

More on H.R. 5036 - the Holt Bill (NEW)

Dear League Leaders:

Judy Duffy, LWVUS Advocacy chair, and I met with Rep. Rush Holt for over an hour on Monday to discuss the provisions of H.R. 5036. He expressed appreciation for the League's support for Section 2 of the bill which would provide federal funding to replace voting systems that do not use or produce a paper ballot verified by the voter or a paper ballot printout verifiable by the voter at the time of casting the vote. We discussed at length Section 3 of the bill which would provide federal funding for those election jurisdictions that choose to conduct manual audits of the November 2008 results. As we talked, it became clear that auditing elections is a complex subject that even has different meanings to different people. [Click here](#) to see a more detailed report on some of the matters discussed at the meeting.

I believe that the auditing of elections is an area in which Leagues can play a vital role. Therefore, I have decided to form a Task Force to provide the LWVUS Board information and advice about election auditing that we can all use as this subject develops nationwide. With regard to the LWVUS position on Section 3 of H.R. 5036, because the bill, if enacted, may have the effect of giving voters in audited jurisdictions some additional level of confidence in the final results of the election, supporting Section 3 of the bill would be consistent with the position adopted at LWVUS Convention 2006. Likewise, even though the bill's provisions do not themselves require the application of uniform auditing practices, the audits which would be funded under the bill could yield useful information that could lead to the development and use of uniform standards. Accordingly, local and state Leagues may express their support of Section 3 of the bill to their Congressional delegations.

Sincerely,

Mary Wilson