

# Calls Made for New Voting Protections

Jackson says winner could lose again

Civil rights leader Rev. Jesse Jackson Sr. and his Rainbow/Push Coalition have called for abolishing the Electoral College and placing the right to vote under federal protection to ensure democracy in the United States. Jackson said the entire election of 2004 is under a cloud because of the lack of voter protection. "The crisis has deepened since



Rev. Jesse Jackson Sr.

2000, because the attempts to disenfranchise have increased throughout the nation," Jackson said. "It is commonly believed that we have the constitutional right to vote for the president.

The Supreme Court made it clear we do not.

"Voting is a states' rights area; therefore we have only whatever each state guarantees. Thus we

have attempts to limit the franchise; thus the electors have the power to elect the president. They are creatures of the state legislatures. So in this year's election, the winner could lose again."

Calling for citizen demonstrations in each state capital preceding the November elections, Jackson pointed to huge election variations created by custom, rules and technology.

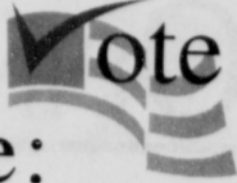
"We have 50 separate and unequal states," he notes. "Standards vary from state to state; voter registration deadlines are different. The richer states have modern machines and advanced technology.

The poorer states have old and outdated technology."

In 2000, "Florida exposed the cracks in the system," Rev. Jackson said.

"We need assurances of voter protection. We need to end the schemes of disenfranchisement. We need constitutional protection for the right to elect the president. We have sought to meet with the President on this matter. We will appeal to the attorney general and the head of homeland security."

*The Rainbow/PUSH Coalition unites African Americans, Latinos and people of conscience for social and political progress.*

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## Voter Intimidation Investigated

(AP)—The Justice Department's Civil Rights division is investigating accusations that Florida law enforcement officers intimidated elderly black voters during a probe of voting fraud last spring.

There have been growing calls for a federal investigation of the Florida Department of Law

Enforcement's response to allegations of voter fraud in a mayoral election in Orlando. Democrat Buddy Dyer's narrow victory sparked accusations that a black activist may have improperly filled out absentee ballots. State police interviewed dozens of voters who cast absentee ballots.

Civil rights groups and Democrats contended the agents' presence and behavior, including allegedly displaying their guns, intimidated the minority voters they visited.

The Justice Department said it was sending hundreds of observers to polling places Nov. 2 to carefully monitor elections.



**Ask Deanna!**  
An advice column known for its fearless approach to reality based subjects!

**Dear Deanna!**

I'm a 15-year old teen mother on welfare. I want to tell other teens they should think before having sex because it's not easy having a baby this young. I had to quit school and the baby's father can't do much because he's 16 with no job. Our

mothers have to provide for my son. It's a struggle, but I plan to help others avoid making the same mistake by sharing my experience. --Chantel Robinson; St. Louis, Mo.

**Dear Chantel:**

A little girl can go into the hospital pregnant and come out as a woman after childbirth. It's good you're accepting responsibility and learning from your mistakes. Stay strong and hold on to your dreams and goals. It may take longer but you can still be successful. To take some strain off the grandmothers, Ask Deanna! is donating a year supply of formula and diapers to your baby. Hang in there and keep your head up.

**Dear Deanna!**

I'm dating my brother's ex-wife and it's time to come out of the closet. My brother and mother will be upset because we're close. I know where my heart is and I'm willing to date her anyway. Am I

wrong or should I think of my family first? --Jason; Indianapolis, Ind.

**Dear Jason:**

You're wrong and you know it. You forgot the golden rule that lovers of friends and family are off limits. If she wasn't able to stay in the family as your brother's wife, then she doesn't need to come back as your girlfriend. Have more respect for yourself than to take your brother's leftovers. Family is more important and it doesn't take a rocket scientist to tell you to find another woman and keep it moving.

**Dear Deanna!**

My first child will be born this year but my sister doesn't plan to come to the baby shower or the delivery room. I've been there for her and have done a lot for her and my niece. I don't know if she's jealous or just selfish. When good things happen for me she tries not to be happy. I really want her to be part of

my child's life and I want to see my niece. What's your honest opinion on this? --Anonymous; Columbia, S.C.

**Dear Anonymous:**

Pure sibling rivalry. She's watched you enjoy life without kids and envied your lifestyle and ability to give freely. Rather than address her feelings, she's built a jealous grudge that shows through her actions. Be honest and share your feelings with her and the importance of the kids and adults maintaining strong relationships. Your children are the future of your family legacy and your sister needs to grow up and realize games are for kids.

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