

Compiled by Black Box Voting
A national nonprofit, nonpartisan citizen elections watchdog group
www.blackboxvoting.org

Citizen's Tool Kit:

www.blackboxvoting.org/toolkit.pdf



Take Back Your Elections

You own your government, it's not the other way around. When you own something, it's up to you to manage it. This Tool Kit was created through combined expertise with many of our nation's most effective and experienced citizens, to help you learn the management skills that work.

Just do one thing. Choose one action – any action. When you take *any* action in this Citizen's Tool Kit, you will master skills to enact truly meaningful oversight over your government.

Your children and grandchildren will inherit the government you give to them.

If *you* don't manage your own government, who will?

Why start with elections?

Local, state and national, your ultimate ownership in your government is enacted through your vote. If your vote doesn't count, you are simply a slave to your government. The United States of America was founded with the idea that We, the People have sovereign power over our government.

You will quickly see that the citizenry's ability to authenticate the fairness and accuracy of elections – any election – has largely been stripped away.

But don't take our word for it. Select any action from the Citizen's Tool Kit. Try it. See what you discover for yourself. We encourage you to think for yourself and have confidence in your own common sense.

Overview of the Citizen's Tool Kit

This Citizen's Tool Kit has 20 modules. Each one is quite brief. Your first action will be to skim over the modules and select one you'd like to try.

Even if you choose only one action from a single module, you'll be amazed at what you learn about managing your government. Taking a single action – any action – will have more impact than you think.

How do I use the Citizen's Tool Kit?

Pick an action, any action, and just do it!

Fight the temptation to spend your time trying to organize everyone else. Make a commitment to personally complete a meaningful action, even if just in one area, and even if no one else will join you. Spend your time actually doing something rather than on office politics, e-mail lists, or turf wars. Step away from the Internet. Get out in the field where the action is!

If you choose to work alone, you'll quickly learn that there are many others like you, and they are achieving amazing results. You can locate individuals who are having an impact in the **Forums** at <http://www.blackboxvoting.org> .

Of course, it is especially enjoyable to work with a small local group. One of the first actions you can take is to get a small group together, and there are modules in this Citizen's Tool Kit to help you do that.

One citizen who began working alone but then evolved into the founder of a group is John Brakey of Tucson Arizona. He has very good advice:

"I'd rather see 10 groups, each with 10 people, than one group with 100 people. You find out that in any group regardless of size, one, two or three people seem to do all the work. At least with 10 groups, you know you'll have 10 people taking action.

You can start with an even smaller group – just five people, and you can draw them from your neighborhood, your family, your workplace or your circle of acquaintances.

Whatever you do, take action.

How do I get help?

You can get personalized, one-on-one help with your questions here:

<http://www.blackboxvoting.org>

In the left column, look for **One-on-One Consulting**. Click that.

Direct link: <http://www.bbvforums.org/forums/messages/73/73.html>)

If you haven't signed up before (it's free), in the left column at the One-on-One you'll find a link that says **Register**. Click that, fill out the boxes, and you can post your questions. Allow a day or two and you'll receive personalized assistance.

Using the One-on-One on the Internet is an important strategy, because other people probably have the same question you have. This way everyone gets to read the answer to your questions, even those too shy to post their question on the Internet. Internet-based consulting helps nonprofit organizations keep costs low and make good use of time.

If your question requires privacy

E-mail crew@blackboxvoting.org and allow a couple days for response.

If you don't have access to the Internet at all

If you don't have Internet at all, call 425-793-1030. Be judicious about using the phone, since using the telephone takes time away from others who may have a time sensitive emergency. It will help greatly if you have your questions organized ahead of time point by point. Focus your questions to handle them in 5-10 minutes.

How do I get started?

Take 10 minutes to overview current elections problems:

- If you want to find out why elections are currently at risk, get this file from the Internet: <http://www.blackboxvoting.org/toolkit-presentation.pdf>

(TIP: This file is full of pictures, very easy to read. Because of the pictures, it is a large file, so allow several minutes to download.)

- If you are already familiar with current elections problems, you can use the above file as a presentation for your family, friends, and groups. The presentation is also available for you as a PowerPoint slide show: <http://www.blackboxvoting.org/toolkit-presentation.ppt>

Look through the modules on the following page and choose one.

Citizen's Tool Kit Modules



Take Back Your Elections

MOBILIZATION MODULES

- Module 1:** Have a House Party
- Module 2:** Organize a Town Meeting
- Module 3:** Give a Speech to a Group

HARD CORE EVIDENCE MODULES

- Module 4:** Adopt Part of an Election: Check Out the System Testing
- Module 5:** Adopt Part of an Election: Check On Voter Registration Lists
- Module 6:** Adopt Part of an Election: Become a Poll Worker or Elections Judge
- Module 7:** Adopt Part of an Election: Monitor the Voting
- Module 8:** Adopt Part of an Election: Monitor the Counting
- Module 9:** Adopt Part of an Election: Check on the Chain of Custody
- Module 10:** Adopt Part of an Election: Audit for Accuracy
- Module 11:** Get Public Records and Freedom of Information Documents

CREATIVE & SPECIALTY MODULES

- Module 12:** Be the Media
- Module 13:** Adopt a Public Official
- Module 14:** Check Out the Money Trail: Who's Getting Paid?
- Module 15:** Accountability Check-up: Did the Election Follow Rules & Laws?
- Module 16:** Legal Actions

'PLAN B' MODULE

- Module 17:** Count the Votes Yourself

MODULES FOR CANDIDATES, CELEBRITIES, AND WEALTHY CITIZENS

- Module 18:** Actions for Candidates
- Module 19:** For Famous Voices (Action ideas for Celebrities)
- Module 20:** Actions for High Net Worth Individuals

Your Own Additions to the Citizen's Tool Kit

You can share your ideas by sending to crew@blackboxvoting.org



New Modules Needed?
