

Re: Welcome to the Voteauction.com Message Board (Admin)

Date: Oct 09, 10:35

From: <Anonymous>

You and every other whiner: who, instead of voting their own mind, bitches about how "America is doomed", "my vote doesn't matter," etc. If you really want to make a difference, sell your own vote back to the US and move somewhere that your "idea" of democracy is accepted.

go home... hahaha...

Re: You make me sick

Date: Oct 13, 16:39

From: <Anonymous>

"If you don't like it, why don't you leave"

Fugk me, that's the most ironic and stupid thing I always hear 'patriots' shout.

Land of the free. Yeah right. Land of the free market.

Besides, fools, you make no difference anyway. Wheres ElectoralCollegeVoteAuction.com eh? Oh, they're already sold!?!

Waa, Waa,

Re: You make me sick

Date: Oct 16, 09:10

From: Anon.

Waa, waa, waa,...you bleeding heart super patriots are mindless boobs, and you really need to wake up.. Why don't you wake up from the Pollyanna world you keep refering to with the whole, "Every vote counts" crap, over and over again...The sad truth is that votes, (just like everything else these days) are ALL BOUGHT AND PAID FOR by funding from the highest paying lobbyist so the average joe's vote doesn't stand a chance against the almighty dollar!...so get over it, and leave the rest of us trying to make a fast buck the , "Good Ole' American Way"...and butt out...

Get Out Of Our Country

Re: You make me sick

Date: Oct 16, 16:33

From: <Anonymous>

Why dont you foreign assholes get the hell out of our country and get involved in Austria. It will only be so long till the FBI shuts your asses down. Study American law and this is banned. (Dumbass foreigners!)

Repulsive!

Re: You make me sick

Date: Oct 17, 15:42

From: David Finley <Davidfinley@yahoo.com>

I find this whole concept of "vote buying" quite repulsive, let alone against the laws of the United States. Rest assured that this site will be shut down.

This whole concept makes me sick

Re: Repulsive! (David Finley)

Date: Oct 18, 09:19

From: DisgustedByVoteSelling

I was completely disgusted when I first heard about this website. After checking it out and seeing that people really are so apathetic that they would sell their votes, I contacted the Federal Election Committee. They assured me that both they and the Justice Department are aware of this site, and are taking steps accordingly. I pressed for details on what exactly he meant by "taking steps accordingly", and was told that not only would those who are offering to sell their votes, but those bidding to purchase the votes will be charged. It is a felony. One aspect of a felony conviction is that these people will lose their right to vote. While that probably won't mean a great deal to the sorry apathetic losers that are willing to sell their votes, it will probably be a painful experience to those sorry individuals who are willing to purchase the votes of others. I checked the current price on the votes. The highest amount is less than 20 dollars, and some votes are being sold for as little as \$4.19. That is sick. All of you losers that are going to be prosecuted on felony charges should ask yourself a question. Is it really worth it? It's true that very few if any will actually face prison time, but you will no doubt be facing some very severe fines, plus the felony convictions that will prevent you from ever voting in future elections, plus the difficulties you will face for the rest of your lives as you get turned down for jobs, have difficulty getting loans, etc... based on your status as a convicted felon. You all deserve it for being such apathetic losers!

Unamerican activities

Re: This whole concept makes me sick (DisgustedByVoteSelling)

Date: Oct 18, 14:52

From: Larry Adams

Those who oppose capitalism in action spit in the face of democracy. He who dies with the most toys wins. He who buys the most votes, either directly or indirectly, wins. It is the foundation of our republic. So we may run afoul of a few antiquated laws. Big deal! We can throw some dough at some Harvard law profs who will come up with some free speech argument and that will be the end of the testy Justice Department. Hey, it worked for O.J.

If It's Mine...

Re: You make me sick

Date: Oct 17, 18:47

From: Kept Man

One of the "sticks" in the bundle of rights that goes with ownership is the right to transfer. If I own my vote therefore, I can sell it. I don't own anything I can't sell. I already know that I don't own the "airwaves," the national parks, or monuments. If I at least own my vote, then I can sell it. If I can't sell it I don't own it.

Ownership or rights cannot be sold

Re: If It's Mine... (Kept Man)

Date: Oct 18, 04:14

From: Foreigner <legrand@mail.com>

You own your right to sue, to seek justice in a court of law, to speak your mind etc... yet you cannot sell those. You can say that you will never exercise those rights if you sell them, but in effect you will still own them because after having 'sold' those rights, you can stil exercise them.

United States rights are NOT for sale!

Re: If It's Mine... (Kept Man)

Date: Oct 18, 09:22

From: David Finley <davidfinley@yahoo.com>

A United States citizen can not put a dollar value on his rights. Our rights were not "granted" by any government, they were purchased with the blood of our forefathers. Many have given the ultimate sacrifice to reinforce & protect these rights, that is why the United States is the greatest nation in the world, a shining example of a free democracy in action. Those that would put a petty dollar value on ANY of their rights have no place in our country.

Bull

Re: United States rights are NOT for sale! (David Finley)

Date: Oct 18, 15:02

From: Kept Man

Some people here take the right to vote pretty seriously. I might too if more people did. However, what's the right worth when so many people are going to vote based on how the candidates look when they kiss their wives, or whether they "seem" sincere? It's like junior high. So many of the voters who are left after the first group are selling their votes anyway. Which of the candidates is going to take the most money from you to buy me drugs and child care? Did you see the final debate? How are the candidates going to force parents to care about their children?? Come on.

As far as not being able to sell the rights I own, voting is the only one I can think of with any economic value. Freedom of speech, for example, doesn't need to be purchased. There is no scarcity (scarcity-->value). Everyone has free speech in unlimited quantity. Why buy mine? Votes are different. Each voter only gets one per ballot. Thus it has value.

WHY?

Re: Welcome to the Voteauction.com Message Board (Admin)

Date: Oct 15, 12:34

From: irenicon

when we registered to sell our vote we gave reasons for doing so. i would personally like to be able to read the reasons that people gave for selling their votes. anyone else interested? i think this could be accomplished without breach of confidentiality.

Good Suggestion

Re: WHY? (irenicon)

Date: Oct 15, 12:37

From: Admin <voteauction@mail.com>

Good suggestion, we will forward your message to voteauction.com and hopefully they will include some of the "reasons" in the next update.

does your vote really matter?

Re: Welcome to the Voteauction.com Message Board (Admin)

Date: Oct 18, 11:01

From: Optional

It seems like everyone thinks that the person (people) elected actually do(es) something. Grow up and face the truth. It will get done regardless if you vote, don't vote or sell your vote. If you can get a few bucks...why not. After all the American dream is to "live long and prosper". Whoops...that is the vulcan greeting.

Effect of Voteauction.com on Electoral College

Date: Sep 15, 11:19

From: Red Porphyry <porphyry@vnet.net>

I've taken a close look at your entire site and I must admit that as a political parody site, voteauction.com is exceptionally well done. As a real auction site for putting up votes for bid, however, there's at least one fascinating possible consequence. If it turns out that a lot of Americans are willing to sell their votes and a lot of other Americans are willing to buy them, voteauction.com may end up tipping the popular vote for U.S. President one way or the other in a particular state. If that were to happen, the electors for that particular state may simply decide to ignore their state's popular vote and instead "vote their conscience". In most states the electors still retain this prerogative, since technically the popular vote in a state is merely a "suggestion" that the citizens of a state give to the electors on who they think would make the best president. The electors are not necessarily required to follow this "suggestion", and in the event that the popular vote in a state is tipped one way or another through vote buying, probably won't. Ironically, voteauction.com may thus end up helping to restore the Electoral College as a functional political institution in the U.S.

Red --

no, i think...

Re: Effect of Voteauction.com on Electoral College (Red Porphyry)

Date: Sep 27, 17:15

From: Hal

...you are wrong. It is against the law for the electorate to disregard the popular vote.

Also, by empowering the electorate, you empower the chuminess and back-scratching that has long been the staple of American politics.

Also, it will further strengthen the bipartisanship that is tearing this country apart. The dominant party in the electorate will vote for their party's candidate.

However, ideas like voteauction.com, contrary to what the politicians who are trying to keep the status quo are trying to lead us to believe, empower the voters, nobody else.

Using this service allows us to say what has long been ignored by the politicians: Americans feel disenchanting by politics and are emotionally and personally distant from the politicians.

The fact that there are only 6k voters registered to use voteauction.com says even more: American voters are so disenchanting that they don't care about the vote at all. Just look at the public apathy towards both the elections as well as voteauction.

Cite, please.

Re: no, i think... (Hal)

Date: Sep 29, 11:03

From: Red Porphyry <porphyry@vnet.net>

Hal writes:

...you are wrong. It is against the law for the electorate to disregard the popular vote.

My response:

Cite, please.

Red --

Half right

Re: Cite, please. (Red Porphyry)

Date: Oct 01, 19:56

From: Red Porphyry <porphyry@vnet.net>

Well, Hal, you're half right. According to the FAQ at

<http://www.nara.gov/fedreg/elctcoll/>

24 states plus DC require their electors by law to vote for whoever wins the popular vote for President in their respective states. The other 26 do not. There is no Constitutional provision or Federal law that requires the electors of any state to vote for the winner of the popular vote for President, either within a particular state or nationwide. In other words, Hal, 26 states in principle have a way of dealing with the possibility of voteauction.com tipping the popular vote for President in their state, a way that doesn't require a state-wide manhunt to find and arrest every single person who may or may not have registered with voteauction.com. The other 24 and DC apparently do not.

Red --

Can you explain why?

Re: Half right (Red Porphyry)

Date: Oct 17, 10:09

From: <Anonymous>

Red,

Can you explain why it would be illegal for the average Joe/Josephine to sell his c
My bad.

Electoral Vote

Re: Half right (Red Porphyry)

Date: Oct 18, 12:59

From: Steve <Steve.Sy@email.swbell.net>

You know as a voter I think it is extremely ridiculous that it is possible that I can be not heard no matter what I vote for because the Electoral votes decided I was not intelligent enough to vote the correct way.

I think this is why a majority of the public finds it not necessary to vote at all, I now this is why I don't vote on a regular basis.

I mean take a look at when Clinton first got elected, it wasn't the popular vote that got him there it was the Electoral votes. Basically what this tells me is that what we are being told as Americans is that, sure you can vote and make yourself feel good but if the Electoral College thinks otherwise then too bad.

In my opinion all Electoral votes should reflect the popular vote. Come on who's country is it anyways, certainly not the few that represent the Electoral College.

yep*Re: no, i think... (Hal)**Date: Oct 06, 04:45**From: Hal*

I studied the constitution a few years back, and I thought it clearly stated (or at
However, I do remember reading about legal proceedings against electorates who did

the correct answer*Re: yep (Hal)**Date: Oct 12, 11:22**From: politicwizard <sadf@asd.com>*

Only 20 states legally bind the electors to vote for the candidates they are ostensibly supporting. In theory, when these electors meet in their state capitals on the first Monday after the second Wednesday in December, they could vote for whomever they decide. But of the more than 17,000 electors who have been chosen since the days of George Washington, only nine have been "faithless," seven of which came in the 20th century:

- 1948, when a Harry Truman elector in Tennessee voted instead for States Rights Democrat Strom Thurmond;
- 1956, when an Adlai Stevenson elector in Alabama voted for a local judge named Walter Jones;
- 1960, when a Richard Nixon elector in Oklahoma voted for Sen. Harry Byrd (D-Va.);
- 1968, when a Nixon elector in North Carolina voted for American Independent Party nominee George Wallace;
- 1972, when a Nixon elector in Virginia voted for Libertarian Party nominee John Hospers;
- 1976, when a Gerald Ford elector in Washington voted for former Gov. Ronald Reagan (R-Calif.);
- and • 1988, when a Michael Dukakis elector in West Virginia voted for Dukakis's running mate, Sen. Lloyd Bentsen (D-Texas).

A parallel with french situation*Date: Sep 17, 06:34**From: BONNERAT <dominique@bonnerat.com>*

16/9/00.

Hello, for those who are interested in french politics and aware of it, i've set up a parallel between your offer at voteauction.com and the french situation on my site URL :

http://membres.tripod.fr/~Hermes_78/curieux/voteauction.html

If, unfortunately, you do not read french, try Altavista translation tools

(<http://babel.altavista.com/translate.dyn>) to get just an idea about what I mean. Allez voir... [le site américain](#) voteauction.com

puis, si le coeur vous en dit, revenez sur cette page, pour une lecture critique et quelques décryptages personnels.



"Bringing Capitalism and Democracy Closer Together"

"Lier plus étroitement capitalisme et démocratie". *Merci, mais, en France, il semble qu'on sache déjà faire ;-)*

(cf les, toujours actuelles, affaires autour de la mairie de P...)

Are you planning on staying home this election day? Now you can profit from your election capital by selling your vote to the highest bidder. To register with voteauction.com, click on the "sell" button on the left hand portion of your screen.

"Avez-vous prévu de rester à la maison en ce jour de scrutin ?" *Là encore, rien à envier à nos chers "cow-boys", les sondages et simulations pour le référendum sont explicites : si l'on atteint 40% de participation, il faudra crier au miracle (mais n'y a-t-il pas un dieu pour les (disons...) candides qui passent leur temps à se tirer une balle dans le pied, suivez mon regard...)*

"Maintenant vous pouvez tirer profit de votre capital-vote en vendant votre voix au plus offrant. Pour vous inscrire auprès de voteauction (vote aux enchères), cliquez sur le bouton 'vendre' sur la partie gauche de votre écran." *C'est là que réside la supériorité du pragmatisme "yankee", en tout cas, celui des "businessmen" de la net-économie : ils ont tout prévu et largement à l'avance puisqu'il s'agit de préparer l'élection présidentielle américaine qui n'aura lieu que dans plusieurs mois.*

Bon, pour le référendum, c'est trop tard, je l'admets bien volontiers, mais il n'est que temps, Messieurs Jospin et Chirac (entre autres), de vous adjoindre les services d'un transfuge de ce site pour préparer la vôtre d'élection : 2002... ou peut-être avant si le "Grand Jacques", n'ayant plus rien d'autre sous la main, s'auto-dissout d'ici là ;-)

Voteauction.com is awarded "Political Site of the Day" for September 11, 2000

"Voteauction a été nommé 'Site Politique du jour' le 11 septembre 2000". *Pas de souci, sur ce point, nos '7 d'or' et autres 'Cesar' prouvent que dans le genre auto-proclamation des professionnels, on devrait savoir faire également...*

from aboutpolitics.com

"d'après aboutpolitics (à props de politique).com". *C'est bien ça : le microcosme parle au microcosme.*

o o o

J'en saute un peu pour en arriver à...

Voteauction.com has recently changed ownership. It is now owned by an Austrian holding company that has invested in many of America's new, emerging industries. We feel that the American Election Industry provides unique new opportunities for the foreign investor. We purchased voteauction.com in order to investigate the profit-making potential of the American Election Industry.

"Voteauction.com a récemment changé de propriétaire." *Tiens ! tiens ! Attendez la suite...*

"Il est maintenant détenu par un groupe autrichien". *Rappelez-moi donc, l'Autriche... ? Mais oui ! C'est ça, je me souviens bien... c'est le nouveau sanctuaire de la démocratie européenne !*

"qui a investi dans de nombreux secteurs de la nouvelle économie américaine.". *Bon, il ne s'agirait que de "business", je suis (un peu) rassuré.*

"Nous pensons que le secteur des élections (présidentielles) américaines fournit des opportunités uniques pour les investisseurs étrangers.". *C'est bien ça, uniquement "faire du fric", ça va, pendant un moment, j'avais eu peur que cela ne dérapât vers de la politique ;-)*

"Nous avons acheté voteauction.com dans le but d'explorer le potentiel de revenus des activités liées aux élections (présidentielles) américaines". *Enfin, j'espère qu'ils s'y sont pris suffisamment tôt : je veux dire avant que l'Euro n'ait enregistré l'intégralité de sa chute vertigineuse (presque 30%) face au Dollar.*

Voteauction.com is not valid in New York State.

"Voteauction.com n'est pas légal dans l'Etat de New York". *Ah tiens ! Il y en a quand même qui se méfient, à côté de New York (rappelons-nous que "Big Apple" est dans l'Etat du New Jersey, un peu comme le Var, fleuve, est dans les Alpes Maritimes et non dans le Var, département : c'est l'histoire qui met du désordre dans la géographie, disait de façon très pertinente... je ne sais plus quel très intelligent personnage) ; pas grave, aucun risque similaire à Paris... N'est-ce pas Jean ?*

A Modest Proposal

Date: Sep 18, 11:02

From: Red Porphyry <porphyry@vnet.net>

I suggest that a line be added to the "check the current price of a voting block" window that gives the date of the last update to the figures.

Red --

I agree

Re: A Modest Proposal (Red Porphyry)

Date: Sep 28, 09:52

From: Crusader13 <jhdorsey@mindspring.com>

I agree. When was the last time that page was updated? I haven't seen it change in a month. Is no one bidding (or joining), or is voteauction just really slow at updating?

Thank you!

Re: A Modest Proposal (Red Porphyry)

Date: Sep 29, 09:29

From: Red Porphyry <porphyry@vnet.net>

I would like to thank those running the site for adding a "last updated" line to the bottom of the "check the current price of a voting block" page (as well as updating the numbers). I appreciate it.

Red --

Illegal activity

Date: Sep 20, 07:29

From: A.L.Zimmer - General Counsel Illinois State Board of Electio <azimmer@elections.state.il.us>

Illinois voters should understand that either buying or selling a vote in Illinois is a Class 4 felony. Please see 10 ILCS 5/29-1 and 29-3.

A small flaw in your logic....

Re: Illegal activity (A.L.Zimmer - General Counsel Illinois State Board of Electio)

Date: Sep 22, 05:13

From: Dr. Lywellyn

Just one problem, AL. We're not in IL, Inc. We're in cyberspace. Sorry to be the bearer of bad news chum, but you and yours are obsolete...

Lead, follow or get the hell out of our way.

Doc Aeon

Zero logic

Re: Illegal activity (A.L.Zimmer - General Counsel Illinois State Board of Electio)

Date: Oct 05, 02:57

From: viking

Voting takes place in the real world. The transfer of money, even though accomplished electronically, is a transfer of real wealth in the real world.

Vote buyers and vote sellers are both subject to criminal prosecution. The key element is that *something of value changed hands* in return for a *pledge to vote a certain way.*

Vote peddling is either a criminal offense or it isn't. If it's not illegal, no explanations, arguments or rationalizations are necessary. If it IS illegal, no explanations, arguments or rationalizations will change that fact.

CAUTIONARY REPLY

Re: Zero logic (viking)

Date: Oct 05, 07:58

From: <azimmer@elections.state.il.us>

Whatever you may think of the intellectual underpinnings of a law that criminalizes the sale or purchase of votes, or the offer to do so, the sale or purchase of a vote is still a class 4 felony in Illinois and the offer to purchase a vote or to sell a vote is the inchoate offense of solicitation. Illinois residents who sell their votes or offer to do so expose themselves to criminal penalties, like it or not.

Reply to Cautionary Reply

Re: CAUTIONARY REPLY

Date: Oct 05, 09:21

From: Steven Imparl, Esq. <steven@imparl.net>

Here is the problem I see. This site is clearly a funny parody and public education site. I don't think any reasonable person could construe this site as a real solicitation, conspiracy, or attempt to buy or sell votes.

Look at the entire Web site--the totality of the circumstances. You will see many links to commentary about issues to voters. However, you will not see any specifics regarding how the alleged buying and selling of votes will take place or any real steps in furtherance of such an activity. What I do see is a heavy-handed attempt by the government to quash political speech.

This uproar in Illinois all apparently started because an oversensitive commissioner of Chicago's Board of Elections was offended by this site which recalled unpleasant memories of corruption in the city government of Chicago. That really is just too bad. This site offers a lot of valuable links to other sites that will be of interest to voters.

To attempt to shut this site down would be to trammel on free political speech protected by both the United States and Illinois Constitutions. That government officials have nothing better to do with their time than to harass a Web site that exemplifies our treasured legal and social traditions of freedom of expression is gravely disappointing.

Steven D. Imparl, Attorney and Counselor at Law, Chicago, Illinois

So why move to a server in Bulgaria?

Re: Reply to Cautionary Reply (Steven Imparl, Esq.)

Date: Oct 05, 14:23

From: Reality Check

Well Steven it is fine to say, "this site is clearly a funny parody and public education site". However if that is so then why was it sold to Vienna businessman, Hans Bernhard who put this site up on a server in Bulgaria? This is no longer in the hands of James Baumgartner who created it.

As for not seeing "any[thing] regarding how the alleged buying and selling of votes will take place or any real steps in furtherance of such an activity", if I give my name and address it is just a matter of mailing me the specifics and a check. Are you really so naive as to think that just because it doesn't spell out the details that there aren't any?

The real threat here isn't so much in the legality of buying or selling votes but the transfer of votes to people outside of the voting district. Specifically to persons who are otherwise ineligible to vote such as foreign nationals. This in theory can result in someone such as Slobodan Milosevic or Saddam Husayn buying votes. Do you really want either of these men voting in U.S. elections? And no this is not like them having influence. This is them having votes! Votes with the same power as though you or I voted.

The site is clearly a parody

Re: So why move to a server in Bulgaria? (Reality Check)

Date: Oct 05, 17:54

From: Boho

The VoteAuction web site is clearly a parody based on the lack of details regarding payment, exemplified by the total lack of voter authentication. There's no check to make sure that a voter is actually registered in a given district, nor that the voter doesn't register multiple times with VoteAuction. Without these fundamental protections (and more), no serious auction could occur, and thus VoteAuction must be considered a parody.

On a second topic, I don't understand how VoteAuction looks any more sinister than PACs and other soft money in terms of allowing people outside of a voting district to have influence within that district. In particular, consider the contributions from residents of the state of Utah to the last governor's race in Idaho, and to a recent senatorial race in Massachusetts. In both elections, the LDS (mormons) from Utah contributed significant funds to back LDS candidates. I think such behavior weird, but I don't think it's illegal (according to the laws of the three states in question).

Once you allow monetary contributions that end up going for political advertising, you lose any moral high ground regarding selling votes. Donors are contributing money with the expectation that voters will be swayed. Why not make the process more efficient?

Boho

Untitled

Re: So why move to a server in Bulgaria? (Reality Check)

Date: Oct 05, 18:42

From: Steven Imparl, Esq. <steven@imparl.net>

>Well Steven it is fine to say, "this site is clearly a funny >parody and public education site". However if that is so then >why was it sold to Vienna businessman, Hans Bernhard who put >this site up on a server in Bulgaira? This is no longer in >the hands of James Baumgartner who created it.

My guess is that it was sold to a purchaser who was willing to pay money for it. People sell things all the time. The mere fact that a sale occurred does not imply that the object of the sale is or was illegal.

> As for not seeing "any[thing] regarding how the alleged >buying and selling of votes will take place or any real steps >in furtherance of such an activity", if I give my name and >address it is just a

matter of mailing me the specifics and a >check.

I don't think there will be any mailing. As an author who writes about Internet legal issues, I filled in their form, making very clear in the comments box that I am a researcher and not selling my vote or doing anything illegal or attempting to do anything illegal. I received no response, despite the promise that I would receive e-mail.

>Are you really so naive as to think that just because it >doesn't spell out the details that there aren't any?

Me? Naive. Please, don't insult my intelligence. I have been practicing law for nearly 8 years now. There aren't many stories I haven't heard. I have seen conspiracy and I have seen solicitation. This does not appear to be either.

Furthermore, if the details are not spelled out, how can any reasonable person believe that this site does what it claims it does? Why haven't the bidding numbers changed? Why is there no posting of the highest bid? Time is running out. The election is a little over 4 weeks away. If this were some grand scheme to buy votes, I think there would have to be a much more sophisticated bidding method displayed.

> The real threat here isn't so much in the legality of buying >or selling votes but the transfer of votes to people outside >of the voting district. Specifically to persons who are >otherwise ineligible to vote such as foreign nationals. This >in theory can result in someone such as Slobodan Milosevic or >Saddam Husayn buying votes. Do you really want ether of these >men voting in U.S. elections? And no this is not like them >having influence. This is them having votes! Votes with the >same power as though you or I voted.

With all due respect, this smacks of a conspiracy theory and I just don't buy it. Notice how this site has a message board. Real auction sites don't really have message boards like this one. I think this site is accomplishing exactly what it's original owner intended for it to accomplish: to shock people and to generate discussion.

Steven Imparl, Esq., Attorney and Counselor at Law, Chicago, Illinois

I don't shock easily

Re: Untitled (Steven Imparl, Esq.)

Date: Oct 09, 13:39

From: Reality Check

>I think this site is accomplishing exactly what it's original owner intended for it to accomplish: to shock people and to generate discussion.

Steve I don't shock easily. I do however enjoy the opportunity to stir the pot, thus my taking the role of Devils Advocate. While I do agree that it appears that this site was intended as a parody you still haven't responded to the issue of the sale.

>The mere fact that a sale occurred does not imply that the object of the sale is or was illegal.

I never said anything about the legality of the site. Just it's potential for abuse as a result of the sale.

>I have been practicing law for nearly 8 years now. There aren't many stories I haven't heard. I have seen conspiracy and I have seen solicitation.

You can hit me with that one in thirteen more years.

All in all Steve I am impressed with your comments and observations. Believe it or not, I agree with you for the most part. But you have to admit that when there is potential for abuse there is always someone ready to do so. This site merely opens the door. Now we must look to see who comes through it.

Bulgaria?

Re: So why move to a server in Bulgaria? (Reality Check)

Date: Oct 18, 07:19

From: Clemens Zauner <czauner@sil.at>

- a) This site **is** a parody. Quite obvious for for any intelligent person.
- b) The Server is **not** in Bulgaria, but Vienna, Austria
- c) Hans ist not an artist. no businessman here.

d) Think before you type.

Clemens.

Get a clue, A.L.

Re: CAUTIONARY REPLY

Date: Oct 06, 10:40

From: C Wegrzyn <wegrzyn@garbage dump.com>

Come on A.L. all you've done with your heavy handed P.C. attitude is show how really "clueless" you are. Going to state or federal court won't do much. And the fact that it gets national or world-wide attention will only show what a fool you really are in Chicago.

From an ex-Chicagoan.

How will anyone know?

Re: CAUTIONARY REPLY

Date: Oct 12, 07:39

From: C Wegrzyn <wegrzyn@garbage dump.com>

What I want to know is how will A.L.Zimmer and the slime balls know whether or not I sold my vote? First you can use any of the digital money type of systems on the Internet to transfer money to

me (and it is all untraceable). Secondly, how will anyone know how I voted? Will they follow me into the voting booth - probably not likely. Will I bring out a copy of my ballot - yea, sure? In Chicago will they watch the electronic tally as I go into the booth to vote? Sure!

A.L. you really need to get a life and get a clue. This whole thing reminds me of flag burning.

How will anyone know?"

Re: How will anyone know? (C Wegrzyn)

Date: Oct 16, 17:13

From: Elric <carpet_shark@hotmail.com>

Well almost all ISP and related companies have a clause in their TOS that allows them to turn over info about their users "on-demand" (ie: w/o a court order), and all banks are required by law to make account records available.

For the cost of a few hundred thousand dollars they could track down and prosecute anyone or everyone. Heavy handed states like IL, CA, or NY might just do it to make a point.

It would not be the 1st time the gov't has wasted money just to strike back at someone who mocked it.

Just curious

Re: CAUTIONARY REPLY

Date: Oct 15, 21:04

From: DC

Just out of curiosity, is it illegal to pay someone to vote without asking that they vote a particular way? Such as to promote turnout? What if such promotion is targeted to certain geographic areas or specific groups?

Please Arrest AL & George

Re: CAUTIONARY REPLY

Date: Oct 17, 19:39

From: Kept Man

Hey, A.L. if what you say is so, would you kindly arrest George W. Bush and Al Gore? I'll sign a complaint. Both of them have offered to buy my vote using money involuntarily confiscated from others (that seems worse than this voluntary exchange). If you've watched them, you will know that each is offering (among other beads and shiny things) to buy my vote in exchange for prescription drugs (there should be a law against that all by itself, otherwise this war on drugs is never going to work out well. Would you check on that for me too?).

add all the Senators and Congressmen to the list

Re: Please Arrest AL & George (Kept Man)

Date: Oct 18, 09:15

From: <duckcrvr53@aol.com>

How is what is happen on this website any different then when our statesmen take contributions (AKA BRIBES) to push a bill that favors the position of some private interest?

Have you ever tried to talk to a senator or congress man without a fist full of money. Oh you may talk to them but who do they really work for? MR. A.L. why not make a real name for your self start legal action against them.

Untitled

Re: Zero logic (viking)

Date: Oct 05, 09:45

From: Ed Swice <swice@usa.net>

Jesse Jackson has been in effect acting as a broker for 1000s of black voters for years.....selling their votes to the highest bidder....

Today...the NEA is selling its legion of teacher votes for extra \$\$\$ for public education ...that WILL end up in their pockets.....

The buying and selling of votes goes on everyday...VoteAuction.com is just finally saying what everybody already knows....

Untitled

Re: Zero logic (viking)

Date: Oct 06, 01:17

From: Konstantin <nowhere@somewhere>

>Voting takes place in the real world. The transfer of money, >even though accompli
>Vote buyers and vote sellers are both subject to criminal >prosecution. The key el

Funny thing , I think next United States Constitution will be
created over the internet .There will be no statements of freedom which one can twi

>Vote peddling is either a criminal offense or it isn't. If >it's not illegal, no e
to sell or not to sell vote -well , goverment gave the right to vote to me , it is

another logic flaw

Re: Illegal activity (A.L.Zimmer - General Counsel Illinois State Board of Electio)

Date: Oct 06, 04:54

From: Hal

Voteauction.com is not receiving our "pledge to vote" for a particular candidate. They are buying our indifference in the form of blank absentee ballots. The ballots have no marking about intended candidate when purchased. In fact, the only marking comes from the government who prints the names of the 3 possible candidates on the ballots for us. Is there even a write-in spot on the Presidential form?

Also, do you think Saddam Hussein or Adolf Hitler or Zhang Zemin has as much money as the NRA? Also, there are only two choices. The worst case scenario is that they would vote for Buchanan or Jesse Ventura for laughs. Also, your line of reasoning is that either Bush or Gore are as evil as the tyrants you mentioned, and are poised to topple America even as we innocently type meaningless electrons into cyberspace.

In a true democracy, it would be worrisome. But in ours, it's a joke. Also you could get into trouble with your party taskmasters. What party do you belong to again?

Even VoteAuction doesn't believe the criticisms

Re: Illegal activity (A.L.Zimmer - General Counsel Illinois State Board of Electio)

Date: Oct 08, 18:54

From: JD JD

I'm appreciate your pointing out the criminality of vote buying.

I note that those who have criticized your post seem to think that this is just an Illinois issue or they are immune because they're in cyberspace, or that--being a parody (is it?) then it can't be criminal. The hosts of this website, however, fully understand that these claims are specious: they've made the auction invalid in their own state to protect themselves from their own state's laws.

Re: Even Voteauction...

Re: Even VoteAuction doesn't believe the criticisms (JD)

Date: Oct 08, 23:01

From: Admin <voteauction@mail.com>

"I note that those who have criticized your post seem to think that this is just an Illinois issue or they are immune because they're in cyberspace, or that--being a parody (is it?) then it can't be criminal. The hosts of this website, however, fully understand that these claims are specious: they've made the auction invalid in their own state to protect themselves from their own state's laws."

JD's post makes an incorrect assumption. authorities from new york were the only authorities who tried to contact the previous owner, mr. baumgartner. when they contacted him, he shut down the site. as part of the sales agreement, the new owner, mr. bernhard agreed not to allow new yorkers to register with the site.

Illinois: None So Righteous As The Reformed Sinner

Re: Even VoteAuction doesn't believe the criticisms (JD)

Date: Oct 11, 00:26

From: <lawjerk@yahoo.com>

Apparently you touched a nerve in Illinois. If you will review your history, sir, y

As they say: "There's None So Righteous As the Reformed Sinner"

Ward Healer

Untitled

Re: Illegal activity (A.L.Zimmer - General Counsel Illinois State Board of Electio)

Date: Oct 12, 19:07

From: <Anonymous>

So throw me in jail-----if there's room!!!

You aren't supposed to sell your vote

Re: Illegal activity (A.L.Zimmer - General Counsel Illinois State Board of Electio)

Date: Oct 18, 23:34

From: <Anonymous>

Come on now. Everybody knows you aren't supposed to sell your vote. That's not how politics works. You're supposed to accept "campaign contributions" and then place your vote in a way that will benefit your "constituents". Besides, selling your vote on the web isn't fair to everyone. All those dead voters out there don't have internet access.

Why should selling your vote be criminal?

Date: Sep 23, 09:50

From: Mr. Cynical <mr_cynical@email.com>

I don't understand why selling your vote should be a crime? Congressmen, senators and even the president all openly sell themselves to special interests, corporations and private groups. They even offer bonus packages: pay enough and you will not only get those tax breaks you've been looking for, but also get to have coffee with the president and spend the night in the Lincoln bedroom. If they can do it, why can't the common man?

I can see only two reasons for outlawing vote buying:

- 1) Preserve the fiction of American democracy
- 2) To keep voters out of the business of politics (in other words, to insure that only politicians can have their votes legally bought)

I applaud voteauction.com for its efforts to bring the American public into the business of politics. For far to long, we have been shut out of this cash bananza. Now, we can finally cash in!

They've always been able to buy my vote

Re: Why should selling your vote be criminal? (Mr. Cynical)

Date: Oct 17, 16:41

From: Kept Man

Gore & Dubya can take as much money as they want from the rest of you and use it to buy my vote in the form of prescription drugs, "tax credits", and other programs. Strikes me as far more moral to sell my vote to people who put up the money voluntarily instead of letting them take the money at gunpoint.

I agree

Re: They've always been able to buy my vote (Kept Man)

Date: Oct 18, 20:31

From: Curtis <Curtisf@Ruraltel.net>

I also agree. I would much rather vote for someone that really wants my vote. If they want my vote and are willing to do anything to get it then they can have it. In this day and age it doesnt really matter who gets to be president or who gets to be governor. The bottom line they all lie and screw us the american people straight up the tail pipes. If you want my vote you can have it.

Why does bottled water have an expiration date?

Satisfaction guaranteed?

Date: Sep 26, 21:51

From: Aphrodite

How can an investor be sure that the voters will actually vote for the specified candidate? What if they just take the money and run?

By the way- I think this site is great! Thanks for bringing this issue to light in such a creative way. Sometimes I think politicians and corporations WANT people to be bored with politics in order to keep them from going to the polls. We need more things like this site to keep things interesting.

How can you question this?

Re: Satisfaction guaranteed? (Aphrodite)

Date: Sep 26, 22:24

From: Raoul Duke, Jr.

Come on, anyone that would sell their vote is obviously of the highest moral caliber. They would never be the type to not show the integrity or honor to keep a sacred commitment.

But seriously folks, this is a great site. Scary, but great.

By Using Absentee Ballots, Presumably

Re: Satisfaction guaranteed? (Aphrodite)
Date: Oct 07, 09:08
From: Red Porphyry <porphyry@vnet.net>

Aphrodite wrote:

"How can an investor be sure that the voters will actually vote for the specified candidate? What if they just take the money and run?"

Red responds:

The answer to your questions can be found at the following URL:

<http://www.cnn.com/2000/TECH/computing/08/24/internet.vote/index.html>

I quote the last two paragraphs of the article:

"James Baumgartner sold the site for an undisclosed price earlier this week [late August]. He launched voteauction.com in early August to allow undecided or disillusioned voters to sell their votes to the highest bidder in the November presidential election.

Whoever bid the highest for each state could decide how those participants would vote. The Troy, New York, graduate student HAD PLANNED FOR VOTERS TO MAIL HIM [copies of?] ABSENTEE BALLOTS TO VERIFY THE SELECTIONS. [emphasis added]"

Red --

Thank god for voteauction.com

Date: Sep 27, 17:27
From: Hal

I have been an eligible voter for almost ten years now, and have never voted.

First of all, after studying democracy in school, I realized that the American model (often labled "American Democracy" in other countries) is not even close.

There are two popular parties to choose from, with a third party that is basically kept out of the major media events by the other two parties.

Within the parties, there are seldom more than 2 candidates. Somebody within the party decides very early who will be the main candidate for that election year. For example, this year, the other candidates dropped out. Al Gore was chosen in the grand tradition of the vice-president taking their parties' nomination after a successful two term run. (Ala Kennedy to Johnson and Reagan to Bush.) Nobody knows how Bush got the nomination, other than one extremely funny commentary I read somewhere how people love dynasties.

But I digress.

During the election year, both candidates go through two periods: policy promising, and opponent bashing. In recent years, the bashing has become more successful since the policies are virtually identical. As far as the promising goes, just about 100% of the promises are broken.

If anybody knows anything about America, any promise given at that level cannot be kept. Some group, somewhere, will oppose it. So why lie at all?

In summary, I think voteauction is a great idea to draw attention to the larger problems in the American political system. I'm thinking about starting a grass roots campaign to get more people to register here. Hell, vote for me. I'll pay.

You guys have nerve.

Re: Thank god for voteauction.com (Hal)

Date: Oct 13, 08:05

From: Cathryn Mataga

What a concept! You guys got real ball here, man. Even if the shit eventually does come down on this site, for me, it's worth keeping an eye on it. Just to hear the sanctimonious bullshit politicians express shock at the idea of selling a vote.

"Selling a vote! My virgin ears are horrified by the mere mention of it! This must be stopped immediately." Good thing that real politicians never fall prey to this temptation. Har, har.

What are you talking about?

Re: Thank god for voteauction.com (Hal)

Date: Oct 18, 09:34

From: Confused

Well, you put forth a valiant attempt to appear intelligent, I will give you credit for that. But I can not give you credit for intelligence. As I remember it, Johnson stepped into the office of the President after Kennedy was assassinated, not after Kennedy completed two terms and stepped down from the office. Have you been reading those revisionist history books? Also, to knock you down for a lack of intelligence concerning another issue, it is in fact a felony to offer to sell or buy a vote. Considering the Federal Election Committee and the Department of Justice are fully aware of this website, if you have in fact registered to buy or sell votes, you should probably start looking for a good attorney to put on retainer.

Untitled

Date: Sep 28, 12:47

From: Robert

This is the most disrespectful, disgusting thing I have seen yet.....God help our country..... Robert

Disrespectful? Gimme a break!

Re: Untitled (Robert)

Date: Oct 01, 06:47

From: Jaded NYer <oldslimshady@eminem.com>

Robert, you may find this site and the concept behind it "disrespectful" to and of the US, but the ugly truth is, when you lift up that mossy rock that had been hiding the true workings of American politics, the underbelly of that illusion peddled to the common man as "Democracy", you will find a host of slimy, squiggly creatures that do not like to be exposed to direct sunlight. This site not only cleverly illustrates on a smaller scale, what goes on every day in American politics, it also allows the "little guy" to participate in what was once a domain reserved exclusively for the<cough>"elite", the rich, powerful and well-connected, "high-priced whores".

I fail to see what your objection to this site could possibly be, since it empowers voters, for the first time, to line up at the same feeding trough as the Big Guys, so, in a sense, this site is enabling True Democracy and helps level the playing field, and that can't be a Bad Thing;)

Ha!

Re: Disrespectful? Gimme a break! (Jaded NYer)

Date: Oct 06, 05:00

From: Hal

That was pretty funny. You believe American democracy deserves respect, and you also fool me once, shame on you...fool me twice...

Hal

We are not a Democracy

Re: Disrespectful? Gimme a break! (Jaded NYer)

Date: Oct 06, 08:05

From: slinkytech

We are a Republic...a representative government. The Founders decried the concept of pure Democracy.

Two wrongs don't make a right. Why would we want to be like the "elite" and perpetuate the

problem?

Democracy, Republic, what's the difference? It's all a sham.

Re: We are not a Democracy (slinkytech)

Date: Oct 17, 15:34

From: Jaded NY'er <oldslimshady@eminem.com>

You are right, we are not a Democracy, but rather much closer to The People's Republic of America, an increasingly oppress- ive regime, edging ever closer to full-blown Police Statehood. I love the country, but the gov't truly SUCKS. Wash DC is a cesspool of bribery, special interests, "favors", CorpAmerica funded political corruption that runs so deep, it's beyond the redemption of anything less than a couple of lucky nuclear strikes on DC. This country is like a used car with a beaut- iful body and nice interior, but with a bad motor with a rod-knock and spun bearing....the only remedy left is to replace the entire engine. But since we aren't going to do what really needs to be done, but merely vote-in another Rep- ublicrat or Demopublican, which is essentially the same as voting to replace the spun bearing or voting to replace the bad connecting rod(instead of the major overhaul it so depar- atly needs), you might as well sell your vote since, given the current candidate situation, it doesn't matter one iota which of the 2 evils you vote in...they BOTH suck. Why not make the price of a case of cheap beer while you're at it? At least then, you can't say your vote was totally worthless or wasted;-) Morally, it is no different than what the politi- cians do every day, but on a much larger scale. (And at least you'll have that case of suds to console yourself come that fateful Tuesday in November, that you did all you could to make your vote count;-p

well

Re: Untitled (Robert)

Date: Oct 17, 11:11

From: <sl1200@interport.net>

If you can't beat 'em, join 'em

Why just sell votes from America?

Date: Sep 30, 05:41

From: <Anonymous>

Why not Australia? Here we are forced by law to vote.. so you have 19 million voter
I hate having to vote so much I just vote for who I think is going to loose, so the
I wanna sell my vote too!
An Aussie

Untitled

Re: Why just sell votes from America?

Date: Sep 30, 12:18

From: Admin <voteauction@mail.com>

We are concentrating on just the U.S. Presidential election this year. We are treating this as a test run for the voteauction.com business model. If we feel that this is a suitably profitable venture, we will expand into many other elections all over the world, perhaps even Australia.

aussie situation

Re: Untitled (Admin)

Date: Oct 06, 05:03

From: Hal

What is the difference between "free to vote" and "forced to vote?"

If you say we are free to vote in the US, yet cannot sell our vote, are we truly free?

Too bad NY'ers are excluded! >8-(

Date: Oct 01, 06:21

From: Jaded NYer <oldslimshady@eminem.com>

Too bad I have to sit this one out as an observer. Ironical that selling votes is only illegal for the "little people" while the most blatant political whores in DC routinely engage in turning 6-figure tricks with their CorpAmerica johns.

The cries of "unfair!", "illegal!" and my favorite: "What a sad, sad, shame...people fought and dies so you can vote" ring hollow and fall largely on deaf ears, since it is the very people in power, and their Corporate pimps who have succeeded in turning the entire electoral process into a fraud and a sham. I think the main reason they are complaining is that they don't want any competition;-p

Keep up the good work, and good luck to all you vote-sellers who have seen the light. You aren't doing anything new, just doing it on a smaller scale (and, might I add, deliciously overt, to boot;) The power exposed and emulated, and want a monopoly on corruption, so don't listen to them. Screw 'em if they can't take a joke, because they've been screwing the voters for decades.

GREAT site, GREAT idea, Great implementation:) Congrats to all concerned! Don't let the hypocrits and naive sheeple get you down.

Untitled

Re: Too bad NY'ers are excluded! >8-((Jaded NYer)

Date: Oct 16, 17:11

From: al

This all depends on the definition of what "is" is, right!

Pick up the pace

Date: Oct 03, 05:46

From: Red Porphyry <porphyry@vnet.net>

Now that voteauction.com has a "last updated" line on the "check the current price" window, my next suggestion is that voteauction.com pick up the pace of updates. I think that a weekly update every Monday of the numbers would be reasonable.

Red --

Re: Pick Up The Pace

Re: Pick up the pace (Red Porphyry)

Date: Oct 04, 22:03

From: Admin <voteauction@mail.com>

Unfortunately, we have been unable to keep up with the overwhelming numbers of people registering with voteauction.com. We are devoting more resources to this issue so that we can update the "check" page on at least a weekly basis.

I thought so

Re: Re: Pick Up The Pace (Admin)

Date: Oct 07, 08:30

From: Red Porphyry <porphyry@vnet.net>

I figured that you were probably getting overwhelmed with traffic, which is why I suggested the weekly update as a starting point. Once you have the infrastructure in place to do weekly updates reliably, then you can work on picking the pace up even more.

Red --

Cost of a vote

Date: Oct 05, 05:45

From: RickyRick

Let's do the numbers.

How much does a campaign spend now to get a single vote? I don't know the numbers, but if someone can post how much each campaign will spend, and the number of votes expected to be cast, then we can calculate the "real world" cost per vote.

Based on my poor memory of these numbers, I'd guess that the campaigns are spending in the area of \$1 to \$10 / vote.

It will be interesting to compare this value--once we figure it out--to the bids.

(I personally would never sell my vote unless someone could promise to rid us of all political ads and debates.)

The Numbers

Re: Cost of a vote

Date: Oct 05, 11:31

From: Russell Kicklighter

Based on 1990 census figures the estimate of eligible voters for the 2000 elections is around 200 million. if the candidates expect a turnout around 35% - 40% there are around 75 million votes. According to the FEC(federal election commission) the major parties have spent almost \$300 million combined(more to come) which works out to \$4 / vote. With the republicans out spending the democrats almost 2 to 1 that means republicans paying \$2.66 and the democrats paying \$1.33 per vote.

Have fun.

The numbers are worse than that

Re: The Numbers (Russell Kicklighter)

Date: Oct 05, 18:41

From: Boho

According to most political pundits I've read, the two major candidates aren't competing for the entire voting population, but just the 'undecided' votes, which is a smaller group.

If you believe that only 1/3 of the voters are undecided, then only 25 million votes were on the market, forcing the price up to \$12 per vote, on average.

The part of this whole analysis that I find offensive is how cheap Americans voters appear to be. For the price of a modest meal, you can buy a vote. Certainly less than the price of a quart and a half of whiskey of better-than-paint-thinner quality.

Voters aren't that cheap

Re: The numbers are worse than that (Boho)

Date: Oct 11, 10:04

From: Michael Rudmin

Hold on: American voters are typically not that cheap to buy. First of all, as you said, only 1/3 are

undecided. That means that the price of their vote is sky-high: much more than politicians are willing to pay.

Second, many of the citizens (like myself) who do not vote are prevented by unconstitutional restrictions. This is a huge number: approximately 2/3 of Americans do not vote.

In my own case, I lost my rights without a trial, without due process, and without having committed a crime, in a way that specifically eliminates voters who do not favor big government. So my vote, too, is not for sale, and the same may be said for others who lost their rights unconstitutionally.

Then there are the voters who specifically do not cast a vote because they do not wish to participate in a process where all options are either frauds or otherwise unacceptable. Their vote is not for sale, either.

So what remains? Well, the claim of democracy is clearly a fraud. So is the claim of democratic republic. And considering the standardized voter fraud, legal and illegal both, that occurs, so is the claim of free and fair elections. But it does have the form of a democratic republic, which may keep the peace for a while. And that is worth something, anyhow. But I think that what remains is men who want the power of kingship without the risk and responsibility that goes with it. So they hide behind a nominal form of a democratic republic. Which will work for a while, but not forever.

Meanwhile, I would say enjoy the ride. While there is moderate peace, you can live and raise a family, and look for another country where things are perhaps better.

See www.escapeartist.com

This is Horrible!

Date: Oct 05, 07:16

From: A True American! <none@none.net>

This is the most horrible travesty against democracy I have ever witnessed in my life! America was built so that the wealthy could not buy all of the power; the people have the right to freely choose their leaders! Everyone, Please End this Mad, Criminal, Anti-Democratic Slap in Americas Face.

A True American/>

Untitled

Re: This is Horrible! (A True American!)

Date: Oct 05, 07:50

From: Colin MacDonald

Heh heh, funny one. Democracy for all? For all white male slave owning land barons, was the intention.

When was slavery finally outlawed in the USA, and the last legally owned slave freed? I'd tell you it

was 1995, but you probably wouldn't believe me.

Horrible, I think not

Re: This is Horrible! (A True American!)

Date: Oct 05, 10:14

From: Russell Kicklighter

This is the very freedom invisioned I think. We the people, have the right to choose, and if we choose to have someone else determine who will lead this country why is that choice not respected. I also think it makes a very interesting civics lesson, (How much is your vote worth) the more valuable it is the more likely people are to examine their choices more closely.

For The People

Re: This is Horrible! (A True American!)

Date: Oct 05, 12:24

From: Selling My Vote <dupree4@yahoo.com>

This is not horrible. This is a step in the direction of True Democracy. This will stop the corporations from wasting their money on political adverstising which insults America and give the money that is being taken from the people back to the people. This is GREAT!

Don't you know a joke when you see it people??

Re: For The People (Selling My Vote)

Date: Oct 17, 09:41

From: <maryzemail@aol.com>

This site has to be pulling legs. On the other hand, the democrats have been doing this in a more discreet way for years. I have friends who are election judges and they have discovered any number of ballots cast by dead people!! The locals dems check voter lists against obituaries and haul in a bunch of unregistered voters to vote(usually absentee) using the name of the deceased. This honorable tradition was used to its ultimate by the late "Landslide Lyndon Johnson". The voters they recruit are usually homeless alcoholics willing to do anything for a drink or in a few cases a meal!!

"True Americans" make me sick

Re: This is Horrible! (A True American!)

Date: Oct 13, 07:42

From: nick

where do people who think like you live? have any "true americans" stopped to consider what a true democracy looks like? it is not what we have... when the only candidates (if you can even call them that) let into our presidential debates answer to exactly the same wealthy interests, what choice do

voters have but to say "fuck it" and do something meaningfull with their vote... like sell it.... i say sell your vote and then vote for a third party anyway... i only wish my vote in Vermont was worth something... wake up

Horrible??;)

Re: This is Horrible! (A True American!)

Date: Oct 17, 15:52

From: Jaded NYer <oldslimshady@eminem.com>

This is the most horrible travesty against democracy I have ever witnessed in my life! ----- T
witnessed the inner workings of Wash DC.

America was
built so that the wealthy could not buy all of the power;

The rich and the Corporate interests buy the power and influence in Wash DC. Money
America was also built to be a Free Country with Liberty for
it`s citizens...this is no longer the case, either. This is
what "voting" has got us: a Police State.

the people have the right to freely choose
their leaders!

In theory, I suppose.

Everyone, Please End this Mad, ----- It`s not mad at all. It`s a perfectly reasonable reacti
political system.

Criminal, ----- IS it "criminal"? I call it free-market. I wonder what the politicians call it wh
Big Business to legislate in their favor? "Business as usual"?

Anti-Democratic Slap in Americas Face. ----- It`s QUITE Democratic. People are taking the
to, and finally making some good use of it. What`s so "undemocratic" about it?

A True American/>

A view from the other side of the pond

Date: Oct 05, 08:46

From: zip

Hello.

I found this site this morning and thought it was brilliant !

Maybe we ought to have something like this in the UK - it's often said here that we are becoming
more and more like America (no offence meant, but in case you're wondering, this is generally
considered to be a bad thing here). Election run-ups in the UK don't last the several decades that they

seem to in the US - what tends to happen in the UK is that just prior to the election, the government of the day will come up with some bribe or other; a tax cut or something. The other parties will just lie through their teeth and say what sounds good to the electorate (that's how the present government got in).

Can someone answer a question for me ? I read on the 'Election History' link that it's been illegal in the US for companies to pay money to electoral candidates since 1907, but that it's (quite obviously) ignored. Can anyone explain to a non American why this situation is allowed to continue ? Are the judges being bribed too ? I'd really like to know the answer if anyone has one. Thanks in advance.

Can you say "Soft money"?

Re: A view from the other side of the pond (zip)

Date: Oct 05, 10:43

From: Russell Kicklighter

Corporation in most states can contribute an unlimited amount to a political campaign without contributing to the candidate. That's why most ads say "sponsored by" or "paid for by" "the committee to elect" or "friends of" etc.

See -> <http://www.fec.gov/pages/cfl00chart2A.htm> for state by state detail

Ah !

Re: Can you say "Soft money"? (Russell Kicklighter)

Date: Oct 05, 13:14

From: zip

I see - like a lot financial planning, it's down to what you call it. Thanks very much for the answer.

THIS SHOULD BE STOPPED!!!!

Date: Oct 05, 09:55

From: Yves Delacour <yves.delacour@leonardofinance.fr>

This site must be shut down at once! So should this site <http://leonardofinance.com.hp.ms/> Sites like these are ruining America!

New York locked out of vote exchange

Date: Oct 05, 10:15

From: <Anonymous>

It's such a swimmingly good idea, I cannot tell you. We in New York are besieged by our own shortsightedness and now some horrific wench is campaigning for Senate even though she is not from New York. This is a State problem, granted, but I am really bummed that this wonderful free

market solution is not available in the State which arguably is the center of financial engineering in the US.

Why, oh why, can I not sell my vote in New York?

-Anguished in Carnegie Hill

Aren't you afraid?

Re: New York locked out of vote exchange

Date: Oct 05, 10:49

From: Russell Kicklighter

Once you sell it you have NO say in who is New York's Senator. Aren't you afraid that you vote will be bought by that horrible wench?

Who wins? Who loses?

Date: Oct 05, 11:38

From: Dov Robinson <dov_robinson@mony.com>

To the Voteauction team,
Add in an optional tag question whom SELLERS would have voted for.
This will become a popular number.
It shows effect and would be interesting to see results on the front page.
Dov

Wow! What a great site!

Date: Oct 05, 11:42

From: Eric D.

What a great concept! While I likely won't overcome my apathy towards voting for long enough to register here, the idea of making some cash for my otherwise useless vote is very appealing. Why ponder endlessly over "which is the lesser of these two evils" when I can just choose the one that sends me some money!

It has almost inspired me to register to vote. That is, of course, if it didn't mean I would also be signing up for jury duty in my state. Maybe next election!

VOTE Currency

Date: Oct 05, 11:46

From: Dov Robinson <dov_robinson@mony.com>

Why not?

It would be pretty cool if I could use my vote to, say... pay for a new CD.

Just calculate how much my vote is worth based on the going rate.
It seems, according to the voteauction site, this is about \$16.
Submit your vote as payment of \$16 to another auction site.
This pays for your CD.
Now instead of empty promises, you have Beethoven's 9th.
Dov

Why not sell your vote?

Date: Oct 05, 12:55
From: webitgrl <webitgrl@mailcity.com>

Come on people, let's face it, He or she with the most money generally wins! So, let's see, just how fair is that anyway. I know that I believe Gore and Bush are both idiots. I have mentally declared them equal idiots and since I can't vote for them both, I'd rather sell my vote and let someone use it that is passionate in what they believe in. Meanwhile, I'll go and enjoy a movie and popcorn Nov 7.

There ARE other options!

Re: Why not sell your vote? (webitgrl)
Date: Oct 05, 21:23
From: Lori Whalen <lwhalen@gardener.com>

Please remember guys, there are other candidates running for president. Each year more people vote for third party candidates. If we all did it would make a difference.

Re: There are other options

Re: There ARE other options! (Lori Whalen)
Date: Oct 05, 22:40
From: Admin <voteauction@mail.com>

Although the majority of bidders are from one of the two major parties, there is a significant number who support a third party candidate. Who knows, maybe Pat Buchanan and Ralph Nader supporters will be able to buy some additional votes for their candidates.

Some Thoughts About this Site and Government's Reaction to It

Date: Oct 05, 13:11
From: Steven Imparl, Esq. <steven@imparl.net>

Just a few thoughts . . .

1. Somehow, looking at the entire site, I can't just see a conspiracy or a solicitation to commit voting fraud, as some governmental officials have alleged. I don't think voteauction.com is making any serious offers.

2. I have looked at the site extensively. It does appear to be a joke and a political commentary. This is especially apparent when one looks at the "Links" page, which contains several links to pages offering commentary about and suggesting the reform of campaign financing.

3. I do not see any real mechanisms in place for collecting information and turning that information into fraudulent votes, or even for accomplishing the purported auction. There seem to be no means for collecting any payments and no means for bidding.

4. The site refers to a "corporate bidder's agreement" which gives a "404" error when one tries to access it. The site does not contain a comparable "individual bidder's agreement."

5. The bidders' "ID" numbers of the persons supposedly having the high bid are suspicious: they all end in "01," "10," and "15," and several of these "ID" numbers are duplicates. Further, the amount of the current "high bid" is not even displayed--most peculiar for an auction site. If this were a real auction, how could any bidders know what bid they have to beat?

6. There are no specifics about payment or anything.

7. There has been some comment on another list I moderate that the presence of the New York disclaimer implies that some law has been violated. I reject that view.

Here's a news story about the New York issue:

<http://www.cnn.com/2000/TECH/computing/08/23/voteauction.shutdown.idg/index.h>

Further support for the view that the site is a joke and a political commentary is available at:

<http://www.fsb.com/fortunesb/articles/0,2227,966,00.html>

Moreover, the mere fact that the site says "Not Valid in New York" merely means that New York officials have successfully pressured the owner of the site to display that message. New York has tried to regulate the entire Internet before. Remember American Library Ass'n v. Pataki, 969 F.Supp. 160 (S.D.N.Y. 1997)?

8. While some government officials claim that this site is buying and selling votes, I find little support for that claim when I analyze the entire site. There are too many things missing on the site. (See paragraphs 3 through 6 above for a more detailed explanation of the problems inherent in claiming this site is soliciting election fraud.)

9. While I do think the site is a joke; it does not appear to be "doing" much of anything. However, it does contain quite a lot of commentary--commentary that is valuable to an informed electorate.

10. I think the original owner of the site presented it precisely for its shock value. That, IMO, is protected political speech.

11. With a considerable amount of imagination, one might conclude that this site is engaged in illegal activity. I am talking of the kind of imagination that can envision the cow jumping over the moon.

12. I don't see any real buying and selling of votes actually occurring; the "bidding" process is highly suspect and the site does not have any of the features of real auction sites like eBay, Yahoo! Auctions, and so forth.

13. Much of the commentary I have read assumes (in a rather circular fashion) that this site is indeed an auction. To that claim, I pose the following questions. Where are the notices of binding agreements to the bidders? Where are the particulars about how the "sales" are to be accomplished? Where is PayPal? <grin>

14. At best, I see a caricature of an auction that has ruffled the feathers of politicians, perhaps because it hits a bit too close to home. This site is clearly a funny parody and public education site. I don't think any reasonable person could construe this site as a real solicitation, conspiracy, or attempt to buy or sell votes.

15. Look at the entire Web site--the totality of the circumstances. You will see many links to commentary about issues to voters. However, you will not see any specifics regarding how the alleged buying and selling of votes will take place or any real steps in furtherance of such an activity. What I do see is a heavy-handed attempt by the government to quash political speech.

16. The uproar in Illinois all apparently started because an oversensitive commissioner of Chicago's Board of Elections was offended by this site which recalled unpleasant memories of corruption in the city government of Chicago. (Some of us, including me, feel that corruption still runs rampant in Chicago government.)

17. That the site offends the sensibilities of government officials--who aren't even named on the site--really is just too bad. This site offers a lot of valuable links to other sites that will be of interest to voters. If you look at the "News & Press" link, you will find some stories there that offer fascinating commentary about the American political system, cynicism in the electorate, the role of corporations and special interest groups in campaign financing, "soft money," and the role of political parties.

18. To attempt to shut this site down would be to trammel on free political speech protected by the United States Constitution. That government officials have nothing better to do with their time than to harass a Web site that exemplifies our treasured legal and social traditions of freedom of expression is gravely disappointing.

Steven Imparl, Esq.

Slowest freakin bboard I've ever used

Date: Oct 06, 05:32

From: Hal

I have a plane to catch, and I need to go to bed, so rather than post individually, I'd like to post my comments all in one place:

Slavery: You mean it's over? Since when did they outlaw salaried employees?

Third party candidates: Pat Buchanan is the closest thing to evil we have yet to see in American

politics. However, when Ross Perot garnered 24% of the vote a few years back, the bigwigs got a clear message: don't include Ross Perot anymore.

Value of a vote: My God, my indifference is only worth 2 bucks?? My lack of interest is worth far more than that!!

Other numbers: 50% divorce rate, most people take the full 10% charitable donation deduction on their taxes, illiteracy rate for high school graduates is 50%, and 75% of sampled Americans polled believe the sun revolves around the Earth.

Selling my vote for \$X is far easier to stomach by comparison.

"Real American": I see you are in the 50% of high school graduates.

Voteauction.com: Sheesh, improve the bboard please. It's a pain in the butt to use and and slow as hell. Maybe some Bulgarian mafia-boss will put up some cash to aid in the corruption and inevitable collapse of the Defenders of the Free World. And God, too.

Racism and politics: This year, both candidates appeared on the Oprah Winfrey show, the number 1 forum for both black and female "scores" (ie. voters, but politicians don't think of us in that way.) It was the first time she ever allowed candidates to appear prior to the election, and she insisted on both candidates appearing, because she is quite concious about her popular influence. If you think votes can't be influenced by race, and more importantly, Oprah, I recommend you check the correlation between the New York Times bestseller list (for books) with Oprah's Book of the Month Club.

I have the sneaking suspicion that her job security comes from the fact that her taskmasters make sure she has a cushy, well-paying job to keep her out of politics.

The first female president will also be the first black president. Mark my words.

Final thought: Thank you all for keeping this board from degrading into a forum of name-calling and Nazi comparisons. The writing is actually half-decent here.

And funny as hell. Especially this "Hal" guy.

Voting for President

Date: Oct 06, 08:01

From: slinkytech *slinkyte*

To those of you who are going to go see movies, sit at home, etc. on Nov 7th because you don't like either Presidential Candidate...99% of the elections are local and state elections and issues. If you don't want your taxes raised, you'd better vote. If you want more funding for your local library, you'd better vote. If you don't like how your Reps at the State and Federal levels voted on issues that are important to you, you'd better vote. It is very myopic to think that Nov 7th is entirely about the office of President.

You don't know what you have until you lose it.

Government ought to do it, I shouldn't pay for it

Re: Voting for President (slinkytech)

Date: Oct 18, 20:32

From: <Anonymous>

If you don't want your taxes raised, maybe you'd better raise money privately for the library.

My vote can be gotten for \$12.00

Date: Oct 06, 10:35

From: C Wegrzyn <wegrzyn@garbageDump.com>

I figure with the Dems & Republicans spending about \$1.2B or so, and there being 100,000,000 voters, my vote is worth about \$12. Given that I get paid \$100/hour and it takes about 1 hour or so of my time to vote, I actually lose money on the deal. So the first Dem or Republican to shell out more than 12 bucks my way get's it! LOL.

ZERO FOR PRESIDENT in 2000!!!

Date: Oct 06, 12:06

From: Zman <President@zero123.com>

You can see Zero for President's campaign platform and read the American Declaration of Responsibility at <http://www.zero123.com/2000.html> Thank you. And remember, "Less is more", vote ZERO!!!

Do you use your VOTE anyway?? Why not sell it??

Date: Oct 06, 16:53

From: HarryUSA <harryusa@hotmail.com>

People,

This is the site that is pissing off Chicago Politicians. I guess they don't want the general population to get into the game that they have been into for over a hundred years. Most people don't vote anyway, so why not do something useful with your vote and sell it?

I have written commentaries that go after politicians that go after gun rights too. Please feel free to read how their efforts are failing in the courts.

HarryUSA

<http://homepage.interaccess.com/~harryusa/comments/daley.html>

contradictions

Date: Oct 06, 21:33

From: <kylecarbert@hotmail.com>

I would usually call myself one of the least patriotic people around, but this is still a disgrace. Those of you who say that this empowers the common man are completely ignoring the fact that this is merely another way of allowing the rich to buy politics, and now even more directly than ever. This may show your disgust with money and politics, but whoever buys these tickets is going to vote for even more power and riches to be in power. A much more direct way of threatening the system would be to actually show your disgust with Bush and Gore by voting for third party candidates (Ralph Nader has the potential of being a threat this year, and to money more than any thing else). Otherwise, this site is perpetuating the rule of the corrupt and rich even more.

Vote Buying is Not Democracy

Date: Oct 08, 09:12

From: Mike Ramsey <mycoramsey@hotmail.com>

Vote-selling in any form is anarchy in action. Who is buying votes??? Major corporations perhaps, or those who have benefitted most from them? They certainly have more capability than I!!! Now, with major corporations making huge political campaign donations, influencing political decisions, they can buy the vote of the people. Providing even greater control of power by the wealthy. That is not what a democracy is. I have not found corporations to be particularly concerned about my health or happiness. The earth can not sustain the aggressive nature of corporate greed. DO NOT SELL YOUR VOTE ON VOTEAUCTION.COM!

But, I'd be interested in knowing who would like to buy my vote and why.

Mr Swift and Modest Proposals are alive

Re: Vote Buying is Not Democracy (Mike Ramsey)

Date: Oct 11, 09:14

From: steve <steve@ssnet.com>

This site is so darkly funny, I don't know if I should laugh or cry. The legality, ethicality (to coin an ear-stinking neologism), reality of this concept is secondary to its humor. Unfortunately, I sense that the folks here have totally given up on the concept of democracy. In the face of a NJ candidate spending 50M of his own money to get elected by blanketing the teevee with his message, it's hard to believe in anything. I'm down on nihilism....there has to be a better way. Laugh at this site, but please, use your brain and heart and vote!!!!

s.

To Public Servants: why this happens

Date: Oct 11, 09:00

From: Michael Rudmin <Michael_Rudmin@hotmail.com>

First, let me say that I do not vote: I would if I could do so in good conscience, and I will never sell my vote. But I can see why this happens.

My brother has a theory that when any major power is not given a legal outlet, it undermines all other legal powers. This is what is happening: since money is now a major power that is officially unrecognized, it undermines every other power in existence: the judiciary, the presidency, the legislatures, and so on. And as they are undermined, people find that their votes are comparatively worthless, and sell them for what they can get.

Thank goodness not too many people yet are doing this. But it should be a wake-up call.

The only valid way I have seen of removing this corruption of the rest of the system is to give money its own, legal, access to power. One way of doing this is to institute a third house of congress, whereby 2 of 3 houses must sign onto any bill, and 3 of 3 are required to override a presidential veto. This third house then has 365 seats, one of which is auctioned off every day of the year (the money goes into the US treasury). The winner of the auction may pick any *other* American citizen than themselves, to sit in the congress and vote. Once chosen and registered, the citizen may not be replaced until the full year has passed, even in the event of death. That citizen may be paid by the choosing individual, but has the right to choose how to vote.

Of course, this would take a Const. amendment.

But once money has such a valid outlet, it becomes a surer and safer way of buying votes than what is currently done. Thus, money will cease to undermine democracy, and people will again have power when they choose their legislators.

What if this really was allowed?

Re: To Public Servants: why this happens (Michael Rudmin)

Date: Oct 17, 20:22

From: Tim Tim

I realize that selling one's vote is infeasible and illegal, and I hope that most of the readers understand this too. However, the idea has been born, so why not investigate it in some detail?

Personally, I am one of those stupid foreigners that think "American Democracy" is an oxymoron, i.e. that what really goes on in elections here is very far from what democracy really means. (Granted that the American system is still better than the vast majority of other systems, but one can always improve.)

What if voters were really allowed to sell their votes? And there was a system to take care of sellers and bidders in an easy, confidential and legal manner? Money wasted on ads and campaigns could be eliminated. Candidates would no longer need to sell themselves to corporations, which means they could do what they believed in while in office.

This might seem terrible on the surface, but the question is how many would actually sell their vote? Some would, but judging by the reactions to this site, there is an equal number of people who would not. Those who would sell their vote, who are they most likely to vote for today? Probably those who

happen to have the most charismatic TV personality. So they vote for those who have the most money instead, does that really make a difference in terms of democracy?

However, for the rest of the voters, they may now be able to vote for candidates who will keep their promises and who have a real and defined set of issues they fight for. These candidates may then be able to get by without the backing of powerful capitalistic institutions, since they can get votes because people believe in them. This seems far more democratic than the current system where the candidates, rather than the voters, are bought. After all, "all" politicians are corrupt, while there are voters who are not...

This might seem a bit naive, but think about it. If the current system is so bad, what can be done to improve it? This is probably not the optimal solution, but it might be a stepping stone for further discussion.

Tim

Point this out to Bill Gates

Date: Oct 12, 09:38

From: <bozo@hotmail.com>

Hey this would be the prefect way for Bill Gates to take over the US.....All he has to do is change the EULA on any MS product to include you vote for him to be GOD supreme....By registering MS software it could automatically register you here.... He could pay 11 bucks for the user and then charge a extra 22 bucks on the next upgrade and make twice what he could have.

As he and Microsoft do not care about any Laws except thier own As president he could quash any case file agianst him....

Think I am being harsh...Just look at MS track record after the judgement agianst them. what they have bought and where they are headed.....

someone

Date: Oct 12, 13:46

From: someone somewhere <someone@somewhere.org>

This site is a riot. Is this for real?

If it is I think that you should display the name of the candidate that has each block of votes, That would drive competition between the democrats and the republicans and the prices would skyrocket.

Do you think Bush and Gore know this site exists?

From opening page: "wherever campaign contributors are using large sums of money to influence an election."

Date: Oct 12, 16:08

From: <none@none.net>

How is this site any different? It seems to me the big contributors could just skip the middleman, and buy votes directly here. This site is kind of oxymoronic don't you think?

stupidity

Date: Oct 13, 07:30

From: <Anonymous>

Is this democracy or just crazy????
If this is allowed the answer is no and yes.

Sometimes you over there are just so stupid.....

REgards from Oslo.

Untitled

Date: Oct 14, 19:39

From: freeman

I'm a middle aged white unemployed male. The IRS is assailing me, the electoids tha and the making of a democracy from a democratic republic have essentially crushed m

This is wrong

Date: Oct 14, 19:51

From: The Mighty Dforsh <Dforsh1059@aol.com>

This in wrong it under mines every princeapal and everything this country stands for. By the way I'm voting for Gore so ha ha all you dum republicans

Dum?

Re: This is wrong (The Mighty Dforsh)

Date: Oct 16, 08:02

From: a Republican

At least I learned to spell "DUMB" You probably went to a public school, LOL!

Pots, kettle, and other miscellany

Re: Dum? (a Republican)

Date: Oct 17, 14:01

From: Some Idiot

I went to a public school. The teachers there were kind enough to teach me proper punctuation. Try discussing the topic instead of hurling petty insults.

Michigander

Date: Oct 15, 20:19

From: D. Reckinger <Reckinger@aol.com>

What a great idea, for those senior citizens that can't afford their prescriptions or food, they can sell their vote. Then Bush and Gore won't have to figure out which tax plan they are going to pass, because neither one would help the low income. Unfortunately, I won't be able to sell my vote because our Attorney General say's it illegal, just like buying viagra on the net, which almost any other state can do. Michiganders are losing their rights and they don't even know it!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Pathetic

Date: Oct 15, 20:22

From: Ima Voter

I would suggest that if you have the time to be involved with this scam, you should be able to take a small bit of your precious time and vote. Voting is, if you are a citizen of the USA and have the right, an obligation.

Get off your lazy, negative rear end and go vote. Be heard! Stand on a street corner or in a park and speak your views and opinions. The United States of America belongs to "US". The system and the way it operates is "OURS". If, as a citizen of the USA, you place such little importance on voting, "OUR" system of democracy will eventually change.

Please go to your polling station or contact your local elections office if you have questions about alternative ways of getting your vote counted. PLEASE VOTE

Untitled

Date: Oct 16, 04:22

From: <Anonymous>

fack you fack you fack you fack you

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Key to Making this work for You!

Date: Oct 16, 06:07

From: Larry <lcastle@corecomm.net>

This site is awesome. You can make money at it like I am. all you have to do is register to sell your vote and then vote as you please. If the prices of votes in your state are not high enough to make it worth your while, register several times under different names. I am registered over twenty times myself. Look up Michigan prices and you'll see that I'm doing quite well. I have several friends in California who are also profiting from this site. You can too. Register today!!!

Er, no.

Re: Key to Making this work for You! (Larry)

Date: Oct 17, 07:42

From: Red Porphyry <porphyry@vnet.net>

Larry, you're wrong. The bidders aren't that stupid. Check out the following URL:

<http://www.cnn.com/2000/TECH/computing/08/24/internet.vote/index.html>

I quote the last two paragraphs of the article:

"James Baumgartner sold the site for an undisclosed price earlier this week [late August]. He launched voteauction.com in early August to allow undecided or disillusioned voters to sell their votes to the highest bidder in the November presidential election.

Whoever bid the highest for each state could decide how those participants would vote. The Troy, New York, graduate student HAD PLANNED FOR VOTERS TO MAIL HIM [copies of?] ABSENTEE BALLOTS TO VERIFY THE SELECTIONS. [emphasis added]"

In other words, Larry, in order to collect your share of the money after the auction closes, you'll have to vote by absentee ballot and mail a copy of same to the winning bidder verifying that you have indeed voted for the candidate that the winning bidder ordered you to.

Red --

Mailing Absentee Ballots? ROFLMAO

Re: Er, no. (Red Porphyry)

Date: Oct 17, 16:39

From: Steven Imparl, Esq. <steven@imparl.net>

Hello.

There are a number of problems with mailing in the supposed "absentee ballots" and with this site in general. There are A LOT of inconsistencies and missing facts with respect to this site.

First, a voter who wanted to collect money from this Web site (which I am sure is a parody and a hoax) would have to prove that he actually voted for the candidates chosen by the high bidder. Simply making a copy of the absentee ballot would not work. There is nothing to prevent someone from faking an absentee ballot, sending in a copy, and voting as he sees fit.

Second, there is no legal way for anyone to enforce the "agreement" to "sell" the vote. If someone does not vote as he or she promised, can the high bidder take that person to court to enforce the voting agreement? Nope. That would be an illegal contract. One could not enforce it. (However, I don't believe for a second that there is any agreement to do anything here.)

Third, who are these "high bidders" and why don't they ever change from day to day? What is the amount of the bid? How can anyone try to beat it? If no one can try to beat it, how can anyone know that it is really the high "bid"?

Fourth, there are some glaring internal inconsistencies in the text of this Web site. For instance, on the "How it works," the text says, "The winning bidder will have to contact the voteauction.com voters in order to provide payment and for the voters to provide verification." However, on the instructions for "Sell--register to sell your vote," the site assures anyone who would fill out the online form, stating, "Your personal information will be kept strictly confidential. It will not be sold, released, or retransmitted for any reason." If the information gathered will not be released or transmitted for any reason and will be kept strictly confidential, how can any "high bidder" or "winning bidder" possibly contact the "voters" who allegedly "sold" their votes to verify that they voted the "right way"?

Finally, even if the owners of this Web site breached their promise and disclosed the information that they promised to keep confidential, the "winning bidder" would have to contact hundreds or thousands of people to inform them how to vote and to verify that they voted "properly."

"Bidding" remains open as of October 17, 2000. The "auction" does not indicate when "bidding" will close. Even today, three weeks before the election, to do the following, the "bidders" would face a herculean task:

1. Contact hundreds or thousands of people in the states they "won" by their high bid. (Think about it. One would have to make hundreds or thousands of phone calls, send hundreds or thousands of e-mails or faxes or postal letters.)
2. Instruct all of those hundreds or thousands of people to obtain absentee ballots in the states where they are registered to vote. The time period during which one can obtain an absentee ballot will vary

from state to state, but it is going to be more than just a 5-minute task. (Note, too, these people would have NO incentive whatsoever to obtain an absentee ballot since the "winning bidder" could not enforce in court any "agreement" to vote a particular way.

3. Instruct all of these hundreds or thousands of people exactly how they should vote. (Consider again the lack of incentive for the people contacted.)

After the election, the "winning bidders" would have to verify somehow (this is a big question because there is no way of proving the voters voted a particular way) that the voters cast their ballots as promised. Even if they did not, the "winning bidders" could do nothing but withhold payment.

Would any reasonable "winning bidder" who went to so much trouble and expense trust a person who claimed to have committed voting fraud?

Last, after being certain that the voters cast their votes as promised, then the "winning bidders" would have to pay those voters. This would also be a big job, involving issuing checks, mailing them out, and so forth.

Who, in his or her right mind, would go to all that trouble and expense merely to try to "buy" votes that he or she could not even verify? Hell, there isn't even any guarantee that the people who signed up online are even registered or eligible to vote! (Note, the Web form does not ask whether the person filling it out is a United States citizen.) It is very hard to believe that anyone who had sufficient funds to pull off such a scheme would not be much smarter about how to use his or her money.

As of this writing, Michigan supposedly has 1,429 voters. The voting block is supposedly "selling" for \$28,000. As I mentioned earlier, would any reasonable person be willing to pay \$28,000 for a block of "votes" from people who are anonymous and who may not even be registered or even U.S. citizens? On top of that, the "winning bidder" for Michigan would have the expense of contacting all those 1,429 people, in a very short period of time. While it is *possible*, it is highly unlikely.

Come on, people! Can't you see that this whole Voteauction.com site is a caricature of an auction and a parody that is clearly designed to prompt discussion about how we fund elections in the U.S.A.?

Even Tom Leach, spokesman for the Chicago Board of Elections, has admitted to the press that this site appears to be a parody. Mr. Leach is quoted as saying, "When you read the Web site, it's almost like a parody or theater, but our concern is that some of our people registering on there are taking this seriously."

Source: "Officials Move to Shut Vote-Selling Web site" (APBnews) (visited October 17, 2000), available online at:

http://dailynews.yahoo.com/h/ao/20001017/cr/officials_move_to_shut_vote-selling_web_site_1.html

Of course it's a parody, Mr. Leach! How could anyone take this seriously?

Do you really think the public is that stupid? <sigh>

Steven Imparl, Esq.

Author, Internet Law: The Complete Guide

<http://www.imparl.net>

just my opinion about this idea

Date: Oct 16, 06:20

From: <Anonymous>

My first reaction was a big laugh, realizing all the ironic criticism behind this site. But when I learnt the owner had changed and now it is a bussines website I began to get sick and really bothered. I hope it will be a complete failure. Money must have its delimited space but this goes far beyond.
Regards, Robert

Take it easy, Take your Paxil, Take the site to Australia ...

Re: just my opinion about this idea

Date: Oct 16, 22:49

From: Rick

Oh, come on. You're the only one who gets this joke and now you're getting serious?

Fun stuff. Besides, even if for some ungodly reason they do buy a few votes, it's a few out of millions, and the wrath of god (or Janet Reno) will descend upon the wicked.

Who is really the bad guy here, if there is one.

Date: Oct 16, 07:57

From: ibrew2 <i.brew2@telebot.com>

Many people are upset with those offering to sell their votes, what about the bidders. Who are they, where is the key to look up the bidder number by name. A potential seller is just supposed to believe that someone would pay them? Is the cash coming via the tooth fairy? Why not tell who the bidder wants the block to vote for? How will we prove who we voted for? Even if I send you a copy of an absentee ballot you can't know if I cast it or burned it, can you?

Talk to me if

Date: Oct 16, 08:27

From: Lisa <caravita@msn.com>

you have used Voteauction.com

I am working on a story about Voteauction.com for Chicago public radio. I would like to interview someone who has actually bought or sold their vote!

We want a balanced story and it's definitely an

interesting one. Confidentiality can be a condition of the interview.

Call Lisa Smith at WBEZ FM in Chicago at (312) 832-3373

Open Letter to Mayor Richard M. Daley of Chicago Regarding V

Date: Oct 16, 09:45

From: Steven D. Imparl, Esq. <steven@imparl.net>

Dear Mayor Daley:

I have been informed that the Chicago Board of Elections intends to take legal action against a Web site <http://www.voteauction.com>

As a citizen of Chicago, I am disgusted by this blatant and illegal attempt to quash free speech of the ki

If you and the Board of Elections had bothered to look at the site, you would have seen that the site is a

Please note that, although I am a lawyer, I do not represent the owners of Voteauction.com or any of the (this is filed in state court).

Here is my analysis. Whenever I refer to "site" without qualification, I mean the Voteauction.com Web

1. Somehow, looking at the entire site, I just cannot see a conspiracy or a solicitation to commit voting
2. I have looked at the site extensively. It does appear to be a parody and a political commentary. This i
3. I do not see any real mechanisms in place for collecting information and turning that information into
4. The site refers to a "corporate bidder's agreement" which gives a "404" error when one tries to access
5. The bidders' "ID" numbers of the persons supposedly having the high bid are suspicious: they all end
6. There are no specifics about payment or anything related to payment mechanisms.

7. There has been some comment on an online mailing list I moderate that the presence of the New York d

Here's a news story about the how voteauction.com was treated in New York:

<http://www.cnn.com/2000/TECH/computing/08/23/voteauction.shutdown.idg/index.h>

Further support for the view that the site is a parody and a political commentary is available at:

<http://www.fsb.com/fortunesb/articles/0,2227,966,00.html>

Moreover, the mere fact that the site says "Not Valid in New York" merely means that New York offici

8. While some government officials claim that this site is buying and selling votes, I find little support f
9. While I do think the site is a joke; it does not appear to be "doing" much of anything. However, it doe
10. I think the original owner of the site presented it precisely for its shock value. That, in my opinion, i
11. With a considerable amount of imagination, one _might_ conclude that this site is engaged in illeg
12. I don't see any real buying and selling of votes actually occurring; the "bidding" process is highly st
13. Much of the commentary I have read assumes (in a rather circular fashion) that this site is indeed an
- Where are the notices of binding agreements to the bidders? --Where are the particulars about how the
14. At best, I see a caricature of an auction that has ruffled the feathers of politicians, perhaps because it h
15. Look at the entire Web site--the totality of the circumstances. You will see many links to commenta
16. The uproar in Illinois all apparently started because an oversensitive commissioner of Chicago's Bo
- question: why does this particular exercise of political speech frighten you so much?
17. That the site offends the sensibilities of government officials--who aren't eve
- special interest groups in campaign financing, "soft money," and the role of polit
18. To attempt to shut this site down would be to trammel on free political speech protected by the Unit

Afterthought: I wonder how many cars the Chicago Bureau of Parking Enforcement had to tow in order

Sincerely,

Steven Imparl, Esq.

Copies to:

Illinois' U.S. Senators, Various Journalists, Civil Liberties Activists, Internet Law Mailing Lists, Voteau

Should work wonders

Date: Oct 16, 11:56

From: Milo Mindbender

for getting poor voters to register ... This plainly offers a significantly more e
than the occupations of most of those who financed the early stages of the Bush ca

Now all we need is a website to swop US nationality for dot com shares and another offering free US ;
allow it's global users to register to vote in exchange for some piffling web surfing and with the synergy
should send the NASDAQ soaring :)

Wanna buy some cotton?

Voters should not be able to sell their vote

Date: Oct 16, 12:23

From: <Anonymous>

Hey, voters shouldn't be able to sell their vote, only elected officials can do that! You know what would happen to our economy if every single vote had to be purchased? Why, the big corporations would have to increase prices for their products, also on all those lobbying groups and PACs would go out of business! I say, let's keep things the way they are where only the select few can sell themselves (oops, I mean their vote) and get stinkin' rich at the expense of the voting populace. It's the american way!

Why not just sell non-votes?

Date: Oct 16, 12:44

From: <Anonymous>

Wouldn't any potential legal problems be eliminated if Voteauction.com simply sold non-votes?

For example, if I am voting for X, then for a fee I could abstain from voting, or for a higher fee promise to vote, but not for X.

It surely can't be legally suspect for being paid NOT to vote for someone. At least not in a free country, if there were one.

Good point!

Re: Why not just sell non-votes?

Date: Oct 16, 19:17

From: Abstainer

**I think you've found a
loophole in those laws!**

Don't be a whore, or a pimp!

Date: Oct 16, 12:48

From: Believe me

Only Democrats sell themselves to special interests. Look at Al Gore. He has flip flopped on almost everything he stands for. Bush takes money from oil, NRA, etc. Things he has always believed in and stands for. The difference: Al Gore stands up (err.. bends over) for the highest bidder, Bush supporters send money because they will benefit from what he already stands for.

BTW America is a republic, not a Democracy. And a persons right to buy a vote ends when it makes my vote less important. All get one vote. Use it or lose it. Don't pimp it.

Closing the auction in a timely manner

Date: Oct 16, 14:47

From: Red Porphyry <porphyry@vnet.net>

Now that it's the middle of October, voteauction.com needs to think about setting a closing date for the auction. I recommend that the closing date be at least a week before the general election to give the winning bidders sufficient time to inform the sellers in each state who they're supposed to vote for if they wish to get their share of the money.

I also recommend that a list be made public that shows, for each state, the Presidential candidate that the sellers are supposed to be voting for.

Red --

Viewing the results of this exercise

Re: Closing the auction in a timely manner (Red Porphyry)

Date: Oct 16, 17:33

From: Chai

Hi

Just found this site after reading about it and must say this is the highest form of capitalism I could find recently, but that's digressing from the point of this particular discussion.

I think it would be nice to see which candidate each voting block was bought for and if this alters in any way previous figures although the numbers I see so far shouldn't really affect the election at all.

Stupid Selling you vote, plus it is illegal

Date: Oct 16, 16:01

From: Strider <pepster64@themail.com>

Just one word of of advice, do sell you vote to the devil. Be a real american and vote.

Strider

Beware of the consequence

Date: Oct 16, 17:43

From: Cautious Web lover. <danbru@yahoo.com>

I don't have anything against this site, infact I wish I was old enough to vote. The reason I am writing is because this site is all over the news. Even though this site is in "cyber space" there are many laws out there, not only in place, but also in the process of being passed to prevent this site from being officially "legal." Be careful of what all of you are mocking, because it might come back and bite you in the ass.

Cautios Web lover

100% Illegal

Date: Oct 16, 19:10

From: Joe Pomykala

There is no doubt that selling or buying votes is 100% illegal. You place yourself at risk of prosecution if you buy or sell votes here. When the feds and states close this down, just expect it to go offshore like gambling sites.

However, one thing is interesting. It is illegal to directly sell your vote as done by voteauction.com, for \$14.34 or a donut for that matter. But indirectly, votes are sold by politicians every day - look at all the millions which are given legally as campaign donations right after key votes on certain laws. - look at how taxes are taken (legalized theft) and then redistributed to other persons by government, e.g. Democrats promising welfare, subsidies, Social Security, prescription plans, and other in-kind and cash transfer programs, they are all just buying the votes of the electorate. However, instead of using campaign funds which would cost them, they use public funds for the vote buying.

The War of the Words ...

Date: Oct 16, 22:41

From: Rick

The most important thing about politics is to discuss them, so you are providing an excellent service.

It certainly seems that everyone is uniformly taking this seriously, an amazing thing. I can't believe that people aren't laughing their toes off: I read the post titled "A Modest Proposal" and while the actual comment was boring, the title really tickled me.

Good luck with this ... It's on the evening news!!!! Congrats!

Plese answer - will this work?

Date: Oct 17, 01:49

From: Chai

A very quick question...

So election comes and the buyer pays out and the the sellers go to the booths to vote as the buyers indicated - is that guaranteed?

As I live in the UK at present (hi) I'm not sure of the US voting system but common practice is for votes to remain anonymous, so how can you check if the sellers voted as agreed?

Cheers

With Absentee Ballots, Probably

Re: Plese answer - will this work? (Chai)

Date: Oct 17, 07:34

From: Red Porphyry <porphyry@vnet.net>

Chai,

The answer to your question about whether this can work or not can be found at the following URL:

<http://www.cnn.com/2000/TECH/computing/08/24/internet.vote/index.html>

I quote the last two paragraphs of the article:

"James Baumgartner sold the site for an undisclosed price earlier this week [late August]. He launched voteauction.com in early August to allow undecided or disillusioned voters to sell their votes to the highest bidder in the November presidential election.

Whoever bid the highest for each state could decide how those participants would vote. The Troy, New York, graduate student HAD PLANNED FOR VOTERS TO MAIL HIM [copies of?] ABSENTEE BALLOTS TO VERIFY THE SELECTIONS. [emphasis added]"

In other words, anyone who's actually offering their vote for sale on voteauction.com will have to vote by absentee ballot and mail a copy of same to the winning bidder in his respective state to verify that he cast his vote for the candidate that the winning bidder ordered him to, and in order to collect his share of the money. Serious voteauction.commers will not be voting at their respective polling stations on election day.

Red --

Cheers Red

Re: With Absentee Ballots, Probably (Red Porphyry)

Date: Oct 17, 10:33

From: Chai

Here they're simply known as postal votes. I wonder if he meant that postal votes were to be sent to him and he would then post them to ensure the vote was cast or if he meant for the copies to be sent to him. Either way there are still problems, with the first option the authorities could easily introduce a rule to permit postal votes only if sent from within your postal area and with the second option a copy doesn't quite prove that a vote has been cast.

Now that the US has launched this kind of site, I can see the UK version being launched with the next elections (not far off now)

Stupidity

Date: Oct 17, 02:13

From: Bill <Bill@hotmail.com>

Man, you guys that are selling your votes are so right! Our fore-fathers were so c

Only polititions can be bought

Date: Oct 17, 06:12

From: Da Helper <swamis-helper@usa.net>

it seems in Chicago they want to ban this site, hmmm they are mad because they didn't get in on the ground floor and all the ghost voters that are on the rolls will have no value. If the congress and other state houses are up for sale damit I want a piece of the action too. why is it ok for congress to accept money and we can't sound like a bit of disparity to me. Now they will pass election reform just when we can make a killing and make some easy dough

It'll-Never-Happen.Com

Date: Oct 17, 07:14

From: Dr. Republican

Here's the new name for your website.

re: It'll never...

Re: It'll-Never-Happen.Com (Dr. Republican)

Date: Oct 17, 07:51

From: robbie

I don't think they can use apostrophes in a domain name.
Perhaps "itll-never-happen.com" or "it-will-never-happen.com"
But "it'll-never-happen.com" 'll never happen.

Politicians sell their votes

Date: Oct 17, 07:17

From: Eric <eafofny@yahoo.com>

Politicians sell their votes, in real world they're called bribes, but in politics they're called political contributions. I am of age for my first election, I'm 18 years old, and this is what I think of our system. Our system is corrupted and has been bought by big business. Politicians are the biggest criminals in our society but can hide behind public relations staffers and lawyers. I am selling my vote to the highest bidder just like my representatives in Washington do. Come and get me.

Why California?

Date: Oct 17, 07:22

From: Red Porphyry <porphyry@vnet.net>

The latest update says that registration of sellers has been suspended in Illinois due to pending litigation against voteauction.com. OK, but why has the registration of sellers in California been suspended? Same reason, or just an error on the site?

Red --

THIS SITE IS FRAUD! READ THE STORY!

Date: Oct 17, 08:17

From: <Anonymous>

You read it hear first!

[http://sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?
file=/news/archive/2000/10/16/politics2108EDT0769.DTL&type=election](http://sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/news/archive/2000/10/16/politics2108EDT0769.DTL&type=election)

Besides, if any official voted into office was caught "buying" votes, they'd be impeached.

TV looking for wisconsin voters

Date: Oct 17, 08:47

From: Eric <pug@execpc.com>

If you live in southeastern wisconsin and have registered your vote with vote auction we'd like to talk to you for a TV news story. Please contact Eric Melcher Managing Editor CBS 58 News in Milwaukee at 414-607-8140.

Think Twice . . .

Date: Oct 17, 09:00

From: MacIntyre Rose <MacIntyreRose@aol.com>

I just read the AP article about this web site and I have a few thoughts. Senators and congressmen sell their votes every day for money, meals, trips, sex, and sometimes things as politically pathetic as air time on TV (as in Al Gore's case with his gulf war vote). When the choices between the candidates are as bad as they have been in recent history; when watching the two candidates battle it out is like watching two jellyfish trying to sting each other to death (you don't care who wins because you can't tell them apart), selling a vote appears to be a good way to make some righteous bucks off of something nearly worthless. It's sort of like taking out a classified ad to sell something that was once useful but no longer fills the need. It SEEMS like a good idea.

But, . . . is selling your vote really the answer? No. Is selling your vote putting the power of your vote into the hands of foreign interests? Yes. Bite the bullet on the money angle and cast a protest vote if you feel that neither of the two candidates fits the bill, but don't sell out. To do so is just trading one set of scumbags for another. Remember, however much money you are making for your vote, these "vote-brokers" are making more. Hang in there and wait for a true candidate to rise out of the ashes. Don't lose hope that someday we'll have a straight shooter behind whom we can all rally. Leave vote-selling to the politicians. Let's not sink to their level.

All votes count!!!

Re: Think Twice . . . (MacIntyre Rose)
Date: Oct 17, 14:27
From: John Galt <annie.r@hotmail.com>

All votes count even my vote for the Libertarians. I both enjoy this web site and the involvement of everyone who participates; the previous message is eloquent and to the point. Do vote and please vote for what you want, not for the lesser of two evils.....The trains run now and ran then only because we facilitate their operationWe are all responsible.

A Disgrace

Date: Oct 17, 09:35
From: Rory <Rorysm@nme.com>

This is a disgrace to the principles of democracy that millions across the world have fought and died for. I personally hope that whoever buys your votes tells you not to vote at all (maybe we'd get decent statesmen for candidates if they didn't have to worry that their fate rests in the hands of people like you). This is what's wrong with the country, we're all asking "what's in it for me." Personally, I hope the publicity hounds who came up with this one get enough attention that decent Americans decide to get reinvolved in the election process. Of course, maybe this is the true hidden motive, in which case your might have the right motive, but the wrong method.

Get involved... but not like this.

GREAT IDEA!

Date: Oct 17, 10:15

From: Steve from Michigan

This is a great idea! It's about time someone thought of this!

Can I bid on a Candidate :-0

Date: Oct 17, 10:28

From: CITIZEN <HYPERNEWS@VOTEAUCTION.COM>

P i m p s You dont know the power of a vote... and what the candidates stand for...

Voteing is a lost choice!!!

Date: Oct 17, 10:34

From: Anthony Robinson <falcor27@excite.com>

I am very please to see this is going on. You lose your choice when you are forced to vote for idiots that you did not nominate. I should not be forced to choosed between losers that do not have my interests at heart. My vote means nothing when I am forced to vote for the people someone else nominated and therefore my vote is worthless and that is why I have never registered to vote. But I will now since I can profit from it as politics and the rest of the dog and pony show profit from blind idiot voters like those in Illionis. Perhaps a mob rule is what the land of licoln desires. They already have a gestopo for a police force may as well force voters into choices also.

A sad day for America

Date: Oct 17, 10:35

From: Mary <MJHotel@aol.com>

I just wanted to comment on how sad I feel today. When I was taking time to browse this internet and utilize the vast information source that is accessible to all people, I found this website. As a citizen of the United States I feel like I have been robbed of my innocence or perhaps my dream of America by looking at this information. I can only hope that all individuals who access this information, take it for what it is and feel sorry for those who invented the site. Most of all I hope that all Americans remember to be thankful to those who have come before us and fought for our freedom to make decisions.

Mary / West Virginia

NO BETTER THAN TERRORISTS!

Date: Oct 17, 10:59

From: Robin <robin@turtleheadtours.com>

It amazes me how many complain about the political structure of this country, yet will sell there vote to spite that

very process that gives them that right. Many argue this country is going down hill fast, I see a country prospering, with a strong economy. More Americans own homes then ever before, have more than one vehicle, and have what we would considered staples, TV,VCR,computers. What other country has so much and feels as if they have nothing? We are so blessed! To take a given right and privledge and sell it to the highest bidder, may seem like a economically sound decision, but it is foolish and unwise. Men and women gave their lives so that we could have this right, to horror ourselves out to the one that pays the most is very selfish. If we want to take an active stand our vote is the best tool we have. If we sell our vote, we are destroying that very tool. Tools were made to build and create, so let's build and create, stop committing suicide! Those who sell their votes are no better than terrorists.

Who owns your vote?

Re: NO BETTER THAN TERRORISTS! (Robin)

Date: Oct 17, 11:41

From: ItsAJoke <foo@bar.com>

If it's really "your" vote, why can't you sell it?

Not that it doesn't happen already... how many folks you think vote for the candidate who will preserve their form of taxpayer funded handout?

Does no-one realize this is not serious?

Date: Oct 17, 11:15

From: Markus <pomerius@aol.com>

I'm just stunned by the fact that almost everybody who posted a message here takes this site for real! Hello! This is a political parody! This is satire! This is meant to get you thinking about how elections are financed and what your influence is in the political process.

Re: Does No One Realize this is Not Serious

Re: Does no-one realize this is not serious? (Markus)

Date: Oct 17, 11:37

From: Steven Imparl, Esq. <steven@imparl.net>

Hi.

It cracks me up that the Chicago Board of Elections has filed a lawsuit about this site. I defy anyone here to show me how this site actually is offering to buy and sell votes in any manner that any sensible person would believe.

It appears that our politicians in Chicago are wasting taxpayers' money with frivolous litigation, in an attempt to get publicity for themselves.

Question: Has anyone who registered here actually received any e-mail with instructions about how to falsify the absentee ballots or to make this system work?

What we have at work here are bureaucrats who, having nothing better to do, are trying to censor free speech. That is disgusting.

Steven Imparl

Good Question

Re: Does no-one realize this is not serious? (Markus)

Date: Oct 17, 13:21

From: Tim

A Parody? Hmm... Please direct me to where the disclaimer is, if you don't mind. I'll admit I haven't looked into every nook and cranny here at this site. And, why are you criticizing people who think this site is for real? At least it is creating some good dialogue on the subject, wouldn't you say? Americans are notorious for their opinionated natures. I'm glad to see that most messages are against it. Perhaps you might care to add something informative to the discussion? Has anyone out there gotten a check yet?

Good Question (was Does No One Realize this is Not Serious)

Re: Good Question (Tim)

Date: Oct 17, 22:31

From: Josh <joshscholar@yahoo.com>

>I'm just stunned by the fact that almost everybody who posted
>a message here takes this site for real! Hello! This is a
>political parody! This is satire! This is meant to get you
>thinking about how elections are financed and what your
>influence is in the political process.

The problem is that when you get idiots to think, you'll be scared by WHAT they think. Then, of course, you'll be scared by what they do when they act on those thoughts.

>It cracks me up that the Chicago Board of Elections has
>filed a lawsuit about this site. I defy anyone here to show
>me how this site actually is offering to buy and sell votes
>in any manner that any sensible person would believe.

...

>What we have at work here are bureaucrats who, having
>nothing better to do, are trying to censor free speech. That
>is disgusting.

Nah, what we have are people who are too stupid to think through the implications of the site and realize that it's a harmless parody. As you can see by the messages on this board, these bureaucrats actually represent the "thinking" of their constituents pretty accurately. Our democracy/bureaucracy is working perfectly here. Doesn't it bring a tear to your eye?

> A Parody? Hmm... Please direct me to where the disclaimer
> is, if you don't mind. ...

It doesn't need a disclaimer. It's obvious that:

1. If people were actually serious about selling their votes to make money, it would cost too much to buy an election this way. So our CURRENT system of buying propaganda that only an uneducated idiot would pay attention to and of controlling the media will continue to be America's (perfectly legal) form of political corruption.
2. If people were really SO disillusioned with our current system that they'd sell their vote for a merely symbolic amount of money, then the message that would send could do no end of good. Imagine if a large number of people really DID sell their votes. Wouldn't that make waves!
3. We've got a secret ballot and have laws protecting that secrecy. Obviously people can't legally prove how they voted, so there's nothing binding them to keep their word. It's a joke. Got it? A joke.

Our system depends on campaign contributions buying blatantly dishonest propaganda. The main thing you should worry about is that people are SO gullible, so ignorant and so stupid that this system is actually effective.

Josh

Untitled

Re: Good Question (was Does No One Realize this is Not Serious) (Josh)

Date: Oct 17, 22:53

From: Josh

Doh.

I didn't look closely enough to realize that the web site doesn't even take the joke far enough to actually let people go though with buying votes.

I guess the makers of the voteauction are experienced enough to realize that people in authority who are too stupid to get a joke commonly persecute (by prosecuting) anyone makes a joke that they suspect may be at their expense.

Remember the cops beating the shit out of Abby Hoffman for wearing a suit made of American flags to an anti-war demonstration? Of course, now they sell suits like that in stylish clothing stores for many hundreds of dollars. Maybe that's why they beat up Abby; it's un-American to wear an American flag if you can't afford to pay \$800 for the privilege.

Josh

Rush is sputtering

Date: Oct 17, 11:25

From: Elom Strapunzillo <elomstrapunzillo@lycos.com>

LOL!! I just heard Rush Limbaugh screaming about this site..he CAN be fooled.....

Re: Rush is sputtering

Re: Rush is sputtering (Elom Strapunzillo)

Date: Oct 17, 23:04

From: Josh

>LOL!! I just heard Rush Limbaugh screaming about this
>site..he CAN be fooled.....

Nah. He just knows that his listeners are stupid enough to be fooled. You think HE respects dittoheads? That makes me LOL.

Josh

WHAT ABOUT THE CHILDREN, PEOPLE???

Date: Oct 17, 12:26

From: What will generation-x and generation-y think of us? <remember_the_children@kidzone.c

I feel so very sad about this whole issue, we have to realize that the children, generation "x" and "y", is watching our every move and observe what we do in the political arena...what will they think of us? wh will they say?

They are the future of American politics, they have the oppurtunity to change our system of government...is this the legacy that we want to leave them I ask you? Well, is it?

for instance, I know for a fact the Limp Biskits band is highly politically active and do care about the future of America and have a great influence with their fans who will soon be of voting age and will be active in American Politics. Limp Biskits has officially opposed this site and have contacted that fan ba

to protest this site because they believe that this is not the right way to run the country.

So I think we adults should look to the younger citizens of this country for inspiration. Listen to the Lin Biskits, they are well informed about American Politics. That's all I have to say. oh yeah one more thing...Limb Biskits says not to sell your vote, but cast it freely for GEORGE W. BUSH

By the way: it's Limp Bizkit and they don't give a sh*t

Re: WHAT ABOUT THE CHILDREN, PEOPLE??? (What will generation-x and generation-y thi

Date: Oct 17, 12:35

From: Mad man <lunatik@yahoo.com>

I AGREE WITH ONLY ONE THING YOU SAID...VOTE FOR GEORGE W. BUSH!!!!!!!!!!

This is disgraceful

Date: Oct 17, 12:51

From: D Petrie <dwpetrie@hotmail.com>

I'm sure that all the young men who died on the beaches of Normandy would be soooo proud that this sleazy site is what they gave their lives to defend. The signers of the Declaration of Independence who pledged their lives, fortunes, and sacred honor to give us these freedoms would be thrilled that a bunch of clowns would treat the privilege to vote with such disrespect. A vote is not a commodity, but a sacred trust. Look around the world at nations who have just gained their freedom from despots and dictators, they stand in long lines just to be able to exercise this privilege. If we continue down this path, then we are truly incapable of self governance, and will have our own tyrannical government once again, and we may not be able to overthrow it.

get over it dude, it's waaaaay more honest

Re: This is disgraceful (D Petrie)

Date: Oct 18, 02:18

From: chowderhead <chowderhead@peachfuzz.net>

i don't know what load of hogwash they were sold, but this IS what the "boys at Normandy" gave their lives for. this is the AMERICAN WAY!

malcolm x said "i have more respect for a man who tells me where he stands, even if he's wrong, than a man who comes up looking like an angel and is nothin' but a devil", or something to that effect, and that's exactly what this is.

my vote personally is not for sale, and can't be bought at any price, but this site is the most direct, effective statement i've seen on the state of American politics.

if you're keeping your vote, please vote outside the moneyed two-party system.

bravo, voteauction.com!@

however

Re: This is disgraceful (D Petrie)

Date: Oct 18, 15:09

From: michael

"Look around the world at nations who have just gained their freedom from despots and dictators, they stand in long lines just to be able to exercise this privilege." - if people in these countries could sell their votes for \$15 you'd see some really long lines.

Isn't this considered something akin to Voter Fraud?

Date: Oct 17, 13:10

From: Tim <southerngentleman1@yahoo.com>

There are a lot of rationalizations that are used to justify numerous things in life. I mean even a murderer can justify his murder in his own mind. The idea that special interest money which was used to pay for advertising should be used to "buy your vote" is just another rationalization for something that has no logical founding. Big company A with millions to spend wants to get rid of little companies B through F. Congressman X says he'll change the laws to help company A, because he's on the take as well. So big company A buys the votes, literally speaking on this site, to get Congressman X elected. This is but one TINY example of what could occur (and probably already does to an extent). Regardless, does that make it right? Life is far from ideal, but shouldn't we be aspiring to higher standards rather than the lowest? Was anyone else as fed up with, for example, the over commercialization of the Olympics? Isn't this just another example? The point is, if you aren't part of the solution, you are part of the problem. This could turn in to a really, really big problem. I have to wonder if the Mafia isn't funding a portion of this site. I always thought that that was how they operated, buying and selling judges, police, lawmakers, etc. I guess that song was right: "It's all about the money."

picky-picky

Date: Oct 17, 15:14

From: GoodGuyz <jtrombe@co.santa-barbara.ca.us>

Some interesting and passionate opinions but, after reading all of the messages, th

More Corruption in Government

Date: Oct 17, 19:01

From: Douglas Foster <BIGDSNJ@aol.com>

Get over it !

Date: Oct 18, 05:37

From: <Anonymous>

Please... Major parties have been buying (and selling) your votes for years. I pay part of the 'rent' on the White House and look what has been bought and sold there. If I want to use my vote in this way, then, by God, leave me alone! It's mine, I own it, I paid for it, I earned it wearing a uniform for 20+ years, I was willing to die for it, now; get the hell out of my way while I do what I want with my vote. For you soft-righteous, pompous jerks out there that are making this into more than it really is, are you just worried that you might not get the vote that I'm selling (or buying)? Or are you worried that the money you spent buying votes will be cancelled out with my effort? KMA!

The Sad Thing Is...

Date: Oct 18, 09:54

From: FedUpWithGovernment

that the Government is causing these things to happen. Our Federal Government has become so corrupt. We have a two-party system that gets to have Live Debates....not that I would ever vote for him, but, how come Ralph Nader and Pat Buchanan are unable to participate in the debates?

It's immensely sickening how soft money finances the elections. Special Interests (Hey, in a way, I understand...ya gotta make a living somehow) are what moves the halls of government.

You know, I really, really, really, don't think that the present day Government is what our founding fathers thought of when they declared independence. I really believe that they thought there would be more morality and an interest in improving the lives of Americans...and you can say all you want about how there's many good people in the government who truly do care, but the system has totally messed everything up. Who knows, maybe soon there will be another day of independence....independence from our half-assed government.

Vote selling....apathy...who could blame 'em?

Whats good for the Goose

Date: Oct 18, 10:30

From: Kei Kei <bartlett31@juno.com>

I want to sell my vote because what is good for the goose is good for the gander. I want to be paid for voting for a candidate wether they are good for the country or not.

The idea is no different from a politician being paid by special interests groups to vote for bills on their behalf. Even if the bill is not good for the country they just want their money.

Special interest groups have made the system what it tis today, so why not join the party and make

some money.

Thomas Jefferson would be proud of this site.

Date: Oct 18, 11:12

From: michael

Thomas Jefferson would be proud of this site. But not Lincoln or Washington.

Can we auction votes from other jurisdictions?

Date: Oct 18, 12:48

From: Carlos Pesquera

Puerto Rico has an election in three weeks time, also. So do other jurisdictions under the US flag. I'd love to see how something like what this website pursues would rate over our territories...

This is sick (and illegal).

Date: Oct 18, 13:28

From: Bruce <cbruce78@xmission.com>

If buying and selling votes were truly legal, Phillip Morris would be the number one bidder. This is vote fraud. This is prostitution. People who place their votes on the auction block are prostituting their liberties and rights fought for and won with the blood of our fathers, whether they be patriots, immigrants, or ex-slaves. All suffered hardship so that their children could have a voice in their government, in how their lives are affected by government. This vote is our voice. To sell that voice is to piss upon the graves of those who fought against tyranny, persecution, and prejudice to give us this vote.

?

Re: This is sick (and illegal). (Bruce)

Date: Oct 18, 15:00

From: <Anonymous>

what's wrong with prostitution? it doesn't kill anybody.

Prostitution never killed anybody....

Re: ?

Date: Oct 18, 23:52

From: Bruce <cbruce78@xmission.com>

In response to the previous post, to say prostitution never killed anybody is to say that rats aren't a

health risk. Rats carry plague and hanta virus. Prostitutes historically have spread syphilis and more recently aids, both diseases kill.

Now, in regard to this political prostitution, it is harmful as well. Tyrants rule only because the people allow them to. By selling this right to vote, we not only piss on the graves of those who died to get this right for us, but we open ourselves up to be ruled by unjust men. And I'm not talking just about a person with questionable morals in office. I'm talking about someone with NO morals, with a Corona in one hand and the other on the button. You want to see oppression? You want to know what it is like for someone to make your life miserable in order for their lives to be pleasant? Then sell your vote. Tyranny and injustice are possible in america. Just think back to slavery; those people couldn't vote. It was once legal to kill a man in america if he belonged to the Mormon church. It was evil, corrupt men IN OFFICE who did this.

Now, this "tyranny" won't take place in this election. It would take years of vote selling to do this. But by selling your vote today, you are helping to start America down this dark path.

I'd like to sell vote for Russian elections. Anybody buing?

Date: Oct 18, 13:55

From: TGTBTU

A vote for coming elections in Russia. will sell cheap.

Ohio TV looking for Vote Seller

Date: Oct 18, 14:51

From: Ted Hart <Hartted@wews.com>

Cleveland ABC-TV affiliate would like to do a story about voteauction.com. We're looking for Ohioans who have registered to sell their vote. Please contact Ted Hart, Special Projects Reporter. 216-431-3784. Hartted@wews.com

How much Does Freedom Cost? How much are you getting for it?

Date: Oct 18, 19:24

From: Josh Eaton <Captainshovel@hotmail.com>

Is becoming a slave worth 6 or 7 bucks? Not only would you be selling your own freedom, but your neighbors' freedom also. Want to bring the election process back to the people? Start by realizing that through the eyes of the main-stream media, good is evil and evil is good.

Votes for charity

Date: Oct 18, 20:14

From: Peter Lee <eelretep@hotmail.com>

Given the likelihood of and adverse court decision regarding sale of votes, why don't you guys accept votes as a donation. I would gladly give you my vote for this coming election, without compensation, if you could use it to further some worthy cause.

For example, you could form a political platform supporting a moratorium on internet taxes. You can then collect votes from people willing to donate their votes to such a cause. You then use that block of votes to persuade politicians to support your platform.

If I'm not being compensated, I fail to see how any laws could be violated. I'm basically saying, I support your platform and so I'll let you decide how my vote should go. I'm sure there are many people out there, who would otherwise not go through the hassle of voting, but would be willing to donate their votes to someone with similar political views and is willing to work towards them.

work for change

Date: Oct 19, 05:04

From: irenicon2

it is not in my heart to offend or degrade anyone nor America. In spite of our flaws we still live in the greatest country that has ever been. i am truly thankful to be an American. Look at the rest of the world. We have it pretty nice don't we. i am also honest when i look at my country. i see corruption in government and more pointedly, in our electoral processes. call it what you will, but votes are being bought and sold in our present way of doing things. some say contributions are not buying but only an attempt to influence. to them i say do not lie to me and don't lie to yourself. it's not good for you. we must find alternative ways of presenting all sides from all candidates to all people that will remove the negative effect that money has on all those who run for office. offering to sell your vote does indeed offend some people and not without just cause. I say financing candidates as we do now offends me just as greatly and also with just cause. it causes me to feel badly toward my country and the "leaders" in office. I understand as did our founding fathers and other wise men through the years, that "you can't trust politicians", but i'd like to trust them at least a little! if a movement such as voteauction can raise awareness and help to bring change, i think it has done its work. In the end I don't think it such a "bad" thing. It's honest and nonviolent. rebellious and shocking perhaps, but anything that confronts so boldly would of course appear so. i want change. could we not set a limit on money that could be spent? i remember when gas was short. there were car races run on a limited fuel supply. can we give all candidates equal tv time? could all candidates debate one another? i know these ideas are not a complete answer or maybe even good ones but we must try and we must try now. I registered to sell my vote for all good reasons. i am not a bad person. quite the opposite really. i'm a father and a husband. a middleclass worker. i am every dissatisfied and disheartend voter. i care about my country. i want my vote to count. it counts more this way by sending a message than it does by casting it for someone i don't beleive because they have been influenced by money. if this is criminal then i may become a political prisoner of the country i love.

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