

# Carter vote fraud: 1980 prospects

by Lonnie Wolfe

On Oct. 6, officials of the New York City Board of Elections were startled by the sudden delivery of 150,000 postcards registering voters for next month's national election. They were brought in by the box load by various trade-union and community organizations.

Bea Dolan, the head of the Board of Elections, reported that from January to September 1980, her board has received more than 250,000 new registrations. In the four days prior to October 6—the last day of the registration period—another 50,000 registrations poured in. Nearly all were Democratic registrations.

Dolan says that there have been no validity checks nor does she plan to do any before Election Day.

“Vote fraud?” Dolan told a reporter, “What’s vote fraud?”

Dolan is in a position to know exactly how vote fraud secured Jimmy Carter the 1976 presidential election. As reports from New York and other key states indicate, Jimmy Carter is preparing to commit even greater fraud in 1980.

## How fraud is set up

There are three interrelated components to a national vote fraud operation.

The first component involves voter registration. The idea is to register as many names on the voter rolls as possible—whether the individuals exist or not, whether they live at a listed address or not. It is made easier by lax registration practices such as postcard registration that make it easy to register “phantoms” without validity checks.

The Carter/Mondale organization has successfully completed this phase of operations. Carter campaign officials are claiming record levels of new voter registrations this year. This flies in the face of all available information that there is a record level of voter apathy—or voter antipathy.

Democratic National Committee get-out-the-vote coordinator Tracey Gallagher identified the Carter strategy: “We targeted 13 states based on easy voter registration practices.” These states coincide with the so-called swing or key states on whose vote the outcome of the election depends. Seven of these states allow postcard registration: New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Texas, Kentucky, and Ohio. Wisconsin al-

lows chaotic same-day registration, which lets people vote by merely showing up at the polling place on Election Day.

Other battleground states—Florida, Illinois, Louisiana, and Mississippi—have also shown anomalous registration patterns in key Democratic wards, especially in urban areas.

The outcome of the election actually hinges on the vote in these key urban areas within the battleground states—Chicago, Buffalo, New York City, Houston, San Antonio, New Orleans, Newark, Miami, Cleveland, etc. In each of these places, the first condition for vote fraud has been accomplished through increasing voter registration rolls.

The second component of the operation is the shaping of the population’s perception about the election to make the vote fraud seem credible. This is accomplished through the media and especially through the use of opinion polls. Over the course of the last two weeks, the population has been bombarded with one poll after another—each with the same message: Reagan’s strength is slipping and all the key states are becoming “toss-ups”—too close to call—with the exceptions of New York, which is now given to Carter, and California, which remains in Reagan’s column. There is little or nothing in terms of “voter perceptions” that actually accounts for the shift away from Reagan, the pollsters admit.

This propaganda barrage covers for the final component of the vote fraud operations—the actual “vote delivery” and “vote stealing” on Election Day. As evidence accumulated in 1976 shows, many of the phony voters are phantoms—people that either didn’t exist or voted for Jimmy Carter regardless of whether they showed up at the polls or not. In addition, the 1976 results showed “vote shaving” or vote stealing through operations conducted after the vote was cast, or through manipulation of voting machines or ballots.

The Democratic National Committee and Carter/Mondale campaign have also pointed to the aid they get in voter registration from so-called nonpartisan, tax-exempt organizations, which traditionally conduct Democratic voter registration drives. Two of the most significant of these operating this year are the Southwest Voter Registration Project, based in San Antonio, Tex-

as, which registers Mexican-American voters, and Operation Big Vote, a Washington, D.C.-based coalition for registering black voters.

Operation Big Vote is a coalition of 70 to 80 national black organizations coordinated by Gracia Hillman out of the offices of the Joint Center for Political Studies black think tank in Washington, D.C. A spokesman for this organization has predicted that Jimmy Carter will "again get 90 percent of the black vote as he did in 1976," despite reports from the NAACP that voter registration among blacks is lagging far behind this year due to "apathy." Operation Big Vote has claimed a goal of turning out 75 percent of black registered voters this year, compared to the 48 percent who voted in 1976.

Al Barkan, the director of the AFL-CIO national COPE operation, reports that the labor federation will have more than 140,000 field workers in key states to "get out the vote" over the next two weeks through Election Day. They will be operating from computer-generated lists of registered labor voters and where possible conduct "visits." They plan to help these individuals "get to the polls" on Election Day. In the past this has meant that, where possible, they will cast votes for their fellow workers.

These operations aim at shifting no more than 3 to 5 percent of the vote over to Jimmy Carter. According to current projections from both the Carter and Reagan camps, in all states less than 8 percent separates the two major candidates; in states such as Ohio, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Texas, Florida, Illinois, and New Jersey, the margin is less than 3 to 5 percent. This is well within the established Carter vote fraud capabilities based on the 1976 results. For example, Carter won the state of Ohio in 1976 by a bare 5,000-vote margin—less than 1 percent of the vote. In 1976, specialists in vote fraud and statistics showed in court that more than 10,000 phantom voters could have cast their votes in the city of Cleveland alone.

### Field reports

We present below reports gathered by special *EIR* investigators on the potential for vote fraud in key "battleground states."

**Ohio:** Carter/Mondale campaign officials say both privately and publicly that the key to carrying the state is carrying Cuyahoga County, which contains the city of Cleveland, by more than 100,000 votes with a 70 percent or better "turnout." The DNC, with the help of former Cleveland mayor Carl Stokes, put together a massive voter registration drive. A record 85,000 registrations were delivered to the Board of Elections in the last month alone—25,000 from the heavily Democratic black wards of Cleveland's east side. Total registration is up in Cuyahoga County by more than 115,000 over

1976: most are from Cleveland, though the city lost population during that period. The drive was carried out by 300 deputized registrars—paid by the DNC—who registered voters "door to door." with no verification of residence or identity. The state AFL-CIO, the United Autoworkers, and the United Mineworkers, along with Operation Big Vote, are turning this and other "registration" efforts into a get-out-the-vote drive.

**Texas:** Carter/Mondale officials say that the vote here will depend on the Mexican-American factor. In the last 45 days of registration, the DNC, using postcard and deputy registration methods, registered 400,000 voters, mostly blacks and Hispanics. The southwest Voter Registration Project claims to have doubled Mexican-American registration since 1976, from 400,000 to more than 800,000; in 1976, 85 percent of the Mexican-Americans had their votes counted for Jimmy Carter. This year, 90,000 were registered in the last two weeks—mostly by postcard with no validity checks. 150,000 registered in Houston in the last three weeks—mostly Hispanics, mostly by postcard, with no validity checks.

**New Jersey:** Here Carter/Mondale forces view the cities of Newark, Jersey City, and Camden as key. In Essex County, the DNC, working with the NAACP, the FOCUS Hispanic-American group, the local black Democratic machine, and the AFL-CIO's COPE apparatus, registered 31,000, mostly by postcard and with no validity check, in the last two weeks of registration. Similarly, more than 40,000 postcards were logged in Hudson County (Jersey City) and Camden in the last three weeks of registration, again with no validity checks. The state AFL-CIO plans to deploy "a few thousand" people to "get out the vote."

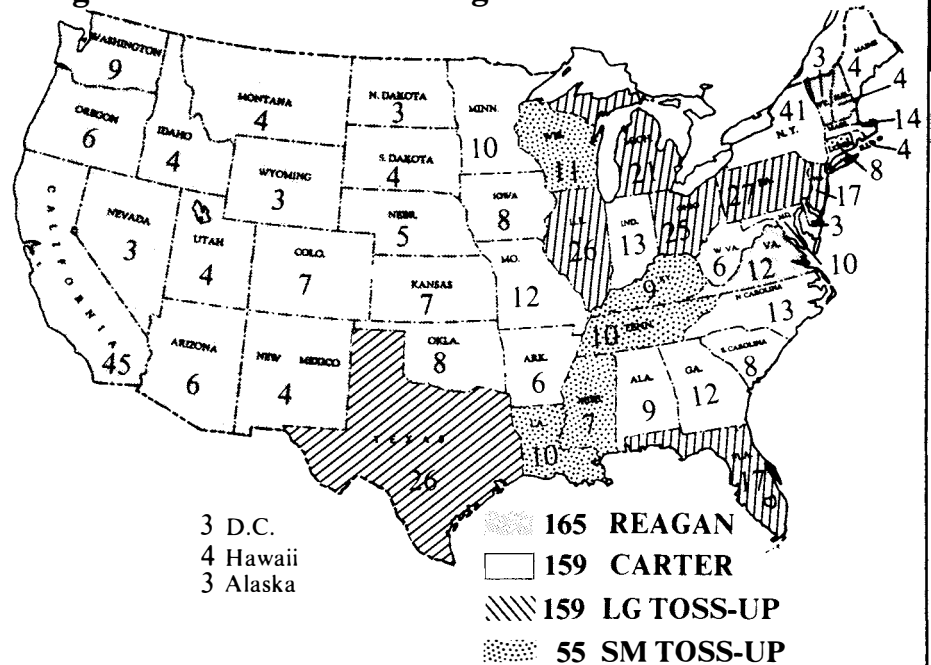
**Illinois:** Carter/Mondale strategist Tracey Gallagher and everyone else in the campaign says that the vote hinges on an overwhelming margin for Carter in Cook County (Chicago). Here Carter is relying on the remnants of a party machine with proven fraud capabilities dating back 100 years. The Board of Registrars, appointed by the city machine, expects a "record turnout"—a phenomenal 88 percent. There is a rush of last-minute registrations—more than 142,000 people registered in Chicago in a single day recently. Carter is also working with the Rev. Jesse Jackson's PUSH organization to "deliver" black votes.

**Pennsylvania:** Here, the state's two largest cities, Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, are key to Carter's chances. In Philadelphia, where Carter is counting heavily on the machine of Mayor Green, more than 92,000 new voters were registered in the last three weeks, mostly from ghetto areas in North and West Philadelphia. This is on top of 113,000 new registrations reported between April and October. The drive was conducted by the Urban Coalition, AFSCME, the International Ladies Garment

## Swing states and vote-fraud targets

### High probability of fraud

Wisconsin	11
Michigan	21
Illinois	26
Ohio	25
Pennsylvania	27
New York	41
New Jersey	17
Texas	26
Mississippi	7
Louisiana	10
Florida	17



The map on this page identifies the political battleground on which the 1980 presidential election will be fought. The *EIR*'s political analysts, based on reports from around the country, count 165 electoral votes for Ronald Reagan, 159 for Jimmy Carter and a total of 214 as toss-ups or too close to call.

What must concern Carter and Reagan strategists is putting together a winning combination of states from the "toss-up category" to put their candidate over the top—a 270 electoral vote majority. Any effort to do this shows the potential critical role that the Carter vote fraud capability will play in determining the outcome of the election. Each of the large toss-up states—the "Big 7"—are highly possible vote fraud states, based upon past record and current information. There is no way that Ronald Reagan can put together a winning combination without confronting this problem and neutralizing it enough to win at least three or four of the big toss-up states and a combination of smaller toss-up states. On the other hand, it is clear from this map that Carter cannot win without calling on his vote fraud capabilities.

Workers Union, and various senior citizens groups.

No figures are available from Pittsburgh, where the United Steelworkers apparatus, along with the city machine, conducted voter registration.

**New York:** Aside from New York City, Carter forces have targeted Buffalo for major get-out-the-vote operations directed by the AFL-CIO and the local machine of Joe Crangle. More than 32,000 new registrations were received by postcard in September and an additional 23,000 by Oct. 6; no validity checks were made.

**Michigan:** Voter registration figures are not available yet, but Carter campaign officials say that they are counting heavily on the UAW and various black organizations—especially Detroit mayor Coleman Young's operation—to deliver the "Carter vote." Joe Madison, the head of Operation Big Vote, claims that there will be a 85 percent black voter turnout, overwhelmingly for Carter. The Carter/Mondale campaign is circulating the story that there will be a last minute surge of "voter interest" that will push the turnout from current 45 percent levels to upwards of 65 percent.

**Louisiana:** Top Reagan people are worrying out loud about vote fraud, especially in New Orleans. Registration is up by about 10 percent there, according to latest figures. Certain parishes are referred to as "commercial boxes"—i.e., their votes are available for sale—and the word is out that Carter has bought them.

**Florida:** Carter/Mondale operatives say that the vote in Dade (Miami) County is the key to the state. They are talking about a 75 to 80 percent turnout of registered voters there, especially in the black and Hispanic ghetto areas. Since January, there has been a rapid rise in registrations in the Miami area, including an increase of more than 85,000 in the three weeks preceding the Oct. 13 close of registration. Overall, statewide Democratic registrations are up by 250,000 over 1976.

**Mississippi:** The Carter campaign has targeted the black vote to deliver the state. They plan to increase black voter turnout by 5 percent over 1976 figures. During the last two weeks, 22,000 registrations came in. In the past, there was widespread bussing of blacks to vote several times in different polling places.