Guarding Against Obstacles to Voting on Election Day

Volunteering at the polls on Election Day is a great way to help strengthen and safeguard the rights and liberties at the core of our democracy. You also empower others in your community by ensuring that their right to vote is protected. Review this sheet before you go to the polls on Election Day to be aware of problems you may encounter. These are just some examples, and you should use the resources listed at the bottom of this page if you see anything of concern.

Warning Signs of Voting Obstacles:

- **Excessively long wait**: Voters have reported waiting in line for as long as three hours before they could vote.
- **Equipment malfunctions:** Poll workers have encountered machines that fail to tally, record, or retrieve voter data.
- **Delayed opening of the polls:** Polls have failed to open on time due to late arrival of ballots or personnel.
- **Polling places that are inaccessible to persons with disabilities.**
- **Voters leaving without voting:** Long lines, insufficient ballots, machine malfunctions have all resulted in voters leaving the polls without having had the chance to vote.

Resources to Help Address Obstacles:

- To find out whether formerly incarcerated people can vote in your state, contact the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU): http://www.aclu.org/votingrights/exoffenders/statelegispolicy2007.html#text
- To locate your polling place and find out what type of identification is required, contact the National Association of Secretaries of State: http://www.canivote.org/
- For help assisting disabled voters, contact the National Disability Rights Network: http://www.ndrn.org/en/issues/voting.html
- For information on how to vote if you are living overseas, contact the Overseas Vote Foundation: http://www.overseasvotefoundation.org
- To find out what the requirements are for poll workers in your state or to learn about complaint procedures, contact the US Election Assistance Commission:
  Compendium of State Poll Worker Requirements (August 2007): http://www.eac.gov/assets/1/Page/Poll%20Worker%20Requirements%20by%20State.pdf
  State Administrative Complaint Procedures: http://www.eac.gov/payments_and_grants/state_administrative_complaint_procedures.aspx