

## Vote to see 'Stealing America'



By Stephen Schaefer  
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### STEALING AMERICA: VOTE BY VOTE: **A**

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"Stealing America: Vote by Vote" is a sober documentary that hopes to have you mad as hell and not going to take it anymore by the time the final credits roll.

Perfectly timed for the November elections, "Stealing America" analyzes the voting irregularities of the 2000 and 2004 elections and finds a pathetic collusion between the Republican and Democratic parties to ignore them.

"Stealing America" claims that in the very close 2000 and 2004 presidential elections there was pervasive manipulation by various means, including altering computerized voting, to undermine voters.

The American ideal that every vote counts?

Not true, according to the sad facts of Peter Coyote's narration. It shows how in 2004, liberal college students and African-Americans in Ohio, almost unanimously **John Kerry** voters, had to wait up to 12 hours to vote; the average time at most of the state's polling sites was 18 minutes.

George W. Bush was declared the winner in Ohio by 118,000 votes - before many of these voters had cast their ballots.

"Stealing America" also indicts the national media for its reluctance to address the issue.

But is voter tampering really a new issue? Didn't, as the film mentions, John F. Kennedy steal Illinois to win the presidency in 1960?

"Stealing America" illustrates how the data suggests widespread voter fraud in '04 and '06 compared to the previous decades through voter exit polls, the traditional method of verifying vote accuracy.

If, as this documentary directed by Emmy-winning Dorothy Fadiman suggests, the Republicans indulged in felonies such as voter suppression and racial discrimination (by eliminating from voter rolls African-American GIs overseas whose address could supposedly not be verified), "Stealing America" finds the Dems equally guilty in their silence.

Among the many villains, electronic voting machines, which leave no paper trail. As one security expert explains, "It takes hours to alter 10,000 paper ballots but only three minutes to change 130,000 electronic votes."

As "Stealing America" ends, there's a bright spot as New Mexico's governor sign into law a bill requiring paper ballots for voters.

However, Ohio law says all ballots must be saved after the election - and yet 90 percent of the 2004 presidential ballots were destroyed.

*Not rated. At Kendall Square Cinema.*

The American ideal that every vote counts? Not true, according to this eye-opening documentary by Dorothy Fadiman.