

## Rothman Introduces Bill to Reform Voting Systems

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Torricelli, McConnell Introduce Senate Companion to Legislation

Washington, DC -- At a press conference today, Rep. Steve Rothman (D-NJ9) announced plans to co-introduce legislation in the House of Representatives to reform our nation's voting systems with Rep. Tom Davis (R-VA11), Chairman of the National Republican Congressional Committee, in order to avoid the electoral chaos we saw in Florida from repeating itself.

"It is vital that we first resolve what went wrong with our last election and reform our voting systems before we can move onto other issues," Rothman said. "America fought a revolution for the right to choose our own leaders, surely we can spend the necessary dollars to ensure that right can be exercised by all Americans."

The legislation would establish an independent, bipartisan agency to be called the "Commission on Electoral Administration." This agency would be comprised of two Democrats and two Republicans. It would be charged with conducting a national study to recommend voting methods, continually update our nation's voting procedures, help states fund new voting technology, along with several other responsibilities.

"Improving our voting systems is a tough task, but we will tackle it in our nation's best traditions of open debate and bipartisan consensus," Rothman said. "We must ensure that every vote cast, is counted."

The Rothman-Davis bill is the House version of an electoral reform bill co-sponsored in the Senate by Senator Robert Torricelli (D-NJ) and Senator Mitch McConnell (R-KY).

The "Commission on Electoral Administration" would build upon the existing Office of Electoral Administration, a little-used and underfunded branch of the Federal Election Commission. Among the new commission's responsibilities:

To continually develop and update standards for voting systems at least every four years;

Conduct a review of no more than one year of existing voting procedures;

Recommend improvements to the voting systems;

Allocates up to \$500 million in matching funds to implement modernization procedures recommended by the Commission in the first year, and \$100 million a year thereafter;

Implementing standardized voting procedures, timeliness of reporting election results, accuracy and security of election results;

To assemble and deploy bipartisan panels of election professionals to assist any State requesting one for purposes of reviewing election procedures or recounting ballots.

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