

Statement of Petitioners Tim White

We are pressing this suit to protect our right to a secret ballot, critical to free and fair elections.

I became involved in this controversy after I witnessed a private corporation tamper with our County's election auditing system as it related to *my ballot*. San Juan County, where I live, was the first to deploy VoteHere's Mail-in Ballot Tracker ("MiBT"), one of the systems challenged in our lawsuit. When I looked at the on-line tracking of my ballot, I was surprised to see that MiBT listed my ballot as *received*, but not *counted*. Upon further research, we found that MiBT reported some ballots as *counted* before being *received*; and others as received and counted *without ever being sent out*.

When we brought these anomalies to the attention of election officials, the County and its MiBT vendor VoteHere refused to acknowledge any problem. However, after the election was certified, we were able to watch on the internet as the MiBT system changed my vote from uncounted to counted and finally to uncounted again, all with no affect on either returns or turnout. In other words, someone was tampering with our Counties' election audit in order to conceal the problems that occurred.

Further research into this system led us to discover that each of the ballots in our County, and over a million throughout the State of Washington, had been marked with unique bar codes. We even learned that in many counties, election staff and private vendors "link" these ballot IDs with voter IDs. This is in spite of our State Constitution's guarantee of the right to absolute secrecy of the ballot, and state laws prohibiting unique ballot IDs.

We have been told over and over that the secrecy of our ballots is being protected by the private corporations that provide the State's election systems. But we don't believe that any voter anywhere should have to rely upon VoteHere or any other private corporation to protect our fundamental right to a secret ballot, especially when VoteHere has deep ties to the Republican Party and partisan espionage operatives.

We want our Constitutional right to a secret ballot restored and guaranteed. We want to vote on a certified voting system free from controlled by partisan vendors. We place our confidence in the state Supreme Court to safeguard our fundamental rights.