



HAMILTON COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY
GRASSROOTS PARTY BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

JOHN BAILES, CHAIR
JEFFREY WILSON, VICE CHAIR
ALICE O'DEA, SECRETARY
JAMES CARPENTER, TREASURER

23 PATTEN PARKWAY
CHATTANOOGA, TN 37402
423-266-4125

Bailes
To: Bud Knowles, Administrator *Hamilton County Election Commission*
From: John Bailes, Chair *Hamilton County Democratic Party*
Date: Feb. 19, 2008
RE: Voting Irregularities on Feb. 5, 2008 & Requests for Upcoming Elections

On Tennessee's Presidential Primary Election Day, Feb. 5, 2008, the Hamilton County Democratic Party received several calls from various voters and poll watchers concerned with voting irregularities (see attached list). These irregularities ranged from voter accessibility and voter intimidation to voting machine problems and ballot mix-ups.

It is my belief that these voters and poll watchers reported these irregularities in good conscience and with a desire to make positive changes so that all voters have access, accuracy, competence, and civility at the polls.

Many of these voters and poll watchers reported to our party because they had trouble contacting the Election Commission. While I know that the Election Commission takes these issues seriously, the perception was otherwise for some voters. So that is why I have brought these concerns to your attention.

In a spirit of cooperation, the Hamilton County Democratic Party seeks to resolve these issues by suggesting a proactive approach for our upcoming August and November elections. We are making three requests for our upcoming elections in August and November:

1. An adequate number of Election Commission hotlines for voters, poll watchers, and poll workers to use for questions, concerns, etc., along with web access to "My Voting Information" for all browsers.
2. At least 80% of the ballots printed and ready to reach polls.
3. Required competency and civility training for all poll workers, including "a test for competency and civility."

