

**Rules Committee Hearing**  
**Is the Myth of In-Person Voter Fraud Leading to Voter Disenfranchisement?**  
**Opening Statement of Sen. Bob Bennett, Ranking Republican Member**  
**March 12, 2008**

I appreciate the opportunity to examine the issues of vote fraud and voter identification laws. I am convinced that there is a great deal that needs to be done to address the fraud in elections. Vote fraud is currently happening; it is not just a part of American history. Those of us who have read the biographies of Lyndon Johnson, who was known as Landslide Lyndon when he came to the Senate because he won his race by 87 votes, know that no one will ever know who really won that race as he and his opponent kept adding fraudulent votes in a frantic attempt to see which one would come out on top. In the end, Lyndon Johnson came out on top.

That is in our past, but voter fraud is still very much in our present. I look forward to hearing from the witnesses. I would indicate that I have information here of 25 states that have recent legal proceedings with respect to voter fraud. Without going through every one of them, I will pick out just a few in my opening statement.

The senator from New York has talked about this example. He must be familiar with the massive vote fraud operation that Elizabeth Holtzman, the former district attorney in New York who had earlier served in Congress, uncovered and prosecuted. She recommended, in a blistering statement that, voter ID is an important tool for stopping voter fraud.

I will highlight California, Utah, Louisiana, and Indiana, all of whom are part of discussions today. In California, a member of the Berkeley Rent Stabilization Board faces four felony vote fraud counts for misrepresenting where he lives so he could vote in a race in which he was ineligible to vote. A couple in Fair Oaks has pled "no contest" to fraudulently voting in a school board election. These cases were reported by the San Jose Mercury News and the Sacramento Bee.

In Indiana, a voter who claimed to be disenfranchised by the Indiana Voter ID Law was found to be registered in two states and was actually a resident of Florida. In Lafayette, Louisiana, a former St. Martinsville councilwoman, was fined \$2,000 and sentenced to three years probation on federal charges of rigging her 2002 election. She entered false addresses on registration cards so supporters from another district could support her.

In my own state of Utah, we pride ourselves on not having a problem, but in fact, there are cases of voter fraud. In Daggett County, which is the smallest county in the state, an investigation into vote fraud has brought criminal charges against 51 people accused of lying about where they live in an election for county sheriff. Several of those charges are the relatives of the winning candidate who won by 20 votes out of the 594 votes cast.

Voter fraud is currently happening. There are examples of it. There are people being prosecuted for vote fraud. I look forward to this hearing where we have an opportunity to get into more of the details. I will end my opening statement, but I have a great deal of additional information that I will be happy to present before the committee.