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Accountability \* Integrity \* Reliability

Comptroller General  
of the United States

United States Government Accountability Office  
Washington, DC 20548

November 30, 2004

The Honorable John Conyers, Jr.  
Ranking Minority Member  
Committee on the Judiciary  
House of Representatives

Dear Mr. Conyers:

Thank you for your letters of November 5, 8, 15, 17, and 29, 2004, jointly signed by a number of your colleagues, asking the Government Accountability Office to review the efficacy of voting machines and new technologies used in the recent election, how election officials responded to situations they encountered, and what can be done to improve election systems and administration.

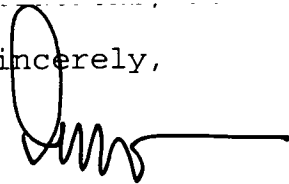
As Mr. William Jenkins, Director, Homeland Security and Justice, discussed with Mr. Perry Apelbaum and Mr. Ted Kalo of the Judiciary Committee, prior to the election GAO had agreed to congressional requests to take a systematic look at certain election processes and technologies, such as voter registration, provisional voting, and the security of voting systems, and, as a result, work is underway on these issues. Given widespread congressional interest in this matter and consistent with its congressional protocols and statutory authority, GAO will now undertake any new work related to election processes and technologies using the Comptroller General's authority. This will enable us to use our resources more efficiently, provide a more comprehensive picture of election issues, give us the flexibility to brief you and other interested congressional committees and Members of Congress on the interim results of our work, and provide widespread dissemination of a final report once it is completed.

Importantly, our work will focus on broad systemic election administration issues to help inform the Congress in considering potential improvements for future elections.

We will not be investigating specific allegations regarding the recent election because we are not authorized to engage in enforcement efforts related to alleged voting irregularities. However, such allegations may help us to identify the broader, systemic issues to be included in our work.

Mr. Norman Rabkin, Managing Director, Homeland Security and Justice, is the principal point of contact for our review of voting issues. We will keep Mr. Apelbaum and Mr. Kalo apprised on the progress of our work. If you have any questions, please contact

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'D' followed by a series of loops and a long horizontal line extending to the right.

David M. Walker  
Comptroller General  
of the United States

Ref: CCARS 05-0100, 05-0118, 05-0131, 05-0132, 05-0140, and 05-0164