



Written by [Alex Newman](#) on October 22, 2012

## Concerned About Conservatives, UN Affiliate to Monitor U.S. Election

An international outfit associated with the controversial United Nations, invited in by various American organizations and authorities, is set to deploy election monitors across the United States for the upcoming November 6 presidential vote. The campaign is supposedly aimed in part at keeping tabs on alleged “voter suppression” efforts by conservatives.



While there have been [plenty](#) of [legitimate](#) questions [raised](#) in recent years about the [integrity](#) of U.S. elections, the latest news sparked fierce criticism from a broad range of organizations and activists. Opponents [blasted](#) the move as everything from a cheap propaganda stunt to a dangerous harbinger of future developments.

Other critics [pointed](#) out that the UN and its affiliates have absolutely no jurisdiction on U.S. soil. Besides, [outraged](#) activists said, concerns about American elections should be addressed by domestic authorities through constitutional means — not by international organizations, especially discredited groups with dictatorial regimes as members.

Dozens of election observers with a UN-partner group known as the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) will be stationed throughout the country, the outfit said in a [statement](#). The monitors come mostly from Europe and Asia. Among the countries represented are Belarus, Kazakhstan, Ukraine, Russia, Serbia, and others not exactly known for their regimes’ human-rights track records or even honest elections.

The “observer” mission, according to a statement released by the OSCE, is to ensure that U.S. elections comply with “international” standards. “They [will] observe the overall election process, not just the ballot casting,” a spokesperson for the OSCE was [quoted as saying](#) by *The Hill*. “They are focusing on a number of areas on the state level, including the legal system, election administration, the campaign, the campaign financing [and] new voting technologies used in the different states.”

However, multiple news reports and the OSCE itself also confirmed that the monitors would be searching for potential efforts by conservative-leaning groups and jurisdictions to disenfranchise or intimidate voters. Critics of the international monitoring scheme, meanwhile, [pointed out](#) that the alleged “voter suppression” schemes being sought out were in reality legitimate and constitutional efforts to [prevent election fraud](#).

The multilateral organization was apparently alerted to the supposed dangers posed by conservatives by a coalition of liberal outfits. OSCE bosses, for instance, received a recent letter from “civil rights” groups like the NAACP and the ACLU warning of a “coordinated political effort to disenfranchise



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millions of Americans — particularly traditionally disenfranchised groups like minorities.”

Late last year, meanwhile, the NAACP even petitioned the UN about state efforts to prevent voting fraud by requiring voter identification. “It’s been more than a century since we’ve seen such a tidal wave of assaults on the right to vote,” claimed NAACP President and CEO Benjamin Todd Jealous about the scheme.

Representatives with the international organization reportedly even met with the various groups sounding the alarm about conservative efforts to “disenfranchise” voters. “We attended their meeting, we took note of the issues they raised and we asked our observers in the field to follow up on them,” the OSCE spokesperson said.

Still, the monitoring mission promised to respect state law and avoid areas where it was not welcome. Some state and local governments, however, were reportedly eager to have the observers descend on their elections. “Through our contacts at state and county level in certain states, we managed to secure invitations at local level and we have taken up the offer to observe,” the OSCE was quoted as saying, adding that some states have laws specifically permitting international observers.

For Americans concerned about the ongoing Obama administration campaign to stop state-level voter ID laws, the notion that UN-linked “monitors” from nations ruled by tyrants would be summoned to the United States is seen as way out of line. Across the Internet, news about the scheme exploded, drawing swift criticism and even ridicule from analysts.

“These activist groups sought assistance not from American sources, but from the United Nations,” [explained](#) President Catherine Engelbrecht with True the Vote, a citizen-led effort to restore the integrity of U.S. elections by preventing fraud. “The United Nations has no jurisdiction over American elections.”

Critics have also pointed out that despite the claims of big government-supporting groups warning about conservatives, most of the [recent concerns](#) about voter suppression and fraud have involved far-left, government-funded organizations — often linked to Obama — such as [ACORN](#) and its renamed splinter groups. Extremists such as members of the New Black Panther Party were even caught on film during the 2008 elections [wearing ludicrous commando costumes and waving weapons](#) around outside of polling places to intimidate conservative voters.

“This is almost comical on its face. Did conservative groups stand outside polling places dressed like Storm Troopers with clubs intimidating voters the way the Black Panthers did in 2008? Are groups who registered illegal aliens and deceased people conservative groups or are they organizations such as ACORN with whom Obama once worked?” political strategist Mike Baker [wondered](#) in an interview with the *Law Enforcement Examiner*. “If anyone is being disenfranchised — a word the far-left loves to use — it’s the American conservative whose vote is canceled-out when an illegal voter casts his or her ballot on Election Day.”

The international election-monitoring campaign will be conducted under the auspices of the OSCE’s so-called “Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights,” the organization said in a press release. Ambassador Daan W. Everts, a Dutch diplomat with [years of experience](#) working with and for the UN and its innumerable affiliates, will lead the “mission.”

Despite the unprecedented backlash against the campaign, the OSCE has actually “assessed” U.S. elections for a decade, it said in the statement, saying it began in 2002 under then-President George W. Bush. Its most recent observer mission began on October 4 and will run through Election Day.



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“Observers will assess these elections for compliance with international obligations and standards for democratic elections, including the commitments agreed to by all the OSCE participating States, and with national legislation,” the organization explained in a statement put out online. “The mission will analyze the legislative framework and its implementation and will follow campaign activities, the work of the election administration and relevant government bodies, including voter registration, and the resolution of election disputes.”

The OSCE dates back to the early 1970s and was [founded](#) as a sort of “forum” for “negotiations” between the mass-murdering communist regimes of the East and “Free World” governments in the West. Since then, however, it has evolved into the self-styled “world’s largest regional security organization” with “permanent institutions and operational capabilities.” Its member governments [include](#) Russia, Belarus, Moldova, Uzbekistan, and more than 50 others.

From across the political spectrum, concerns about voter fraud and the integrity of American elections continue to grow louder — especially after a blockbuster HBO documentary [exposed how vulnerable electronic voting machines were to tampering](#). While conservatives [accuse](#) liberals of registering dead people and letting illegal immigrants vote, liberals [accuse](#) conservatives of trying to “disenfranchise” minorities by forcing people to show ID to vote.

Whatever the merits of the increasingly vociferous allegations, it remains unclear why or even how an international organization affiliated with the UN that includes a wide assortment of unsavory regimes would be able to help. Plus, the American people and their elected state representatives — without any assistance from the UN, Russia, Belarus, or Kazakhstan — are perfectly capable of fixing any real or imagined election problems in a constitutional manner.

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Photo: The building with the office of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) is seen in Belarusian capital Minsk, Jan. 2, 2011: AP Images



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