

Congressman John Yarmuth (KY-3)

**Information Policy, Census, and National Archives
Subcommittee**

**“Ensuring Fairness and Accuracy in Elections
Involving Electronic
Voting Systems”**

**Wednesday, April 18, 2007 - 2:00 P. M.
2154 Rayburn HOB**

“Mr. Chairman Clay and Ranking Member Turner, I want to thank you for conducting this hearing, which I consider to be of the highest importance to our democracy.

For more than two hundred years, America helped democracy spread, simply by leading by example, by shining a light on the vast potential of freedom. Now, as the current Administration pursues a more aggressive implementation of democratic elections throughout the world, we find ourselves in the precarious position of doubting our own system. With so many of our own citizens questioning whether or not their vote is counted, we are rapidly losing the capability to lead by example.

The problems are apparent - easily manipulated and faulty voting machines, inaccessibility, and even the expressed intent by the CEO of Diebold, which

manufactures voting machines, to "deliver" electoral votes for the President. And after numerous studies, the solutions are also apparent. What has not been apparent is the political will to act. While voter confidence waned, so too did the sacredness with which we hold American democracy.

I am hopeful that this hearing signals an end to that complacency and insecurity. I am joined by a growing number of my colleagues who recognize that the reliability and transparency of our election process is the cornerstone of the freedom upon which America was founded, and not until we can ensure the legitimacy of our democratic process will we again begin to live up to the standards and fulfill the dreams laid out by our founding fathers.

I look forward to hearing from our witnesses today to better understand the failures in our past, and to discover what else we can do to ensure success in the future.

Thanks, y'all."