Building Trust and Confidence: Why Trustworthy Voting Systems Require Institutionalized Distrust

Douglas W. Jones
jones@cs.uiowa.edu
http://www.cs.uiowa.edu/~jones/voting
Associate Professor of Computer Science
University of Iowa
Member and Past Chair, Iowa Board of Examiners for Voting Machines and Electronic Voting Systems
- We cannot extend unsupervised trust to anyone
- Without effective oversight, trust will be abused (Enron, Worldcom and others)
- We trust cooperating adversaries in 2-party systems
- The problems lie in administrative rules as much as they lie in voting system standards
Who must we trust today:

- The FEC/NASED source code auditor
  - An impossible job (SAIC)
  - 2 strikes out of 2 (Compuware)
- Every other step exempt from sunshine
  - Closing the polls (Georgia, California)
  - Pre-election setup (many states)