

## Candidates Pledge to Challenge Suspicious Elections

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With voters being purged from voting rolls, lawsuits over government rulings regarding registration procedures, and other partisan tactics being employed to influence which voters are able to cast their ballots on November 4, the general election looks increasingly likely to face numerous court and administrative challenges. Among these may come challenges from candidates for office themselves, some of whom have already pledged to challenge suspicious election results officially and "wait until all valid votes are counted and all serious challenges resolved before conceding defeat." These pledges are being sought and posted online by StandingForVoters.org.

Among the first candidates to sign is Green Party Presidential Candidate Cynthia McKinney, who signed the Standing For Voters "Super Pledge," the more robust of the two pledges offered at the site. A staunch advocate of voting rights and against electronic vote counting, McKinney recently stated at a National Press Club press conference, "[W]e've got some severe problems with election integrity, and those need to be addressed in the system, and by those who are campaigning within it as well."

Other early signatories to the Standing For Voters pledge, a project of the nonpartisan group VelvetRevolution.us, include candidates for Secretary of State, U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, and for local offices.

"Candidates constantly ask voters to stand for them -- with our volunteer hours, our dollars, and ultimately our votes. Now it's time for candidates to Stand For Voters," says Standing For Voters Project Coordinator Emily Levy. "Elections belong to the voters, not to the candidates, political parties, or the media. Unfortunately, we have laws in this country that, in some cases, allow only candidates to challenge elections where there official results are questionable. We as voters must alert candidates to their role in safeguarding democracy, and call upon them, win or lose, to live up to this responsibility."

The StandingForVoters website encourages voters to ask candidates to take the pledge, providing tips about how to accomplish this. "Many candidates I've spoken with are eager to be offered the opportunity to sign," says Levy. "We have asked directly for pledges from presidential candidates Obama, McCain, Nader, Baldwin, and Barr, in addition to McKinney. So far, only McKinney has responded by pledging."

Candidates and voters can find out more about challenging elections, and candidates can pledge their commitment at [StandingForVoters.org](http://StandingForVoters.org). Groups are invited to endorse the program by emailing [info@StandingForVoters.org](mailto:info@StandingForVoters.org).

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