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COLORADO ELECTION DAY MANUAL

A DETAILED GUIDE TO VOTING IN COLORADO

NOVEMBER 2004



disenfranchise them by turning out in record numbers and challenging any effort at intimidation

-- Link this fight to the historical fights to enfranchise minorities, going back to the civil rights struggle.

2. If no signs of intimidation techniques have emerged yet, launch a "pre-emptive strike" (particularly well-suited to states in which these techniques have been tried in the past).

- Issue a press release
 - i. Reviewing Republican tactic used in the past in your area or state
 - ii. Quoting party/minority/civil rights leadership as denouncing tactics that discourage people from voting
 - Prime minority leadership to discuss the issue in the media; provide talking points
 - Place stories in which minority leadership expresses concern about the threat of intimidation tactics
 - Warn local newspapers not to accept advertising that is not properly disclaimed or that contains false warnings about voting requirements and/or about what will happen at the polls
3. Train field staff, precinct workers, and your own poll watchers thoroughly in the rules they need to know for election day.
 4. Plan and completely prepare for possible legal action well in advance of election day
 5. Have Secretary of State record public service announcements about election day -- when polls are open, who is eligible, etc.

III. LEGAL CHALLENGES

1. Any GOP voter intimidation activity in which the RNC is involved may be a violation of the 1982 consent decree which the DNC still has in force in New Jersey federal court against the RNC.
2. Regardless of whether the RNC is involved, voter intimidation activity can be challenged through a civil lawsuit against the state or local Republican party or Republican campaign involved, based on one or more of a number of legal grounds which, depending on the circumstances, may include:
 - The Civil Rights Act of 1957
 - The Voting Rights Act of 1965
 - To the extent voters are being refused the right to vote at the polls based on change of address, etc., the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (Motor Voter law)