



August 25, 2005

Dear Senator Kerry,

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I hope this letter finds you in good spirits and with a mind to fight the critical battles of this era. As a central part of your campaign to win the nation in 2004, I am compelled to appeal to you on an important issue of that campaign.

As you know, we waged a tremendous battle in Ohio, and pointed out fundamental flaws in the election process. To your credit, you stood with those who raised the legal recount challenge, as did I, based on the premise that the fundamental right to vote includes the right to have our votes properly counted. A recount is a critical means for ensuring the proper counting of the votes. There is extensive evidence that serious constitutional violations occurred in the way election officials conducted the recount of the 2004 presidential vote in Ohio, including evidence that a voting machine company tampered with voting machines prior to the start of the recount.

Today, a federal court case in Toledo, Ohio, remains pending on whether the Ohio recount was conducted in violation of basic constitutional standards. This case, brought by 2004 presidential candidates David Cobb and Michael Badnarik, provides an important opportunity to establish precedent as to how recounts should be conducted in future federal elections. The 2004 Kerry/Edwards campaign is an intervenor in this case.

It has come to my attention that the Kerry/Edwards campaign may be preparing to withdraw from this case. I urge you not to do so. We must continue this fight for the right to vote on all fronts, including the fight in this important case. This fight extends beyond the 2004 election and has major impact for elections to come. It is nothing less than an extension of our successful fight to win the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

I hope you will give this matter your utmost attention and I stand ready to discuss the matter with you. Please feel free to contact my chief of staff, John Mitchell, at 773-256-2713.

Peace,

Reverend Jesse L. Jackson, Sr.  
President and Founder  
Rainbow/PUSH Coalition