

Setting up systems at an elections office can be as simple as redesigning a website.

Adding barcodes to envelopes already going through the postal process can cost tiny fractions of a penny per piece.

Purchasing any additional scanning or telephone equipment is also relatively inexpensive for election technology.

Mail ballot tracking could even help elections offices save money in the long run as call volumes will likely go down and the strain on staff declines.

Mail ballot tracking is a win-win for all.

I believe it will increase voter participation as it increases peace of mind.

We should follow the lead of the trailblazers who are already tracking mail ballots and ensure this level of security, transparency, and accountability to all voters who either choose to vote by mail or who live in one of the growing number of localities holding all-mail elections.

I ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in supporting this effort to strengthen the democratic process and give American voters the electoral certainty they deserve.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I was not present for votes on Monday, March 19 and Tuesday, March 20, 2007 because I was meeting with British Members of Parliament in an effort to build an international coalition to end the Iraq War. If I was present, I would have voted:

"Yea" on rollcall No. 157 (H.R. 138, Recognizing the importance of Hot Springs National Park on its 175th anniversary);

"Yea" on rollcall No. 158 (H.R. 658, Natural Resource Protection Cooperative Agreement Act);

"Yea" on rollcall No. 159 (H.R. 839, Arthur V. Watkins Dam Enlargement Act);

"Yea" on rollcall No. 160 (H. Res. 254, Providing for consideration of the bill [H.R. 1227] to assist in the provision of affordable housing to low income families affected by Hurricane Katrina);

"Yea" on rollcall No. 161 (H. Con. Res. 42, Honoring the heroic service and sacrifice of the 6,500 glider pilots of the United States Army Air Forces during World War II);

"Yea" on rollcall No. 162 (H.R. 759, Redesignating the Ellis Island Library on Ellis Island, NY as the "Bob Hope Memorial Library");

"Yea" on rollcall No. 163 (On approving the Journal);

"No" on rollcall No. 164 (Hensarling Amendment to H.R. 1227, to require recipients of rental assistance under the bill to perform 20 hours per week of approved work activities);

"No" on rollcall No. 165 (Biggert Amendment to H.R. 1227, to require that, instead of replacing all pre-Katrina public housing units, only the number of public housing units occupied pre-Katrina be replaced); and

"Aye" on rollcall No. 166 (Al Green Amendment to H.R. 1227, to extend FEMA housing assistance for evacuees of Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma until December 31, 2007 and

provide tenant-based voucher assistance upon termination of FEMA housing assistance for eligible families)

PREVENTING HARASSMENT THROUGH OUTBOUND NUMBER ENFORCEMENT (PHONE) ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2007

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support H.R. 740, because it is important that we broaden the scope of current law to prohibit a person from engaging in "spoofing," which is the use of incorrect, fake or fraudulent caller identification—caller ID—to hide their identity in order to facilitate a fraudulent telephone call to the recipient. In addition, the bill provides the tools needed for the Department of Justice to prosecute and protect against criminals who engage in spoofing.

H.R. 740, the Preventing Harassment through Outbound Number Enforcement—PHONE—Act of 2007, is intended to help protect consumers from harassment, identity theft, and other crimes. The legislation creates a new Federal crime to prohibit using or providing, in interstate or foreign commerce, false caller ID information with the intent to defraud.

Recently, the technology needed to spoof has become readily available, either through the purchase of Internet telephone equipment or through Web sites specifically set up to spoof. For example, Voice-over-Internet-Protocol—VOIP—equipment can easily be configured to populate the caller ID field with information of the user's choosing. Some of the technology can block any back technology such as the star symbol or dash 69.

Caller ID spoofing is a form of identity theft that can cause damaged credit and financial ruin. Call recipients sometimes divulge personal and private information to the spoofer, under the mistaken belief that the caller is a legitimate caller. For example, the AARP—formerly the American Association of Retired Persons—has reported cases in which people received calls that made false claims that they missed jury duty. To avoid prosecution, these individuals were told they needed to provide their Social Security number and other personal information. The phone number that appeared on their caller ID was from the local courthouse, so people assumed the caller was telling the truth.

In addition to identity theft, spoofing invades the privacy of those individuals whose caller ID is used to mask fraudulent calls and can be used as a form of aggressive harassment. The use of this technology has been linked to fraud, prank telephone calls, political attacks, and telemarketers who attempt to avoid the current "do not call" limits.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support H.R. 740 and urge my colleagues to join me in voting for its passage.

186TH ANNIVERSARY OF GREEK INDEPENDENCE

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2007

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in acknowledgement of last week's consideration and passage of H. Res. 228, a bill recognizing the 186th anniversary of the independence of Greece and celebrating Greek and American democracy.

I am honored to have supported a bill whose significance is so extensive and which has such enormous personal meaning to me.

My paternal grandfather emigrated from Greece in the early 20th century and earned his citizenship in his new country by fighting in World War I. My father, Socrates, continued the Space family's patriotic tradition by serving in the Marines during the Korean War. After the war, my father attended Ohio State's law school, thanks to the GI Bill.

I am immensely proud of my Greek heritage, but I'm also proud of the Greek American community. In fact, I'm proud of the symbiotic relationship between my Greek heritage and the Greek-American legacy.

The opportunities afforded to my father and my father's father in America were—in my opinion—a result of the democratic by-products of freedom and liberty that Americans enjoy, thanks to the Greeks.

Early on, America's Founding Fathers looked to the ancient Greeks and their enlightened society for inspiration in forming a new government. In fact, American representative democracy, as we know it, is rooted in the philosophy and ethos of the Greeks.

Today, as we celebrate the anniversary of this wonderful Nation's independence, it's important that we continue to recognize the significance of Greek contributions to the global society. As an American, and as a Greek, I very much support the sentiment of H. Res. 228.

HONORING U.S. NAVY COMMANDER CAROL BOHN

HON. JERRY MCNERNEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2007

Mr. MCNERNEY. Madam Speaker, I ask my Colleagues to join me in honoring Commander Carol Bohn, U.S. Navy, Retired.

Commander Bohn provided outstanding service to our country as a commissioned officer, and in retirement, she continues to provide exceptional service to the Tri Valley community and to our men and women in uniform.

Commander Bohn's family instilled in her a deep-rooted sense of commitment to public service. Her late mother and father were World War II veterans, her sister currently serves as a Captain in the U.S. Navy and her brother serves as a Captain in the Navy Reserve.

Commander Bohn gave 25 years of exemplary service to our country in the U.S. Navy Nurse Corp. This included a tour aboard the Hospital Ship USNS Mercy during Operation Desert Storm, when she provided care and comfort to wounded service members.