organized and I had no problems.

**SUSAN M.** | Selma, IN  
When I went looking for my polling place, there was a sign, but it didn't give enough information about where the polling place was. I had to hunt around the area, asked several people, called, checked on Google Maps, and finally found it. Very frustrating. Also the lines were very long and slow moving when I got there.

**RAMONA G.** | Brooklyn, NY  
I went to this polling place last year for the first time and wish it could go back to the polling place I had the previous years at the school behind Starrett City Mall. This polling place is too small, I was in line for more than 2 hours just to cast my vote. It was extremely hot in this polling place. Some of the poll workers had serious attitude problems. The voters in wheelchairs did get priority by going to front of line but I observed a few that were standing with canes all that time. This was 1st time I had such a bad experience and enough that I will not want to be returning back to polling place

**BERNARD H.** | Orangeburg, SC  
The new South Carolina Voter ID law is going to make it impossible for South Carolina State and Claflin Universities students get voter registration cards. Also, other students attending Colleges and Universities in my state.

**PETER F.** | Hershey, PA  
I vote in PA. Two incidences personally witnessed: 1. Doctor of Lebanese extraction was illegally challenged to show I.D. in 2010. 2. Poll worker made false claims about voters falsely identifying themselves in 2012.

**MANEESH P.** | Yuma, AZ  
I voted by mail in the last election and had no problems filling out and sending in my ballot to be counted however, I know there were plenty of irregularities and intimidation tactics with groups like TrueVote sending poll watchers to the polls to intimidate people they don't want to vote from voting. Now with the SCOTUS ruling Shelby v. Holder something needs to be done to protect the Voting Rights Act. Finally, I would like to suggest extending voting rights in Washington D.C. which still has taxation without representation since D.C. residents cannot elect a Representative to the U.S. House of Representatives they have an elected delegate who cannot vote on legislation coming to the floor of the House or propose legislation for the entire U.S. House to take up. Legislation like the D.C. Voting Rights Act could help extend voting rights in D.C.

**CHRISTOPHER S.** | Ocoee, FL  
In my lower and middle class neighborhood the wait stayed 2-3 hours. My wife and I kept checking to see if it was shorter. It never was. My wife and I went separately at different times. We both waited over 2 hours. In nearby Seminole County where it is mostly Republican, the news reported much shorter wait times. Governor Scott had shortened voting times through Florida, making it difficult for people to vote.

**JENNIFER R.** | Houston, TX  
The GOP poll workers are intentionally causing people to wait by slowing down the length of time to vote. Just registering took forever because the poll workers looked like frozen molasses. I like the idea of sharing stories but nothing matters since Attorney General Eric Holder is corrupt and only makes token efforts to enforce laws. He arrests pot users while letting the biggest criminals in world history steal at will. Holder also was AWOL during the 2012 election when the GOP conspired across the US to stop people from voting. A real attorney general like Robert Kennedy would've sent federal troops to all the GOP controlled states to ensure people could vote. But Eric Holder nothing. He's a coward and corrupt. He's obviously owned by his rich masters like the scum on Wall Street. Pres Obama must be pro-voter suppression because he is doing nothing to get Holder off his inept ass and indict GOP criminals. By not doing anything against the world's biggest criminals and

doing nothing to stop the GOP attack on the US means Obama is in on the attack against America. Obama has caved so often he should be called a spelunker. He's corrupt and obviously owned by his rich pimps. Obama didn't even go after all the war criminals in the Bush regime. Obama said he didn't want to look back. What an idiot! If one of his daughters were harmed I guess he would just say, "Oh well, that happened yesterday and yesterday is in the past so I don't give a damn what happened to them". I have never seen such a cowardly, gutless 'leader' in my life. I hope you collect some interesting stories but since we have complete cowards as president and attorney general NOTHING will get done to solve the problem and the US will eventually become a serfdom. The GOP is the most corrupt party in our history and have deliberately sabotaged the USA but instead of Obama attacking them he cowardly licks their shoes. Obama could destroy the entire GOP with one 2 hour multimedia address to the nation exposing all the treasonous acts by the GOP and expose republicans by name but Obama is too much of a coward and he has no ability to communicate. (Example: Obama lost the healthcare debate to the dumbest people in the history of mankind (teaBaggers) and he said nothing. FOUR years later a doctor put the 2700 page healthcare law on two pages in bullet form to make it easily understood but Obama did nothing to explain the ACA. He's not only a coward and corrupt, he's stupid too. By the way, I was an Obama delegate in 2008 because of Obama's promises but he betrayed all Americans and the US. Good luck.

**JAMES E.** | Chicago, IL

The polling place location had been changed and very little notice was given. They had no signs up to tell people where to vote for their precinct.

**CHANEL B.** | Indianapolis, IN

I was in line for approximately an hour and then was misdirected through the polling place, causing me to have to re-enter the line and start over again. Also, even though I registered to vote when I changed my name on my state ID as well as my social security card, my name was wrong in the poll book. The personnel were high school volunteers who were ineffectively managed by a too few supervisors. Not to mention my polling place was changed arbitrarily to a location which bypassed several more convenient polling places, and I was only informed by postcard. If this election was not so important to me I would not have stayed after the first misdirected line up.

**RANDY J.** | Hempstead, NY

never before in election history has so much disorga-

nization has been given to us who vote. In this great country it is such a disgrace that our government each day is outright snubbing the voters is crazy. IT IS CRAZY THAT THESE PEOPLE ARE REPRESENTING OUR GOVERNMENT IN SUCH A DISRESPECT FOR THE CITIZENS. AND THE MESSAGE THAT THEY ARE SENDING TO OTHER COUNTRIES IS OUR GOVERNMENT CANNOT AND REFUSE TO BE FAIR. IF THEY CAN TREAT OUR CHIEF COMMANDER IN CHARGE THEY WAY THEY HAVE WE BETTER START PRAYING!!

**JOHN K.** | Orlando, FL

The line was very long, and very slow. I had to go after work, which meant if the polling place decided to close on time then there was no way all those people could have voted. Fortunately they stayed open late.

**MARJORIE S.** | Dallas, TX

When I was a poll worker in Memphis, TN, a person with disabilities was deprived of a vote because of the state's voter ID law. There was no way she could get to the election commission HQ in 24 hours with an ID in order to be able to cast a provisional vote. Her mother did vote. The affected person was white and a neighbor of mine at the time (I no longer live in Memphis).

**PAUL G.** | Lake Charles, LA

adding amendments on without clear understanding of how it affects the citizen, placing the ballot out at the last minute from the state

**SHERRY H.** | Humble, TX

The voting reps were slow and people were leaving. 1or2 machines were broken. Nonetheless the deed was done.

**THERESA R.** | Capitol Heights, MD

I voted early and did not use my assigned polling place, choosing instead a location close to the person I took to vote. The polling place was a public library, and the lines that night were unusually long. The poll workers did a yeoman's job to get everyone inside out of the elements as quickly as possible and stayed into the night to ensure that everyone was afforded the right to cast their ballot.

**MICHAEL S.** | Austin, TX

I moved from Pittsburgh, PA. where there were NO early voting days to Austin, TX. where there ARE. Despite using early voting days to vote, there were STILL lines at the polling places. And this occurred in a predominantly middle-class and white area. Now, the Texas AG has reinstated the ridiculous and discriminatory Voter ID that was blocked by a judge.

I'm white and have the necessary ID, but what about all the folks who don't ?

**JONATHAN Z.** | Rockville, MD

When I voted last november, I voted early, because I had to work on Voting day, but everyone took up on the option for early voting, so I had to wait in line for more than 3 hours, but it was worth it. I wish it would've been a lot quicker though.

**ANGELA A.** | Roswell, GA

I have been a voter my entire life however moving to south(Atlanta Ga) my vote card was register before election 2years I received e-mail stating I will be able to vote and where however on election day poll site was unable to find my name I stay 5hrs until i was able to vote my paper. I am still wait for my card in the mail.

**VICTORIA H.** | Warwick, RI

There was confusion and the workers didnt know what they were doing. I stayed until i voted

**FRED M.** | Jamison, PA

I checked off "Not enough poll workers" because the lines were caused by poll workers checking for ID. Although the PA Voter ID law was struck down for the 2012 election, poll workers were still asking for ID and passing out flyers on Voter ID, which PA expects to be in effect for the next election. Showing an ID was optional, and I refused, although there were many who dug through their wallets to provide one (even though signage indicated that they would be asked for ID and that it was optional). Refusing was not as satisfying as I had hoped because the poll worker I got was a neighbor of mine who knew me anyway!

**CAROLYN K.** | Kaneohe, HI

I worked the polls in the last election and our polling station ran out of ballots. Voters had to wait about an hour for more ballots. We lost voters as a result.

**NANCY K.** | Davisburg, MI

Our rural polling place was nowhere near prepared for the influx of voters in the last Presidential election. In addition to having to show our driver's licenses to vote, we also faced long waits for places to mark our ballots, as well as long waits to insert our ballots into the voting machine. Michigan does not allow any early voting and I think it inhibits the overall turnout to a large extent. Supposedly one must show need to vote absentee, so that also is restricted. The requirement that we show our driver's licenses or state ID to vote seems unnecessary, given that our names are clearly on a roll of registered vot-

ers, and clearly marked off in our presence when we vote.

**ROY B.** | Cleveland, OH

Ballots are more confusing than they used to be - and more prone to mistakes. Either way, I tend to vote by absentee ballot, as poll workers become increasingly incompetent.

**DENISE R.** | Austin, TX

The TX dept of elections gave me WRONG info several times. Only the TX Democratic party helped me understand where to vote. I just moved here for my health from NY. The TX Democratic party also helped me understand accommodations available to me bc of my disabilities, and I had an excellent voting experience, but ONLY bc of the TX Dem party. The TX elections offices are horrible and full of misinformation and people who are unhelpful!

**BRIAN S.** | San Antonio, TX

The voting machines here in Texas are highly confusing, and I know that these machines are used in several other states.

**ROBERT V.** | Orlando, FL

OUR REPUBLICAN DOMINATED STATE LEGISLATURE, LOADED-UP THE BALLOT WITH ABOUT 12 STATE ISSUE QUESTIONS THAT ALL BUT ONE OR TWO WERE USELESS AND NONSENSE JUST TO LENGTHEN THE VOTING PROCESS, TO DISCOURAGE PEOPLE IN LINE TO NOT WAIT TO GET TO VOTE. THIS, ALONG WITH THE SHORTENED EARLY VOTING, REQUIRED I.D., ETC. LED TO THE LONG WAITS TO VOTE IN FLORIDA.

**STAN G.** | North Fort Myers, FL

We got to the polling station about 20 minutes before opening and were maybe 20th in line. Opened on time but by the time we got in one machine was broken already and there was only ONE validation machine which all the ballots from the other machines had to be entered in. There were maybe 10 voting machines. When we got out the line was much longer, maybe 30-50 people, waiting to get in.

**DEBORAH C.** | Norton, OH

What I noticed: In the 2008 Presidential election the lines were extremely long. The number of polling places remained the same for the 2010 interim elections. Then, the commission in our area DECREASED the number of polling places by a large amount 3 months before the 2012 Presidential election. It seems that it was intentional because now the number of polling places has been increased back to what they were before the 2012 presidential election.

**REV P.** | Columbus, OH

IN the 2000 election, I was one of many registered democrats who did not receive their registration card until AFTER the election. Even if I could have gone to vote, my disability would have precluded standing in line for well above 2 hours to vote, and the possibility of being denied that privilege if I had not reached the doors by the stipulated closing time. Bear in mind this was Broward Co., FL - the hinge point of the 2000 elections. If I was denied franchise how any others were also? At least a dozen to my knowledge. (I suspect that registered democrats' paperwork was hidden until late election day to preclude their voting.) IN 2004 in Columbus, Ohio, I got to the polling place at 2:30, expecting to precede parents picking up their schoolchildren by 30 min or more. I left between 7:30 and 7:45 pm, and passed several hundred people still waiting to vote. This polling place is down a deep slope, and a long narrow set of stairs - difficult enough for me being mobility challenged, but impossible for my house mate who was in a wheel chair. This was the first time in his adult life when he missed an election for which he was in residence. I believe they had consolidate two polling places based on mid term election turn outs, but actually had fewer voting machines than usual. That the machines were new, and electronic, did not help matters at all -- it took longer to vote because you had to learn the new system while in the booth, rather than having a non registering booth available to 'learn on before you got there. The combination of factors (location, consolidation, new booths and a hard fought Presidential election) all conspired to make this the most miserable voting experience I ever encountered - topping by a significant margin trying to vote while in Labor in 1984!

**MARGARET S.** | Oxford, OH

I worked at the polls. We had college students that insisted that they registered to vote but they were not in the book and had to vote absentee. We had a person try to disrupt the polls by mumbling nonsense. He was from a far right group. Fortunately, we had an attorney working at the polls that took care of him so that the long line of voters could vote.

**RICHARD H.** | Jacksonville, FL

Outside the poll office (holding the door for everyone) was a poll worker talking about "a tax hike" if Obama is put back in office. All of the poll workers inside were wearing red shirts and were talking loudly about Obama and what a terrible job he has been doing. It took my wife and I over an hour to get inside even though there were only about 50 people in line due to a lack of voting machines. Overall a horrible experience and I personally saw at least 10 people leave line frustrated.

**DAVID P.** | Jacksonville Beach, FL

My polling place is just 4 blocks from my house but is held in church that is not so minority friendly. As member of the LBGT community as Transgender in transition, it is not very comfortable for me to go into vote here and mail in early voting is always a better option for me.

**MARY G.** | Columbus, OH

After working all day teaching, I (and fellow teachers) had to wait in line for almost 4 hours to vote. This was in 2004 before we had early voting in OH. This past 2012 election I tried to vote early three different times at a central voting station for a large segment of the population, but the street and parking lot were too crowded to get into so I drove away after driving around to find a place and being stuck in traffic. The line extended outside the building into the parking lot. It was disorganized because of the set up. I had much better luck in the morning of election day when most seniors vote.

**STEVE M.** | Daniels, MD

just waiting too long

**CHRISTOPHER A.** | Fort Lauderdale, FL

The poll workers were friendly, the polling place was hot, and there were several broken machines on site. The ballot was confusing and difficult to understand. The wait would have been significant if we had gone at any other time. We got lucky on that point!

**WILLIAM H.** | Edgewater, CO

Here in Colorado we have Scott Gessler (R) as Sec. of State (responsible for elections). It became obvious that he made sure that the voting of the entire city of Edgewater (pop. about 5000) was handled by ONE election clerk at the local elementary school polling place. The line stretched down the hall, out the door, and around the front of the school. Maybe Mr. Gessler thought that Edgewater was a Dem stronghold in Jefferson County. There were two or three other clerks at the polling place to serve people from other election districts in the county and they were NOT overworked. Fortunately it was a beautiful day and the voters were pretty cheerful.

**JUDI M.** | Cincinnati, OH

I am senior citizen; the polling place is in my apartment complex. When I asked to use the machine that was for the disabled, the workers made excuses not to use it. I have made several complaints. I, now, go down to the Board of elections to vote and they except me.

**BEVERLY B.** | Richardson, TX

My husband and I live in the reddest county in Dallas Texas. We took advantage of early voting, especially since they shortened the hours in 2008. I experienced a broken machine, where the candidates I chose, was credited to the GOP candidates. I told the precinct worker I would not leave until she printed my ballot to ensure my vote went to the candidates I selected on the voting machine. It took an hour to resolve the issue. The machine was not pulled from the line up of voting machines. I reported it to the elections office, however I am not sure it was addressed. I was determined to have my vote count on that day. I wonder how many after me noticed the machine was malfunctioning.

**MARTHA H.** | Peyton, CO

I recently moved to the Colorado Springs area. We registered to vote when we got our CO drivers licenses. However, the republican Secretary of State removed us from the mailing list for ballots, as we had not voted in 2010, even though we did not even live here then. Since I was working for OFA I was able to check the lists, and get our names back on in order to vote.

**NORINE HEMPING H.** | Naples, FL

Collier county, FL is controlled by republicans. Our SOE is fair-minded. Lines were longest in 2-3 predominantly minority pcts. Republican operatives outside polling places were at times very intimidating, especially to Haitian & hispanic voters.

**JAMES C.** | Simpsonville, SC

93 year old in my household has an expired driver license and no birth certificate both of which she will be required to obtain to vote.

**JOEL O.** | Round Rock, TX

It took me almost an hour to get to my voting place because it had changed and there was not any notification sent out informing us of where our new voting place was. I had to come home, call the county and they gave me an address. The location was not far, but it took some time to find out that it had changed.

**DOUGLAS J.** | Palmetto Bay, FL

Waited in line, standing (no seats) for eight hours

**CHRISTINE G.** | Fairview, NC

The last time I voted at my polling location, I was living in Florida. It was the worst experience in my voting experience since the early 1970's! And I was going to vote absentee next for the last presidential election, but with the changes made by the current governor, I was afraid that my ballot would not be

counted if the slightest difference was detected in my signature, so I handed it in in person. I had to wait for an hour to do that! I lived in a solid middle to upper middle class neighborhood, but as a democrat was a minority voter. I believe that governor Scott deliberately cut voting times, early voting and polling places in an effort to make it more difficult for democrats and minorities to vote! Thank goodness for such a strong get out the vote movement in central Florida at that time. I moved to Western North Carolina to get away from such oppressive policies, and now am possibly faced with worse! I am really worried about having my vote count here in NC, after the terrible and egregious policies that this governor has implemented this year! Help!

**JEFF F.** | Columbia, SC

This was my first time voting since I moved to an Urban setting from my rural roots, was kinda frightening just the sheer mass of people waiting to vote, but everyone there was very nice and handled things well. I think the biggest shock was being in this large urban district where there were only 5 voting booths, and only 4 were working- while in the rural area I had grown up in there were 12 booths the last time I voted.

**MARY C.** | Ellenwood, GA

I voted early & had no problem. My church adopted a precinct & I volunteered as a poll watcher. Several black men were told their name was not on the registered list to vote. We were able to go to the Georgia website to see that they were in fact registered and listed. They were given provisional ballots and we know that those votes were never counted. There was one white male but this did not happen to anyone else and I was there from 7am till 7pm. November 2012 Presidential Election.

**DIMITRI B.** | France

I spend days to get the NY board of voters. When I finally did get someone, I was told it was too early to send absentee ballots, but one would be mailed to me. I NEVER GOT ONE!

**MICHAEL J.** | Kentwood, MI

I ran for county commissioner in a very heavily African-American, multi-ethnic, new immigrant community. I stationed myself the legal 100 feet from the door of the church where voting was taking place. I set up my "Obama for president" sign and my county commissioner sign next to my little card table with campaign lit. I took several of the long paper ballots and mounted them on foamcore for voters to look at before entering the voting area. I soon helped over 200 people of color and newly minted

citizens of Bosnia, Somalia, and Serbian backgrounds understand the complicated ballot. The older white females and male Republicans went out of their way to avoid my presence in the middle of the parking lot, which was fine because I could not help everyone. One tried to run me over and swerved at the last minute. The verbal harassment was intense but I rolled with it and actually found it amusing. I remained calm and very friendly. I was repeatedly harassed and the Kentwood voting authorities showed up twice in response to phone complaints that I was "yelling at people, threatening them, etc..." and what I was doing was illegal. Of course it was all nonsense and the authorities were visibly embarrassed. The real drama was inside the voting area. I was in the parking lot from 7AM before the polls opened until 9PM, an hour after they closed. Black and immigrant voters were very grateful for my help and came out to thank me after voting. They told me the older white woman running the voting were not helpful, a young male Republican poll watcher was zeroing in on Black voters with intimidating behavior, asking them questions and pointing out things to the poll workers. At one point, a middle aged, black female teacher, who had already voted came out and told me a young black woman was getting the run around. Could I help her. I said yes, I would try. The teacher went back in and got the aggrieved potential voter. She had changed her address at the City Clerk's office before the deadline. The people running the show said she could not vote there because she wasn't on the precinct books yet. She showed them proof that she was registered to vote. They would not let her. I told her to return to her old precinct and vote there and come back to me if they stopped her there. I presume she did. Throughout the day many voters of color came to me complaining that the poll workers were quite hostile to them. Honestly, I was shocked but not surprised. Kentwood is 55% registered Republican, although a Democrat, I lost by only 29 votes after a recount. I was declared a winner by 5 votes at first. The Kentwood officials discovered 29 "lost" votes in my Republican opponents precinct. It was obvious to me from all the people coming out to tell me that a hostile environment was in place to discourage black voters from the steady stream of complaints I received after they came out.

**JAY L.** | Kettering, OH

There were usually 2 tables with 4 at each table. There never was much of a line. This past election, there was 1 table. The line was huge. There was a guy in uniform from the air force base that had come in the morning to vote. The line was so long, he waited. However, after waiting for over an hour, he had to go back to duty. He came back around lunch time - in

the line ahead of me. He waited another length of time - not sure how long this time. He again had to leave to go back to duty leaving with the promise that he would come back and vote no matter what. I was also told second hand that when the polls opened early, either the machines were not there or were not working.

**FRANCIS J.** | New York, NY

For the Presidential election in 2012, I sent in an application for an absentee ballot because I was going to be in DC for work. I asked that it be sent to my workplace in DC. I never received it, and I could not find anywhere a phone number for my NY Board of Elections to call to alert anyone and work out a solution as the election approached. This year, I am in CA during the primary, sent in my application and got the absentee ballot in just a few days.

**KATHLEEN K.** | Windermere, FL

I tried early voting 2 times in a Precinct near Windermere at a library near Sand Lake Road, Orlando... it was a four hour wait each time and you could not easily get in or out of the designated parking areas because of the number of early voters. For health reasons, I cannot stand in lines and this polling place was a nightmare. I wanted to vote early, but had to wait until the day of voting and voted in my designated precinct in Windermere, FL (which is very organized) But, I could not make an early vote.

**CHRISTOPHER W.** | Westland, MI

My polling place serves two precincts - a very small but affluent, mostly white precinct, and a much larger, mostly black precinct. Despite the difference in populations, the two precincts were kept separate and had separate lines, with roughly equal numbers of election officials and voting machines assigned to each. The result of this is that members of the smaller precinct could walk right in and vote with virtually no wait. Meanwhile I, being a member of the much larger precinct, had to wait for three hours through a line that snaked all the way through the inside of the building. I should also mention that I voted at 10AM, when the lines were probably at their shortest - I can only imagine how long people voting after work had to wait.

**MEAGHAN B.** | Richardson, TX

I voted by mail in the 2012 election. Or I tried to. I ordered my ballot by mail and promptly returned it filled out. Two days before the election (and at 7 PM so I could not even do anything until the next day), I received a letter from the county where my permanent address was located stating that my vote had not counted because it had been flagged as fraudulent.

lent. Their explanation: apparently someone else had signed my ballot. Being that this was news to me, I attempted to contact their office. Coincidentally, on this very day, my cell phone broke. It stopped charging and ran out of battery life. I had no means to get to the sprint store until someone else had free time to drive me. I borrowed a professor's cell phone to call the county, who told me that if I didn't have a phone number they could call me at, they weren't going to help me. I then had to make the decision of whether to skip an exam to travel back to my voting precinct three hours away to try to provisionally vote in person or to just let it go. I tried to talk to other local bodies but no one was willing or able to do anything. The county where I vote is predominantly of the opposing political view and the voting offices are run by their party. I have no doubt that they would have approved my ballot, which I did sign, by myself, in an empty apartment, had it been voting along their party lines.

**CHARLES B.** | Indianapolis, IN  
County wide early voting centers were tried and very popular with voters in one election. Since then the Republican party member on the county election board has blocked using them again.

**CLAUDIA K.** | New York, NY  
I work on Tuesdays, as do most people. NY doesn't have early voting. I never know how long it will take & am always anxious about getting to work on time. I work in NJ.

**C G.** | Mobile, AL  
The polling place in the last election closed before I could vote (it was closed by 3pm). Not only that, but in the city where I live, it is impossible to get election dates and information; most people were not even aware of the election.

**CYNTHIA C.** | Brandon, FL  
I used an absentee ballot to ensure my vote was in as I worked on the reelection campaign for the president and knew I wouldn't have time to go to the polls. As a volunteer poll worker several yrs ago, I saw an imbalance of machines in 2 districts. Too many in my district and not enough in another. We were side by side in the same lrg room. They had hundreds more voters in that district than we did and needed about 2 x's more machines. We needed a few less machines than we were given. Their voters waited a long time to vote. We were slow most of the day.

**JOHN D.** | Apopka, FL  
The ballot had many long-winded propositions on it, requiring much time to read, thereby making the

whole process take far too long to complete. Thank God for the kind people at Dayspring who supplied voters enduring the long wait with food and refreshments while waiting.

**ROSS B.** | Fort Lauderdale, FL  
Shortened early voting times; not enough machines and workers to accommodate. I'm 73 years old and had to stand online for over two hours.

**SYLVIA N.** | Columbus, OH  
My sweetie and I voted early at the city-wide location. We found the information on the county board of elections website. When I went to the Republican Ohio Secretary of State's website for voting information, I was unable to find anything about the early voting location for my county, and the links and general information were poorly worded, confusing and very difficult to follow.

**RITA A.** | Colorado Springs, CO  
Pull up: Colorado Independent, Rita Ague, Grandmothers for Peace button. A former election judge, I knew well what constitutes 'electioneering'. This attempt to disenfranchise me occurred in 2006. Exactly two year later, nearly three hundred Colorado College students were told by the same El Paso County Clerk and Recorder that they could not vote, even threatening them and their families with an IRS audit re. their family's tax returns. The aforementioned official totally ignored hefty case law ruling(s) re. students' ability to vote where they were attending college. Instead of being penalized, the official is now county treasurer in the same Colorado county. System broken? You betcha.

**JANET B.** | Columbus, OH  
I am a woman, white and 60 years old. I am well educated. I own and run my own graphics design company. Just a typical middle class, older white woman. I have voted in every presidential election, as well as state elections, since I turned 18. That means I have been voting for 42 years. I have voted in New York,, California, New Mexico and in Ohio. Until the election of 2012 I have NEVER had any difficulty voting in any of these locations, or at any of those times. I was one of the individuals who experienced irregularities in trying to vote in 2012. I waited for over 4 hours trying to get into my polling place here in Columbus, Ohio to vote early. When I arrived there there were about 2 dozen people, claiming to be "polling helpers" trying to contain the over 400 people trying to vote. About 70% were black or hispanic, as I live in an integrated neighborhood. The lines to get in wrapped around the building, and in the lobby of the building there 5 more lines trying to get through.



The “polling helpers” were passing out what they told me was “a form” that would let me vote, and were telling everyone to fill this out, and then give it to the voting booth workers inside. However, when I read it I found it was an absentee ballot form, and if I had filled it out and sent it, rather than being an early vote, my vote would be the last to count. I tried pointing this out to several of the workers, but they said they did n’t know; they were just doing what they were told. While I was waiting, a TV news team showed up, as this was apparently one of the polling places in Columbus (just off Karl Street in the Sharonwood area.) I even showed one of the crew the absentee ballot - they noted it, but were more interested in why so many people were being made to wait. I got in the building, but when I asked to vote on an actual voting machine, I was told I had at least another 45 minute wait. I finally gave up and came back to vote on election day. Very, very few people were voting on that day.

**GEORGIA Y.** | Slippery Rock, PA  
They asked me for ID. They knew me

**WILLIAM R.** | Linden, MI  
As an election official, if in this next election my precinct is understaffed and under-resourced I will immediately notify my County Elections Board and the State Election Board of this fact. Next, I will notify them in advance that I will not work the election under these voting restraints. Voting is a right not to be impeded by a political party with an agenda of making it difficult for the public to vote.

**MARK P.** | New York, NY  
A single poll worker was working \*very\* slowly to find each person in the poll book (I think she had poor vision; the worker next to her, working with another poll book for another district, was literally finding people twice as fast), causing a huge line which in turn caused a lot of confusion because there weren’t enough signs to indicate which line was for which district. There were other poll workers who could have taken over the slow worker’s position and sped things up (I overheard some of them discussing it amongst themselves), but apparently a supervisor had decided to leave her in place. I ended up waiting 30 or 40 minutes to vote, when (given the relatively small number of people trying to vote at the time) it should have taken 10 or 15 minutes.

**TANYA K.** | Jacksonville, FL  
I voted on the last day of early voting at a public library. The parking lot was full so I parked at the adjacent church. The line wrapped around the interior of the lobby and occasionally out the door. The

line wrapped past the interior entrance to the library, which we naturally had to keep clear, but the library personnel frequently yelled at the line of voters to keep clear of the entrance, even though we never blocked it. At one point the library worker said we would be thrown out if we couldn’t keep the area clear, but the library doors were never blocked. My wait in the lobby was about 45 minutes then I made it into the voting room where they had three lines, separated by alphabet, for check-in. While I appreciate people volunteering their time, to say most of these poll workers were senior citizens would be an understatement and they were in no particular hurry to move the line along. Once I got my ballot, I had to wait for a voting station to open up. I saw stacks of voting stations piled in a corner that were never set-up, not that there would have been room for them in the small room assigned for voting. Over-all it took me just under an hour to vote.

**RYAN C.** | Los Angeles, CA  
I waited for 3 hours. Literally 1 voting machine was being used because the poll workers who were signing people in were taking so long. There was a separate entrance for a different part of the neighborhood that had no wait.

**GUILLERMO C.** | Miami, FL  
the lines were too long, and few voting machines

**CHARLIE B.** | Wellington, FL  
The lines were very long, but people were patient. They knew what Rick Scott was doing and didn’t want him to get his way by leaving.

**MISTI J.** | Garland, TX  
It was a long wait and we voted early.

**KAREN S.** | Durham, NH  
Although my college age daughter had previously voted, she didn’t have a state issued id. We had to go to the social security office where we were told she had to get a doctor’s appointment to prove her legal address. She doesn’t have insurance. Isn’t getting a social security card supposed to be free? At her initial voting registration, the polling worker tried to prevent her from same day registering by saying she couldn’t do it, even though state law said she could. This past election, I had to sign an affidavit that I was me because I didn’t have my driver’s license with me. Even the polling workers found it ridiculous since I had been voting for years and was known to them. Finally, when we went to get a state issued id for my disabled son, the lines at the DMV stretched outside of the office. My son has significant limitations that make it difficult for him

to sit in the wheelchair for the extended period of time it would have taken to get through the line. We had to drive to another DMV office in another town. We spent hours, uncomfortable hours for my son, to get his id so that he would be eligible to vote. It takes about a year for someone to get to know my son well enough to understand what he is trying o communicate. Under state law, family members can't interpret for him. There isn't anyone else who knows him well enough to translate for him. Non-family aides are difficult to find and retain.

**COLIN E.** | Columbia, SC  
Took way too long to vote.

**BONNIE G.** | Fort Lauderdale, FL  
Simple - took 7-1/2 hours to cast my vote

**JAMES C.** | Powell, OH  
Now that I live in a more affluent area, there are nom problems. However, in 2004 I lived on a poor side of town and had to wait in a huge line for over four hours making me late for work. That was the work of Republican Secretary of State in Ohio, Ken Blackwell, who should have gone to jail for what he did here.

**SARAH L.** | Carrollton, TX  
I've been disenfranchised due to administrative error before. When I lived in Houston, my voter record was overwritten with another person's information just because she shared my first name and birth date. The courthouse where she registered assumed without asking that we were the same person and assumed her last name and address were different from mine because I'd gotten married and moved. So when I got to the polls with my valid voter registration card & state ID, I was turned away and told that I couldn't vote there because I was this other person. After 45 minutes of listening to people tell me I wasn't who I said I was and insist that I'd gotten married and moved even though I kept saying I had NOT married OR moved, one poll worker had me fill out a provisional ballot. Later I received a letter saying my provisional ballot was tossed out because I wasn't who I said I was, even though again I had all the documents to prove it. It took me a year and help from a state senator's office before the government fixed my record. So I was disenfranchised through incompetence instead of discrimination, but it was still impossible to fix by myself without help from someone in power.

**DAVID E.** | Akron, OH  
My precinct has voted at 4 different polling locations in the last 4 years. I would almost believe the intent was to confuse urban voters.

**KIMBERLY L.** | Richmond, IN  
When Barack Obama ran against Hillary Rodham Clinton in the primary, I had to wait in line about 45 minutes. This was way too long, in my opinion.

**TINA S.** | Tonopah, NV  
In Nevada, there was supposed to be early voting. When I got to the polling place, the DOOR WAS LOCKED. In order to get in to vote, I had to go get a sheriff's deputy who had a key and opened the court house for me. When I finally got in, I was able to vote, but the poll worker acted like it was no big deal that the outside door was locked. I wonder how many other people failed to vote because they just accepted that the door was locked!

**EDNA F.** | Newcomerstown, OH  
On the State precinct finder my address went through OK, but on the County precinct finder it said my address was invalid, so I don't know if my vote was counted. I voted by mail.

**CHARLES P.** | Macon, GA  
My story and many other Ga. voters is voter suppression and how they are making it hard for you to vote even with voter I.D.. A drivers license is one form of i.d. but when that driver license expire and it will expire, the law that the republican house passed last year makes it even harder to get your driver license renewed. there are three forms of i.d. you have to have even to get your license renewed in the State of Ga.(1)A Social Security Card (2)A Birth Certificate (3)Proof of Residency. A lot of people don't have all those forms available to just get a license renewal and a lot of people won't be able to vote.I don't know whether your org. know about whats going on in Ga. but that is the law that the republicans passed in one of their late night sessions. Thats my story and I think it will affect thousands of voters somewhere down the line. A lot of people do not know that law is on the books.

**B D.** | Albuquerque, NM  
Even though there was early voting in my state, the one place closest to my home did not open until a week after some of the pre-election day places had opened their doors. On the 1st day of early voting, I had to go all the way down- town to cast my ballot. This was almost a month before Election Day of last year.

**DARRILYN V.** | Gaithersburg, MD  
In Maryland, I had the opportunity to vote early. When I learned a hurricane was coming and the early voting would be closed on Monday, I picked up my neighbor and voted on Sunday. It took us three

hours, the staff was attentive and the people in the lines were friendly. I was thankful for having gone early. While we could both see that the organization could have been better, with more polling machines and seating for those who were unable to stand long periods, staff was amenable to suggestions.

**ELIZABETH H.** | Cary, NC

Difficult registration to vote. Told DMV when asked that I did want to register to vote but my registration was not recorded. When after several weeks I did not receive registration, I called NC Elections Office and was directed to Wake County office, and told to fill out a form and submit. I obtained the form from the internet, filled it out and mailed it to Wake County. After one month I still had not received my card and again called the State office and was referred to Wake County. The County officer (Cherie) told me I was registered (State office said I was not); she said she had "held back" a number of forms waiting to determine whether the voting place was changed, in order "to save the state of North Carolina extra postage if a changed location were determined." I told her to send my registration card and register me immediately. She responded rudely. The State of North Carolina forms require voters to state their party affiliations. I filled in "Democrat". I have after two months finally received my voter card and am actually registered, but I wonder how many other Democrats are experiencing similar difficulties? I do not believe the process I endured could be legal (withholding registrations for ANY REASON).

**NANCY R.** | Fort White, FL

The ballot was paper and you made your choices by marking boxes. When done you handed it to a person who put it in a machine. My ballot took 2 tries to have it taken by the machine. More than enough time for the person to get an idea of who I was voting for. I felt intimidated by the person knowing I was in a republican area.

**FRED** | Miami, FL

Because of fewer early voting days, the line at my polling place was extremely long. It took my wife & me over 2 1/2 hours in line, but we did it - along with many of our friends & neighbors.

**KATALIN G.** | Bonita Springs, FL

I vote in SW Florida, so it is warm. When I arrived mid-morning (thinking working people should be able to go before work), I found the line was outside the large hall of the polling place. It took me over an hour and a half just to get inside the building, and then another hour to vote, but the worst wait was to have the vote counted, because they only had one

counting machine. I think that is all they were issued, but am not sure. Most of the voters were elderly (including me) and white and Republican (you got to know people well.)

**STEVEN A.** | Cape coral, FL

Polling place did not have enough machines to handle crowd who voted in presidential election. many people had to wait over two hours or more to vote. I as a staff member of a congressional campaign witnessed some who simply walked away.

**WILLIAM G.** | Weeki Wachee, FL

2 people taking ID, 1 person handing out ballot. should have been 2 and 2. many stalls were empty, long line outside.

**DEREK M.** | Houston, TX

During the last Presidential election it took a long time to get an opportunity to vote. While waiting, a caucasian man walked up to me, an Asian man and two Black women and tried to discourage us from further waiting to vote by stating it would probably be another 3 hrs after finding out that we had already been waiting 1.5 hours. He succeeding in getting the Asian man to leave stating that he just didn't have that long despite the rest of us trying to get him to stay. 30 min later me and the other two ladies got to vote. We really wish the Asian man bless his heart had stayed and got his chance to vote. Lastly, confusing information was going around as to whether or not your ballot would be voided if you voted straight Democratic and then went back and voted for other candidates where no Democratic candidate was available. One other important issue, something needs to be done about other issues on the ballot to be voted for. They are worded in ways you can't be quite sure what you are really voting for. There were at least two occasions I thought I was voting for one thing only to my horror to find out it went another way. No issue should be worded in such a way you need a lawyer with you to interpret it or just be blatant subterfuge to mislead you in to believing you are voting one way when actually you are voting another!

**JUAN G.** | Pembroke Pines, FL

The lines were hugh it took over 2 hrs. to get in and vote. The ballot was overly complicated and there should have been more polling places open.

**ARLENE T.** | Grand Rapids, MI

Other than cramped and a long line it wasn't a bad experience.

**LINDA T.** | Albuquerque, NM

I was VERY involved in the previous primary and major presidential elections including being a presiding judge at the Presidential Election which involved training and collecting a paycheck from the County Clerks Office. When the Democratic Secretary of State was voted out and replaced by a Republican I was surprised to get a letter from her office stating that I was a suspect voter and that I may not be able to vote in the upcoming Presidential election. There was NO website to go to to investigate the letter and the phone number that was given on the letter sent the caller to a answering machine without further information about what to do. My husband and I both had lived in the same household for over 6 years, and we both had voted, so there should not have been any question of my voting status. It turned out that I was not the only voter who was sent this strange and misleading letter. An entire program was devoted to the misleading nature of the letters sent out by the Secretary of State. She claimed that she was trying to purge the old voting rosters, but I was not the only recipient of the letter who was confused as to why we were part of that purge. Luckily, I was still able to vote without any problems, and my vote must have counted, as President Obama was elected by a majority of New Mexicans.

**ERIC J.** | West Saint Paul, MN

During the summer of 2008, I registered to vote on a bus. A volunteer with ACORN, a great community organization that I remember fondly, gave me documents to fill out. I was happy to have the opportunity to do so, because my wife Jane and I had recently moved to another county and another voting district. When I went to my new designated polling place in November 2008, I was confident that I had registered far in advance and would find my name on the registry, duly identifying me as a new resident of Dakota County. Much to my dismay, the poll worker did not find my name there. Apparently, the bureaucracy was a little slow in updating its list of newly registered voters. Fortunately, one of the poll workers was a neighbor and he was willing to take the time to track my name down. And he found it, in a separate database, and I voted! So my story has a happy ending but it might have ended differently if the law had required me to have an up-to-date photo ID. Not just for me, but also, and much more likely, for people without my multiple unearned privileges due to being male, white, heterosexual, and middle class. Therefore, I have personal reasons to oppose all voter-suppression schemes that impose bureaucratic barriers against legal voters and make it harder for neighbors to vouch for neighbors when they go to vote. And it burns me up that anybody should

propose making it harder for people of color to vote, after they've sacrificed and shed blood for the right to vote.

**DONNA C.** | Ocoee, FL

I witnessed a poll worked chatting with someone she knew while people where waiting in line for a voting booth. There were several booths open and I just went to one of them!

**CHRISTINE F.** | Bradenton, FL

I drove my absentee ballot to the voter registration office as I was distrustful of using the USPS for fear of my ballot being misplaced anywhere along the delivery system. The state of Florida had numerous referendums on the ballot which took a long time to read and decide upon. This was a factor in the long voting lines that were experienced in many communities. Governor Rick Scott of Florida shortened the number of early voting days and the number of polling locations for early voting.

**CAREN B.** | Deerfield Beach, FL

As a semi-retired senior, I had the luxury of going during business hours, when I thought it would be easier, it wasn't. I also went during early voting. I waited for hours, there weren't enough poll workers, and they weren't utilizing all the machines, although they were knowledgeable and courteous

**CHOKY A.** | Miami, FL

The lines were long, the ballots have a lot of issues that could have been taken care on another election, the governor Rick Scott intentionally cut the days of early election forcing people to wait for hours on top of that some voting places close early leaving people unable to vote.

**HELEN S.** | Houston, TX

I did not get to vote in the election. I have a very hard time standing in one place for more than 3 minutes; 5 minutes is painful; 10 minutes is agony. I parked my car in the small lot, walked in, and was told it would be about 15 minutes in line. I left, went back the next day, drove around for 15 minutes trying to find parking. When I finally got a space close enough and went inside, I was told it would be about 30 minutes' wait. There were no chairs to sit in while waiting so I had to leave. I went back the next day and drove around for 40 minutes looking for a parking space closer than a long block away. I gave up and went to work. I did not vote for the first time since 1971.

**EDGAR P.** | Fortsmith, AR

I move from Louisiana to Arkansas just before the

presidential elections and Arkansas refused to issue me a drivers license because my birth certificate has a stamp on it that says it is a copy. A certified copy from California. It is a maze of red tape to get a copy and it takes months and it cost \$86 dollars and i am on Social Security. I figured since i was born in East Los Angeles some people may considered that place a foreign country in their ignorance.

**JAN E.** | Chesterfield, MI  
More machine were needed

**BRIAN D.** | Carrollton, TX  
For a primary election in Texas, the polling places for the Republican and Democratic elections were in different locations. The published list of polling places I had only listed the Republican polling place. Voting took extra time because I had to go inside, find out I was in the wrong place, get directions, and go to the correct place. I was fortunate that I had my own car.

**ROSALIND P.** | Spring, TX  
During the Presidential election in 2012 at the early voting location here, there was a large, intimidating man gruffly ordering people in the line to have their picture id's ready. Nobody actually looked at them, but I'm sure the demeanor of this person was enough to easily turn away anyone who might not have had an id. I checked two options above because I don't know whether this was an official poll worker or not. Our poll workers are usually friendly and efficient. The people signing in the voters that day were good.

**MARY M.** | Miami Shores, FL  
I waited over an hour to vote and became ill. However, nothing was going to stop me from voting so I sweated it out. I am 66 years old and I have always voted and always will.

**MATTHEW A.** | Edinburg, TX  
My main concern is as PhD student in Texas when the 2014 Governors Election comes around, the ID I have in my possession is my school ID, Drivers License and voter registration card. I am concerned they are going to require a government ID. I just want the ID to be fair for college students like me. I took advantage of early voting. If Texas eliminates early voting, it would be a disaster and a huge mistake.

**MARY S.** | Arlington, TX  
I usually vote early, but for the last election I didn't. My experience proved to me WHY I like to vote early! The polling place is in a grade school. I went at a time convenient for me, thinking I was early enough to "beat the traffic" - WRONG! I could not park in the lot because it was full of parents to pick up their chil-

dren, but I couldn't go any later and so had to park down the block. In the building, children were running around everywhere, being kids. I had to choose between the Republican table and the Democrat table. IN THE HALLWAY, between classes. Apparently some grades were going home and others had another hour or two. I didn't understand it, but I didn't have to understand, only cope. The polling booths were not really private and certainly not quiet. I cast my votes, vowing I would NEVER AGAIN wait until "the day" to fight that mob. Now they are threatening to eliminate early voting???? I have been voting since 1968 and will not stop just because they make it difficult. Matter of fact, I will be voting AGAINST those who made it difficult, I don't care who the opponent might be. Mickey Mouse, anyone?

**KATHERINE S.** | Ferndale, MI  
When I went to vote in the 2012 presidential election, the line at my polling place (a junior high school) wrapped through the school twice and then out the door. I waited for 3 hours but I watched as people gave up on waiting and left without voting. Some of them never even got in line--they saw how long it was and turned around. It was obvious that it bothered them to not vote because many announced to the crowd that they couldn't stay because of babysitter issues, work, etc. I voted in the evening after work so this was the last chance for us all. All those people lost the opportunity to vote because they weren't able to spend 3 hours waiting in line. Many were angry.

**JAMES M.** | Dearborn Heights, MI  
My polling place had 2 districts, one district waited for over an hour and the other had no wait.

**HENRY S.** | Thornton, CO  
In the last election at DeVry University Polling place in Westminster Colorado voting machines were known to be SWITCHING VOTE CHOICES. Their solution was to have voters USE Q-TIPS to touch the screens. I do not believe this is the manufacturer's intent as to proper voting technique. I do not believe that votes were counted anywhere near correctly. My friend who was an official "poll watcher" was (under dire legal THREAT) not allowed to tell anyone or warn any voters to be extra careful to double check that this did not happen when they were voting. It was another official poll watcher who voted and told my friend that this happened.

**ROXANNA C.** | Clute, TX  
When my husband and I went to vote, we were turned away at the assigned poll and told that it had been moved to another unfamiliar location.

After arriving at the new polling place, the actual site was confusing and made me uncomfortable-it was in back of the building with no clear markings. Once inside, it was a dark and dingy location. The poll workers were fine. The voting booths afforded no privacy and the ballots were very confusing and without clear instruction. I left there after rechecking my ballot just hoping I did not vote for anyone I did not want to. Of the five states I have lived in, I have never seen a polling place such as this one in Texas.

**DAVE G.** | Firestone, CO

Polling place is in a Baptist church. It reeked of Conservatism, with people talking openly about how bad Obama was. NOT the place to be hashing out partisan politics!

**KAREN S.** | BG, OH

I've had elections where the voter turnout was larger than expected & things were confusing at polls because workers were overwhelmed. It makes you wonder if your vote was counted. Another time w a close local issue the results were announced n shown along w results from ea. Precinct. I totalled votes & totals were higher than amt. of votes. I called the registrar & asked how that could be (i think business/ attys. fixed results), she had no satisfying answer

**JAMES K.** | New York, NY

I have voted absentee for many election cycles. I never received an absentee ballot for the 2012 national election even after repeated requests. Even now, after several requests asking if I'm registered, I've received no response. This is in sharp contrast to my experience before previous Federal elections.

**JUDITH D.** | Stow, OH

The line to vote was incredibly long. I'm retired, so I just waited; but I'm concerned that others who could not wait were not able to vote. Voting is our most important right as citizens; everything should be done to encourage, not prevent, people from voting.

**RICHARD C.** | Albuquerque, NM

They asked to my name & I said it. The poll worker said she could not find my name so she asked for me to spell it so I did & she still could not find it. She told me I had to vote provisionally, I said no & asked to talk to the voter site judge. To find out she had spelled my name with a "k" not a "c", even after I spelled it for her. She than had the rudeness to tell me I spelled my last name incorrectly. I am fifty-three years old and I think I capable of spelling my last name. I talked with other people who voted at the same site & they had similar stories and funny we all were Democrats voting in a heavily Republican area. Coincidence, I don't think so!

**STEPHEN F.** | Charlotte, NC

The Early Voting locations were too far away, no advertising about where they were located, and TV Ads didnt tell you nor did the News, so if you were not active in Democratic Party, you didnt get the information about were to go vote early, There was nothing in your own district everyone had to go uptown to 9 places and find out only after it started. This has to change, this is what they want to cause a problem to Vote.

**LUIZ P.** | Miami, FL

Line was at least a mile long and very slow moving. It took me from early morning to noon to vote.

**JOE B.** | Dallas, TX

I was the early voting judge at Martin Weiss Recreation Center in Dallas Texas. The Republicans refused to send Republican Poll Workers and we are required to have the same number of workers from each party therefore they forced the wait times at times to be longer than they should have been. Also the Republican Party here in Dallas Texas sent people who were very racist and rude to the voters to work at this polling location which is in a neighborhood that is more than 90% Hispanic. They would say or suggest that the voters might not be legal citizens without any reason to think or suggest that.

**GENE D.** | Wichita, KS

My wife and I went together to vote. There were long lines and 2 separate lines, but no one told anyone what line to get in. You couldn't find this out until you reached the registrar's table.

**R C.** | Dallas, TX

Rudeness, not inclusive, a lack of appropriate knowledge and verbal hatred has all shown their faces most recently.

**SANDRA S.** | Carrollton, TX

More than 200 people waited for up to 3 1/2 hours to cast a vote in the election. The line was sufficiently long that it extended outside the area where electioneering is prohibited and we were approached by several local Republican candidates and proxys. I live in an area with mostly minority population. Latinos comprise the largest percentage of the school population where the polling was done.

**ELLA A.** | Killeen, TX

The biggest problem I find with voting here in central Texas is that you don't know the dates of voting. There are no advertising, no announcements on the local medias, nor or there any poster put out. This is a shame and very troubling. In addition, when you get to the polling place there is really know where to park, or sit if your have problems standing.

**EMILY O.** | Lake Worth, FL, FL

Without being informed about it, my polling place was changed from the one where I'd been going for years. The line was insanely long and voting was slow going. I was with a friend who cannot stand for long periods of time. It was very painful for her to have to wait as long as we did. Shame on those who wish us to be discouraged from voting.

**LINDA H.** | Palmdale, CA

Not enough poll workers, not enough voting machines

**BEVERLY S.** | Cottonwood, AZ

Having been born and raised in Washington DC -- without a vote-- I have only experienced voting in Washington DC, New York City, Flemington NJ.....and now in Cottonwood AZ. And now I find the instructions rather confusing here in Cottonwood, and feel perhaps it is the predominance of Republicans in this area, possibly this State!!! I do see and feel a difference, although the "volunteers" seem very anxious to help and are very agreeable. Otherwise I find it a rather "alien" community.... Beverly Smith

**RAGUBATHEE P.** | Charlotte, NC

My wife and I voted on our third visit to the polling booth as the queues were too long. It took us approximately 2 hours to vote when we did. This was in 2008. In 2010, it took about an hour. I felt sorry for some of the older people in the queues, especially the ones that looked to be ill.

**ANNIE S.** | Washington, DC

long lines, broken machines, not enough poll workers, it took me 2 days to vote because of long lines

**VIRGINIA A.** | Nashville, TN

I waited in line for 2+ hours. There were people turned away. This shouldn't happen.

**GARY K.** | Buena Vista, PA

I live in zipcode 15018-9538, Buena Vista, and voting for me has always been easy and fairly quick. This is a fairly suburban/rural type area - there are still farms here, and I cannot recall ever seeing anything but white people at the voting station, but the biggest problem I have had is this past year the location where I vote at was changed and we were not notified and during the primary I went to vote as usual, was turned away but was directed to the new place where I vote which is now the local fire station.

**JACK S.** | Chicago, IL

My mother, age 92, is a registered Democratic voter in Pennsylvania. For six months in advance of the

2012 election, her driving privileges and license were withheld on the pretext of a required medical exam. The forms she duly submitted hit one snag after another until her license actually expired. When the state finally renewed her driving privileges, her actual license had expired and it looked like she would not have a new physical license in order to vote in the November elections. Luckily a judge delayed Pennsylvania's brutal new law "defending our rights to vote" (ironic) so she was able to cast her Democratic vote for Obama in 2012. Of course, we cannot prove the intent of this ungodly delay of six months, but we are convinced it was her Democratic registration that inspired the action. And the fact that she got an unpleasantly worded letter from the state advising her against litigating over the matter of the delay only convinces us more of the law's flawed intent. All of this is to say nothing of personal hardship, for she was unable for six months to drive to a supermarket for groceries and other necessities! Jack Shreve, 1649 W. Lunt, Chicago 60626; cell phone 773-266-4714.

**ALLEN M.** | Arlington, VA

The ridiculously long voting lines--requiring waits of four or more hours--that I witnessed in November 2012 in Arlington VA were unconscionable. The U.S. is not some third-world nation. Please act now to ensure that this disgrace on our democracy never happens again.

**GWEN S.** | Waldorf, MD

The lines were extremely long. It was cold and I stood in line (OUTSIDE) for over two hours before I finally reached a voting machine. I am a senior citizen; there were people who were more senior than me and some with disabilities having the same experience.

**RUBY W.** | Kansas City, MO

This is the first time I've ever had to wait for an hour to vote. My voting place was inside a elementary school which was small. The line was long also. I have photo id and have been using it pretty much since I began voting in 1974. I normally show it because I don't carry my voter id card with me.

**JACKIE L.** | Atlanta, GA

Broken voting machines Not enough voting machines or ballots Poll workers were poorly trained or not knowledgeable Mistakes in the poll book Confusing ballots or voting machines No language assistance provided

**TORIA D.** | Baltimore, MD

During the past presidential election, we experienced

very long lines and much longer waiting time to vote. Most voters were patient but I noticed that some voters left without voting.

**LISA M.** | Newark, NJ

In my district there were a reduction in the number of voting machines for the Presidential election. There were insufficient numbers of personnel at the polling site. Voters who were on the books throughout the years were not listed and advised to fill out paper ballots. Voting machines were confusing as the design did not allow people to make choices but rather vote on one party line. When I complained about the concerns to the persons at the voting site I was given a number to the Board of Elections and the person responding to my concerns were rude, unaccommodating and did nothing to address the issue.

**DONNA A.** | Ocala, FL

I voted early (2 weeks) and waited in line for 1 hour. The plus side is meeting and talking with so many people that I'm sure we changed people's votes! The people in line talked at length about all the tricks the Repubes were using to suppress the vote! Great audience! ;-)

**THOMAS P.** | Youngstown, OH

In the 2012 Elections it took me approx. 1 1/2 hours to vote along with everyone else that was also waiting to vote. There were approx. 25 people in front of me with approx. 20-30 behind me. After having 5 back surgeries I was in severe pain from standing for over an hour, luckily there was one other person in line with me that also had a bad back so we could take turns sitting down for 5 minutes at a time. The primary election 6 months earlier I was in and out within 15 minutes, no lines at any time and nobody was waiting for their paper work and or proving their identity. Bring back the early voting!

**MATTHIAS H.** | Lancaster, PA

The line was not organized, so people waited in line for a long time at the wrong table only to discover that they had to go to another table for their district. The voting machines were not working, so workers broke the tamper-evident seal and put our ballots into the box. I never found out whether my vote was counted.

**CAROLE S.** | Brooksville, FL

A new Republican elected Supervisor of Elections for Hernando County has proposed the closing of 4 precincts and shortening of Early Voting hours in the 11th District which has a large population of African Americans ( see Tampa Bay Times Politics section

) ,. Shirley Anderson was elected in 2012 ,and has set about changing the laws at a meeting with the County Commission on October 1st. I live in Hernando County ( South Brooksville ) and I know this will be a hardship for many people. I worked on the campaign as a NTL with OFA last year , and heard complaints about changing polling places , that were just been changed in 2012 ,from people who were registering to vote. Please help us keep Republicans from making it difficult for all Americans to vote.

**ERNEST B.** | Pineville, LA

I have had to wait in lines as my daughter who had to wait two hours in line, and this was in Detroit, MI.

**LYNN S.** | Atlanta, GA

I voted in Atlanta at the Fulton County Annex Polls. I would suggest that there are more poll workers added. We had an abundance of machines, but the method of letting a few in at a time to vote made it take too long to get to the machines. After being signed in I would suggest that voters are allowed to go to as many machines that are available.

**JANET R.** | Bloomfield, NY

For some reason, when my hubby and I went to vote, our names were not on the polling records. This is odd, since we have lived in the same house for over 25 years, and have not changed anything, so who knows? Maybe its because we're registered Democrats in a highly Republican district. We had to sign a form stating that we were who we said we were, and we had to show our driver's licenses. Then, we couldn't vote using the machine, we had to fill out a paper ballot, which the voting official took, read, and then carried it away. I still don't know if our votes were ever counted. I was going to complain to someone, but I didn't know who to call, and Obama won, anyway.

**R S.** | Brooklyn, NY

Good afternoon. My experience this past Presidential election was far different than most. There was a slew of people that were rededicated to my regular site causing mass confusion for all. The new designees had wait times of 2-3 hours. I myself waited approximately 30 minutes which is usually 5-10 minutes for most other elections. On top of that there were about 6-8 spots for voting but not enough pens. I called the Board of Election to let them know. I was so annoyed and appalled not just for me, but for everyone who had to endure this at the location. It was because of this incident of not having enough pens that prolonged voting for all. That enraged me to the point where I went home and returned with a handful of pens hoping to accommodate and expedite the



voting process for everyone. It was almost as if there was sabotage to discourage people from voting with extended wait times.

**CHRISTINE L.** | St. Albans, NY

My poll site was changed from a school at my corner (PS 15 Q) to one that was farther away (PS 36Q). Councilman Leroy Comrie showed up to see lines down the block and up the street., but the real chaos was inside where it took us an additional hour and a half to receive our ballots because the line for our district had 1 person servicing the people (32/29). In all we spent two and a half hours. The polling place down the block where I would have normally gone was open and had NO lines.

**RUTH L.** | Greenville, MS

Many times our machines break down and there is a long wait before they are repaired due to the fact that we have too few technicians that are available to repair them. Therefore, this causes long lines. Some-time we have to resort to using paper ballots which in some instance may not be reliable.

**AMBER J.** | Hampton, GA

The only thing I have experienced is the long lines and long wait. I think there need to be more poll workers and poll machines because everyone is not able to stand for long periods of time.

**Micheal M.** | Mattapan, MA

The polling place designated for my address required me to take public transportation, that should not be. There should be more polling places for people in large neighborhoods as well!!

**ALISON M.** | Silverthorne, CO

I live in the Colorado mountains and our Secretary of State purged my permanent mail-in voter registration claiming that I missed an election. 2 issues here. I never missed one so obviously my previous vote was not counted. And travel to a polling place is often impossible due to weather in my area.

**BRENDA T.** | Midland, GA

I just think it was ridiculous to have to wait so long to vote. This very much discourages people to vote. Who has over an hour to waste in line?

**SUSAN H.** | Austin, TX

Polling places in Austin Texas were reduced in number, and polling times and early voting were reduced. My polling place in a Randall's grocery store had a line out the store and around the large building where voters had to stand for hours in the Texas heat, even in early November. Many voters drove by

in their cars, asked if the line was to vote, then drove away. I am disabled, and had already voted absentee, but my son had to leave on a business trip after standing in the heat for about an hour.

**K. P.** | Daytona Beach, FL

Tried to vote early on one day but the lines were very long. As it was when I did decide to get in line, the wait was over an hour and this was during early voting! An elderly couple standing in line in front of me said they'd been coming by to see what the length of the lines were over a number of days. Both were well into their eighties and determined to vote but it was obvious they were physically taxed by standing in line like that. This voting place was at a library in a predominantly white area. I can't even imagine what it was like for folks in areas where they'd made it even harder to vote. Of course the inordinately long ballot didn't help!

**DICK M.** | Signal Mountain, TN

In our town, Signal Mountain, TN. the voting place was changed from the convenient town hall and moved to the inconvenient Presbyterian church, an intimidating place for all but the quite well off. I'm sure it disaffected many less well off voters

**SOL K.** | Beverly Hills, FL

I waited about 20 minutes and then voted. Our population is increasing so the polling places will most likely have to stay open longer or we have to have more days to vote. The constitution states that every citizen of legal age has the right to vote. If our leaders have any problem with this well then these leaders have to go!!

**LISA P.** | Hamilton, OH

The traffic to get to the parking area was horrible. We were in our cars on the street waiting. It caused a terrible traffic jam. It took almost an hour to get to a parking space to go in to vote!

**BLUE M.** | Jupiter, FL

early voting at library third try long lines & not sufficient parking 3hrs

**BETTY S.** | Denbigh, VA

In over the 30 years I have been voting at this polling place, parking was a problem for the first time and had to stand in line mid morning much longer than ever before.

**JOHN A.** | Orange City, FL

Rick Scott cut some early voting days and it caused major inconveniences to hundreds of thousands of

people. I feel fortunate that my wait was only 2.5 hours although I have never personally had to wait more than 10 minutes to vote.

**KIRSTEN R.** | Richardson, TX

Our polling place was recently moved from the local fire station to a church. In the previous location, I never had to wait more than 10-15 minutes; at the new location, I have to wait 1-2 hours. Polling places should NOT be in religious buildings. Several people waiting in line commented that having to enter a church to vote made them very uncomfortable.

**LYNN K.** | Madison, WI

I worked several elections as a poll worker and I found the people who came to observe the elections, many were intimidating, they stood way too close for comfort; many voters also didn't care for the observers. The school gives us a room to use for voting and most elections it's plenty of room; when there's a presence trial election, we need a bigger room and more workers. It would be great if there was a way to get 18-25 yrs olds to work the polls.

**MJ L.** | Dunedin, FL

A lot of different municipalities were voting in the same place and each voter had to have a ballot printed just for them which really slowed things down. Ballots should have been ready. I have been voting for 50 years and this is the longest and most disorganized. My first time here in FL and it was not easy! I also had to pay \$600 just to get a license and register my car, never required in CA where I come from.

**JESSE S.** | Crescent City, CA

The poll workers are not knowledgeable about procedure. Every year I hear them telling someone (you aren't on the list and they guess you have to go to the county building, (they don't know?)) and people from out of the area get the same - I have to tell them about a provisional ballot and how to do it. Mind you that I'm only there long enough to get my stuff and vote- this happens all the time

**NICOLE M.** | Morton, IL

I have been old enough to only have participated in 2 presidential election cycles. My first time voting was when I lived in southern Louisiana, in an area that is highly populated by African Americans. It took at least an hour to vote. And I had the fastest time compared to others I knew in the area. I now live in central Illinois, in a heavily white populated area. It took about 5 minutes for me to wait in line. I went to both polling places very early in the morning, around the same time. It was amazing for me to notice the

difference everyone has always mentioned occurs. There should be no disparities in the voting process that puts undue hardships onto the voters. Please help for easy access to the polls for people to voice their vote in our democratic system. Thank you.

**FRED P.** | Houston, TX

My first voting in Houston, TX was a disaster. They finally allowed me to conditionally vote. It was later rejected.

**CYNTHIA S.** | Tucson, AZ

My husband and I have never waited more than five minutes to vote in any past election. This past election, they closed our main polling place so we were sent to a place that was about 1/8 the size of the previous one. The lines were so long that many people would arrive, see the lines, and leave. Inside, there were not enough polling booths and three of the ones that were there were actually inside a closet.

**ANDREA P.** | Virginia Beach, VA

The line was very long, winding out the building and down the sidewalk. Everyone was patient but it was hard on those who had children and the elderly because there was nowhere to sit or get anything to drink. Something needs to be done about waiting over two hours to exercise our right to vote. This is not for what we pay taxes.

**SALLY S.** | Seymour, TN

My 18-year-old, first-time voting daughter wanted to vote in the DEMOCRATIC primary but the worker kept putting her on the Republican ballot. When she brought it to his attention he insisted he had put her on the correct ballot. She told him a 2nd time it was not the correct ballot. He finally corrected the "mistake".

**KIM A.** | Richmond, VA

Long lines standing in the cold rain. Voters weren't allowed to snake a line inside the empty gym at the school polling place. It was after school-day hours and voters were told that they had to stay outside.

**MARY JO M.** | Ames, IA

Our voting location was changed from a school which we could easily walk to a church which required a car to access.

**ADEL K.** | Cedar Falls, IA

There is one volunteer who doesn't have the needed computer skills and seems intimidated by the computer...maybe doesn't use it in between polling times.

**NANCY P.** | Mooresville, NC

I was a registered voter in North Carolina but my sister had recently moved here. Both of us checked via internet to make sure we were registered and received confirmation and that our polling location was the Brawley School Road Volunteer Fire Department, where I have voted since 1998. On the first day available for early voting, we arrived but there were no people or vehicles in the parking lot. We went inside and were told by the fireman on duty that this year they were dropped from a polling location and he had no idea where to go. I knew that the library in Mooresville, NC was a polling location but not for early voting. We went to the library and they informed us where to go. We arrived and were fortunate to find the only open parking space (the parking lot services the local town swimming pool with spaces available for approximately 50-60 cars) so you can understand how congested the area was. I can only imagine how much more confusing and difficult our next voting experience will be with the new voter suppression laws just enacted in North Carolina. I cannot imagine that it will be a joyful experience.

**SAM S.** | Denison, TX

I am STILL so angry about what happened here, I may be forced into grammatical errors. I can't vent and edit at the same time. Redistricting in Texas had relocated/eliminated a number of polling places. Google Maps had the wrong address, and sent people in the wrong direction. When one stopped to ask directions, the locals would use 'local' landmarks-which is of NO use unless one is intimately familiar with the area. There's no sign that says,"HERE is what is called Pa Pa Hill." By the time it was all said and done, I personally led several cars to the polling place, had to show my ID once there (no one else did, that I overheard), and cast my ballot. Then, I parked my car as close to the UNMARKED gate as I could, turned on my flashers, rolled down my window, and used hand signals to show people where to turn off the 55 MPH highway to cast their ballots! I am STILL furious!

**JEAN S.** | Cape Coral, FL

Here in Lee County FLA, very much a working/middle class area, voting was an ABSOLUTE TRAVESTY!!! My husband waited in line in the rain, for over 4 hours (thankfully I voted absentee) and many other people waited as long as 6-7 hours to vote!!! UNBELIEVABLE!! Never seen anything like it!! Early voting was shortened dramatically and approx. one million dollars in funding that was allocated for voting (i.e. extra machines and support) was returned prior to the election by the supervisor of elections,

no one knows exactly why. She didn't even lose her job! WOW, REALLY???. This was either deliberately done to keep people from voting or it was gross incompetence and perhaps I suspect, a bit of both!! OUTRAGEOUS!!! THIS SHOULD NEVER BE ALLOWED TO HAPPEN AGAIN!! EVER!!

**FAITH L.** | White plains, MD

I live in a mixed neighborhood there weren't any problems but when I took my granddaughter to vote in a basically black neighborhood the lines were very long. It took about an hour.

**GREG A.** | Bedford, TX

Line was slow and long to get to a voting booth.

**DEBORAH S.** | Arlington, TX

Even with early voting, we had long lines, and they did not have enough workers, once we got to the worker who would check our voter card, they would take for ever to find your name and then the voting machine was hard to work, I voted the straight ticket, I noticed that the President Obama named had been omitted and was not shown checked, I called the worker over and showed them and then went in and redid my ballot checking each democratic Candidate.

**B K.** | Houston, TX

People waiting in line at the Freeman Library in the Clear Lake area of Harris County were being told to have their drivers license out and ready even though no law required such identification.

**MAUREEN B.** | Palm Beach Gardens, FL

I live in South Florida and have worked to register voters. I went to early voting at a supposed "off" time to test before encouraging others. It was beyond chaotic. There was misinformation about using absentee ballots from the clerk's office instead of waiting in line (and would those even be counted), long lines of over 3 hours, not enough machines, waits for ballots, and general disorganization and subtle efforts to have people leave and vote another time. Most were there the only time that they could vote. I was expecting that and more, but very disappointed. The only thing missing was 3rd party intimidation.

**JANIS B.** | New York, NY

Staff very disorganized and there were not enough supervisors/experienced workers to provide guidance. I vote as soon as the polls open at 6:00AM, but when they open they are not fully prepared to have voters process seamlessly,

**KELLY H.** | Clinton, IA

We don't own a car--we're well below the poverty line--so we had to walk. I use a wheelchair for any real distance. The polling place was up a fairly high hill, for Iowa, and about four miles away. For most of the trip, there were no sidewalks. We had to walk in the road, in the rain, with my wife pushing my chair as far as she could. I had to get out and walk so that she wouldn't vomit from the exertion; I had to push myself to walk as far as I possibly could before sitting again. It made me feel ill. I had to hold my head between my knees just to keep from passing out. The only reason we got home in a reasonable amount of time is that a kind woman stopped as we were leaving the polling place and offered us a ride. Otherwise, I think we would have both been sick before we got anywhere near home. The buses don't run anywhere near the polling place, either, and there are no cab companies in our small town.

**JOHN M.** | Meadville, PA

Took an hour whereas in the past took 5 minutes. Checking each person took longer and ballot not straight forward in selections.

**BARBARA M.** | Breinigsville, PA

Very ill, I left the hospital & got a ride with a friend to my polling location, then had to wait in line for 2 hours to vote.

**MARK H.** | Oak Lawn, IL

I was an election judge. On Election Day, a pattern emerged early...voters from an entire block came into the polling place only to find their registrations could not be found, either in the precinct binder or by calling the County Clerk's election department. All of these voters had to vote a provisional ballot. Five minutes for me to explain why they were voting provisional and how it worked, then another 5 minutes to do the paperwork, then they had to wait for an available touch screen machine since provisional voters did not have the option to vote a paper ballot.

**ARLINE A.** | Peotone, IL

I could walk through my back yard to get to my former polling place but now have to go completely across town and into the country. The people that were voting at my new polling place now vote at the one on my block and we vote at their's which is pretty goofy. You see this mass movement of people crossing town to vote in the new polling places. Whoever thought this one up, needs some help.

**JOAN T.** | Warriors Mark, PA

I walk with a cane and was promptly moved to the front of the line to vote. However a long line of indi-

viduals were waiting to vote. Within the past month, we have been notified that our voting precinct has now been divided so that no more than 1250 registered voters are in either. Voting check-in needs to be reorganized so that it is more efficient.

**JOI G.** | Durham, NC

Waited in an extremely long line just to reach the entrance to the election area

**DIANE G.** | Baltimore, MD

It was early voting in a mixed race area of Baltimore County at a local senior center. The turnout was huge. The parking lot was overflowing into a neighboring shopping center. The building was filled to capacity with waiting voters and the line went outside, doubled the length of the building and then stretched into the shopping center parking lot. People waited as long as 5 hours or more. The staff were doing an efficient friendly job with an inadequate facility and insufficient space.

**DAVID L.** | Miami, FL

My wife & I waited almost 5 hours to vote early - the previous election at the same polling station we waited less than 1-1/2 hours

**ALICE H.** | Washington, DC

I waited in line for about 3.5 hours to vote. I missed work, and was late to several appointments because I wanted to vote. Also, something that was really disturbing was that there were a lot of elderly and disabled people there waiting for their opportunity to vote. The polling station did not have enough of the ballots for them --handicapped accessible--to be able to vote, and several of them had been waiting for over 4 hours to vote.

**RICHARD C.** | Bourg, LA

The poll book had a note questioning my address, which hadn't changed in more than 7 years. While waiting in line, I overheard many comments similar to "I'm not voting for no f\*\*\*ing n\*\*\*\*". After voting, someone told me, "If I find out someone voted for that n\*\*\*\*, I'm gonna burn their house down!" I live in a very racist and Republican area.

**JAKE M.** | Alpharetta, GA

I'm a student at the University of Georgia, but my residency is in Johns Creek, GA. To vote, I had to drive 1.5 hours to Johns Creek on the "early voting weekend", which is the only non-weekday opportunity to vote. I had to wait in line for over an hour to vote. Even though my area is affluent and has plenty of resources, the scene was confusing, and there were limited machines open.

**MONICA R.** | Miami, FL

Long, long lines outside in the hot sun in Miami. The elderly should have been given the opportunity to move ahead in the line. Ballot was long and confusing.

**RAMINDER K.** | Chicago, IL

I live in a fairly well to do area so we encountered no problems other than the fact that it was pretty handicapped inaccessible. You had to take a very round about way with noone to open doors.

**JONATHAN R.** | New York, NY

The workers seemed a little disorganized and confused about checking people in. The man collecting the tickets as people entered the booth got confused about whose tickets he had collected and who he hadn't. Then they had to keep double checking people against the list. People were also having a little trouble with the voting machine...lever not working well enough. Required resetting. And at one point, they sent a voter in and set the machine for Democrat when he was Republican. Then they made a huge to-do about..."oh you're REPUBLICAN?! He's REPUBLICAN!! REPUBLICAN!!" Then they had to get him the different colored ticket and reset the machine. Seemed like an inappropriate display and a violation of his privacy.

**JONATHAN W.** | Brooklyn, NY

Where do I begin? A few weeks before the election I received the booklet from the Bd. of Elections that tells you how and where to vote. It gave the name of the school and the street, but not the address so someone voting there for the first time wouldn't know where on the street the school was located. The booklet said to enter on 41st St. In the past the entrance has been on 40th St., which goes right into the cafeteria, where the election is held. So most people who'd voted there before arrived at the 40th St. entrance. When they arrived at 6am to vote they found that the poll wasn't open because the coordinator hadn't shown up. I was working as a poll watcher for a city council campaign and arrived before the opening time and stayed about 9 hours. I have also previously been a poll worker at that location. When the coordinator didn't come, one of the poll workers, the Police officer on duty and I all called the board of elections. It was hopeless. The workers were incompetent. I gave the name and exact address and location of the school as well as the AD and ED. Then they asked my date of birth. I had no idea what that had to do with opening the polls. They said they couldn't find the poll on the computer, despite my having given them the exact location, without my d.o.b. Huh? At 6:45 a Bd. of

Elec. employee arrived to check the handicapped accessibility and the ballot marking device for the disabled. Finding the poll unopened, he proceeded to open it. Meanwhile about a dozen people who'd shown up early to vote had left. The poll finally opened just before 7am, almost an hour late. Then the officer said that the 40th St. entrance would be closed because children were entering the school there, and the 41st St. entrance was opened. This entrance was considered handicapped-accessible because there were wheelchair ramps. While it was WHEELCHAIR accessible for the zero people I saw arrive in wheelchairs in 9 hours, I wouldn't consider it handicapped accessible. Voters accustomed to arriving at the 40th St. entrance, which was used for the presidential election, had to walk around the block to the middle of 41st St., walk up a ramp, around a large trailer and through a schoolyard to enter the cafeteria where the voting was taking place. I'd estimate it was 150 to 200 yards. This was a long walk for the 20 to 30 elderly and/or disabled people I saw arriving with walkers, canes or difficulty walking and I heard many complaints. When the children were in the schoolyard they also had to dodge the running kids and balls that were thrown around. In addition, many people who arrived at the poll found that their ED had been moved to another site, as there were now only 2 EDs at this site. At one of the EDs over 100 people voted during the day; at the other exactly one (1) person voted the whole day. I was told that there were only 26 names in that voting book. As a poll worker I have frequently noticed that at one site there is always a huge difference in the number of people voting at each ED. At the 2012 presidential election, I worked the ED I live in and we had a long line at the table from the moment we opened at 6am til the moment we closed at 9pm, while other EDs at the site had few voters all day. Poor planning if you ask me. In addition, in the 3 years I've lived at my address, the poll site has been changed back and forth between 2 schools 4 times. Many people show up to vote and are told they are at the wrong site. However, due to poor training and, perhaps, incompetence of the poll workers, voters are sometimes sent away by mistake. Poll workers don't know how to read the poll site address books and give false information. Also, voters are sometimes inexplicably dropped from the voter reg. books and are sent away when they should be given affidavit ballots. I've also seen poll workers who are barely literate and elderly workers with failing eyesight who can't read the books adequately. Last, a few years ago I worked at a site where the coordinator had her husband on the books as a no-show worker, which meant my ED was short one worker, and her underage grandson was working under a false name. I hope that's enough for you.

**DAVID M.** | Sacramento, CA

I was an observer at two polling places in a highly contested congressional district. At both of them, poll workers' misunderstanding of the rules forced many people to vote "provisionally" when they should not have had to. At one, the workers graciously accepted my suggestion to correct the procedure. At the other, they were resentful and resistant. The exact errors were different, but in both places the problem was larger than it should have been because many people's name did not show up on the list. Many probably didn't end up voting at all when they should have been able to. There really need to be nationally consistent rules for voting that are simple, clear and audited to make sure they are being followed.

**WILLIAM V.** | Virginia Beach, VA

Only three voting machines were available for presidential election. Normal number available in state elections are five to six machines in our 4,000 to 6000 voting district. Fewer voters show up for state elections and there are more machines available. Why were there fewer machines for the presidential election when more voters were expected to show up?

**SUSAN T.** | Atlanta, GA

The lines were extremely long and slow moving. My partner cannot stand for very long, and there was only one chair so I had to hold her place in line. We were in a school cafeteria and I had to motion for her to join me from way across the room when there were only 4 or 5 people left in front of me. It was difficult.

**CHRISTOPHER S.** | Springfield, PA

In Pennsylvania, we have laws against electioneering at polling locations. Candidates and their representatives have to stand at least 10 feet away from a polling place. At my polling place, the candidates hold doors, congregate inside the polling place within earshot of voters who provide their names and addresses to poll workers and otherwise intimidate voters. I have complained to the poll workers at my polling location and have been told that because the polling place is so big (a school gymnasium), the ten feet only apply to the voting booths themselves and that all the harassing behavior was allowed. It's not and I have no remedy against being harassed and intimidated the next time I vote.

**MARJEAN S.** | Los Alamitos, CA

My polling location has moved 5 times in 30 years. Same housing tract, same number of voters. Now it is back to the most convenient location with trained workers.

**SARA B.** | Blacksburg, VA

My polling place and others were moved off the bus route so students and poor could not get to the polling place without help from someone with a car. My polling place before 2010 was very nicely located with plenty of parking and well lit and safe. This change took place when we got a Republican governor who wanted to stop Democrats from being able to vote

**MARGARET K.** | Duluth, MN

I live in a middle class, mostly white neighborhood and voting is generally quick and easy. When I lived in a township with more African Americans, it took roughly 10 times as long to vote. The line were really long.

**JULIO R.** | Brooklyn, NY

This I noticed longer lines but, I believe it was a result of the broken machines. We had to vote by paper ballot. Also, my polling place was changed without notice. I went to the polling place I used last year and once there I was turned away and sent to another location.

**RUSSELL L.** | Lafayette, LA

The voting station is in a fire station with very poor access and limited parking...a critical factor in this area. The Firemen are great assistants, however when the fire alarm sounds, there is chaos. Public libraries would be a better site or school auditoriums and gyms.

**CARYL J.** | Miami, FL

We live in Miami and decided to do early voting because of the 8 hour wait we encountered in the last presidential election. We waited in what looked like a short line for 1 hour - then found out that the line inside the library snaked around for what took more than 3 hours. Then we waited in a small room with the voting machines and more people. The Miami/Palmetto Bay ballot was extremely long with many local questions (that did not need to be on the ballot.) Each ballot had to be customized for our precinct and district and then printed. I know that a number of people left before reaching the area with the machines because of the wait time and needing to get home to their family.

**KARLEIGH M.** | Ankeny, IA

This was a better election in terms of accessibility than 2010. In 2010, I waited for four hours, and had to find a sponsor after being accused of voting fraud. 2012, wasn't a problem because college students called on Barack Obama's campaign, who sent in a lawyer to make sure that Marion County, IA, Central College, Pella, IA, and the state of Iowa in general did

not keep students from voting. There was great turn out from students on campus, but with the Secretary of State for Iowa turning to another voting purge, it is likely there will be more problems for students in the elections to come. It is disgusting that the Branstad administration is trying to restrict voters rather than trying to connect with them.

**ANDREA I.** | Grafton, WI

Poll workers act baffled and overwhelmed when I tell them how to spell my name. They are pushing for voter ID which I strongly oppose.

**SHEILIA S.** | Cincinnati, OH

I live in Cincinnati, OH. We were not sure if early voting would be allowed here and the decision was held up till the last minute. When the announcement came that the polls would be open the weekend before election day, my husband and I were elated. We both work 1st shift, M-F and are paid hourly. Long lines at the polls on election day could have meant short paychecks for us, which our family cannot afford as we are barely scraping by. We got up early Saturday morning and arrived at the polling office at 7:30 a.m. Even though the polls didn't open until 8, the line was already down the street. There were about 85 people in front of us. We waited outside in 40 degree temperatures with our two children and a lot of other families. We ignored the protesters up the block who were carrying signs and shouting negative comments about President Obama and the "poor, non-working slackers who were trying to take over the country". I explained to my 6-year-old daughter that "yes, the President is a good man and no, all poor people weren't lazy slackers. Most poor people were hard workers like me and daddy who were just trying to make ends meet." We finally made it to the head of the line about at 9 a.m. My husband and I voted, we all high fived and we were 20 minutes late getting to my daughter's ballet class, but that was ok. We'd done our part to re-elect one of the greatest Presidents this country has seen!

**RHONDA B.** | Cocoa, FL

the state of Florida shored early voting days and hours per day - which made for longer lines and longer wait times - whereas in the 2008 election they had just lengthened early voting days and hours - guess Gov Rick Scott and the his republican buddies did not like the outcome of the 2008 election and therefore were determined to make it harder for the young/students, black, latino and voters without transportation, disabled voters, etc to get to the

polls - most of us knew what they were up to and were determined to wait as long as it took to vote - they gotta be stopped and held accountable for their discrimination.

\* \* \* \* \*