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Subject: Fla.'s Access. Voting Technology

Please look at the third bullet in this attached e-mail newsletter.
Florida, the state that spurred the national move to improve our voting
process, is now requiring ACCESSIBLE voting technology, pending funding.

By counterpart, since California IS providing funding, how can the Voting
Modernization Board NOT require accessible voting technology? Bob
Planthold

DVP NewsNotes, 5/31/2002

- Election Reform – Next week, Senator Dodd and Congressman Ney are expected to agree on the structure and timing of the conference on Election Reform. Jim Dickson and other prominent civil rights leaders have been to more than a dozen meetings with the staff of the conferees, in order to bring them up to speed on the disability/civil rights issues.

On Tuesday, Kelly Anthony has organized an important meeting with Congressman Blunt's District chief of staff. Blunt's role on the committee is to speak for the House leadership, and he will have veto power over any changes to the House legislation.

- In Illinois, where computer voting is illegal, a bill that would have allowed computers died.
- In Florida, Governor Bush signed into law legislation that sets time tables requiring all polling places be physically accessible, and that there be an accessible polling machine in each polling place. However, the clock does not start ticking until funds are appropriated, and this has not happened. With the help of Howry and Simon, AAPD issued a statewide press release, and is trying to place an Op-Ed.
- In Missouri, the Saint Louis Post Dispatch released a poll showing Mr. Carnahan to be up by six points amongst the population at large, and by twenty-three points amongst voters with disabilities. Unfortunately, the disability information did not make the press.

A coalition of ten disability groups in Columbia, are committed to conducting non-partisan get-out-the-vote campaign this fall. Also, the Missouri affiliate of NAMI has joined our statewide effort, and Jim Dickson was interviewed by the ABC affiliate in Columbia.

- DC Lawsuit – The judge has refused our request for a trial, and will be deciding based on the paper that was filed. The attorneys, when 'reading the tea-leaves,' think we have a 30% chance of winning. As a result, a campaign to raise a political fuss was kicked off. Joining AAPD are the DC Disability Rights Council and the DC affiliates of the American Council of the Blind, The National Federation of the Blind, the Blinded Veterans Association, The Paralyzed Veterans Association and ADAPT. We've been promised a meeting with the mayor next week.
- Tennessee – A series of meetings have been set up to push for identifying people with disabilities in the state's public opinion polls. The organizing committee has selected the name *Tennessee Disability Voters*, and two half time organizers will be starting work in the next couple of weeks. The organization is

building an independent database, which currently has about 5,000 Tennesseans with Disabilities on it.

- Upcoming events – In Wisconsin, the DD Council has scheduled a Get-Out-the-Disabled-Vote conference for all of the state's non-profit organizations. It is scheduled for September 5th (In Wisconsin, one can register to vote on Election Day).

In Minnesota, organizer Deb Stehr has the first disability vote meeting scheduled for June 13th.

On June 11th, in Washington DC, AAPD will host a 'CEO Summit' to discuss get-out-the-vote issues and election concerns for the coming year. The invitee list includes the CEOs and Executive Directors of over 100 national disability organizations and related groups.

DVP NewsNotes is a bi-weekly feature from AAPD's Disability Vote Project.