



Ballot Initiative STRATEGY CENTER

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Ballot Initiative Strategy Center Releases 2010 State-by-State Report Card

WASHINGTON, DC – On the heels of the recent National Conference of State Legislatures Conference in Louisville, Ballot Initiative Strategy Center (BISC) today released [Ballot Integrity: A Broken System in Need of Solutions](#), the second annual report card on ballot integrity in the 24 states which allow for ballot initiatives.

The 2010 Report Card found that only five of the 24 states reviewed had systems protective enough to receive a C or better, and only one state (Colorado) earned a score higher than B. The report warns that most states are still vulnerable to continued ballot initiative abuse, fraud and deception unless significant legislative changes are made to protect those systems.

“Clearly there is work to do,” said Justine Sarver, Executive Director of BISC. “Fraud undermines the integrity of every vote cast in an election and weakens the public trust that is the foundation of our democracy.”

“But we know how to fix the system. And in a few states, leaders are stepping up to show that we can protect the integrity of every vote cast.”

The Report Card rates each state on their system in place to protect the integrity of the ballot initiative process and provides a blueprint for reform. It also describes reforms states can adopt immediately to protect the integrity of their elections, which include increasing initiative sponsors’ accountability, improving enforcement of policies that deter or combat fraud, and giving Secretaries of State and Attorneys General the resources they need to fight attempts to defraud their state systems and citizens.

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The Ballot Initiative Strategy Center (BISC) is a national organization that builds, fosters, and maintains ballot measure capacity to protect and advance progressive policies while protecting the integrity of the initiative and referendum process in states around the country. Learn more at <http://www.ballot.org/> and <http://www.stopballotfraud.org/>