

Millions of ballots were not counted during the 2000 presidential election. While some voters choose not to vote for any candidate or intentionally voted for two candidates, the more common reason for votes not being counted was faulty voting machines. Rep. Waxman was concerned that votes of poor and minority voters might be disproportionately discarded. Along with 20 other members of Congress, he asked the Special Investigations Division to investigate whether voters in low-income, high-minority districts were more likely to have their votes discarded than voters in affluent, low-minority districts. He also asked the Special Investigations Division to investigate the impact of technology on the undercount. The report examined 40 congressional districts in 20 states. Twenty of these districts had high poverty rates and a high minority population. Twenty of the districts were relatively affluent and had a low minority population. The report found that voters in low-income, high-minority districts were over three times more likely to have their votes discarded as voters in affluent, low-minority districts. But the report also found that improved voting technology can reduce the number of uncounted ballots cast by voters in districts with high poverty rates and high minority population by up to 85%, significantly reducing the disparity between the two groups. **Documents and Links**

- [The Report](#)
- [Press Release](#)