



# MUIR REPORT: What I learned from watching the debates...

## What I learned from watching the debates....

Congressman **Delaney** looks like Gene Autry. Tulsi **Gabbard** has the best posture, Corey **Booker** looks like a member of the Legion of Super Heroes. The thing under **Beto O' Rourke's** nose looks like a flume from a water park, Elizabeth **Warren** needs to cut the coffee out and **Buttigieg** looks like a kid getting ready to ingest a PB & J sandwich and a glass of milk.

The amount of **platitudes** in a politicians repertoire are roughly equal to the amount of stars on a clear night. **No one actually** answers the question they are asked and no one has a well defined plan for anything.

**Everyone** talks at the same time. They need shock collars....

**Everyone** has a personal story for every issue. This was the greatest display of **false bravado** since the 2008 Republican convention when the debaters took turns graphically describing how they would disembowel Bin Laden.

**Mary Ann Williamson** stunned the crowd by shouting, "**The Emperor has no clothes**" and proceeded to correctly indict all the participants.

**Ms Harris** showed us how beauty and brains are a lethal mixture, but the real winners of these debates were the people **who made up** Joe Biden to look like he was 30 years old, **cropped** Elizabeth Warren's neck wrinkles and **made** Bernie Sanders' hair behave.

**We discovered** that any of the 20 participants would do a better job than King Joffrey Baratheon (Trump) .

The Democrats may have **inadvertently stumbled** upon the formula for winning the next presidential

election. *Every problem is solved on TV and it's all about entertainment.* Maybe it's time to replace the Trump, (I mean Jay Leno) late night show, who's ratings are slipping, and replace it with a Democratic sitcom. 20 players, enough for all of us to pick a favorite. Something for everybody, **a political Brady Bunch**, a few clever quips and some canned laughter? They could be scripted to **hurl insults** at each other, be given **impossible tasks** to perform and have the viewing audience **vote one of them off the panel** every month till the election. 2020 White House, here we come!

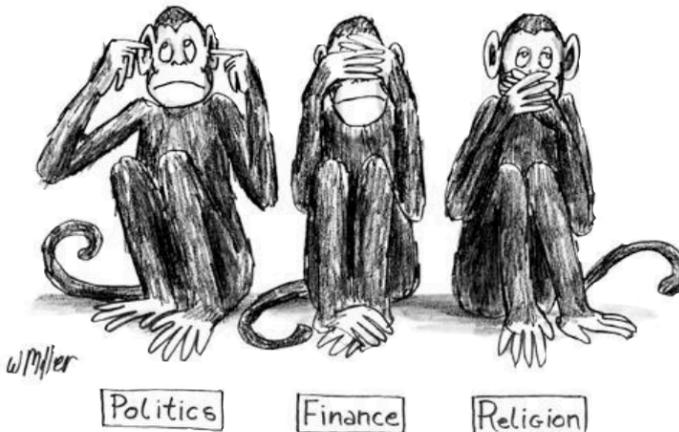
**While we equivocate** over exactly how much damage a bunch of rag tag, penniless, hard working, Christian immigrants would cost the country, the deluge of foreign money into our housing market continues to expand exponentially. **51% of all real estate sales** in New York City this past year were made by foreigners, **half of that Chinese**, who, by law cannot take out more than the equivalent of 50,000 dollars per year out of a country, with no private property, only 70 year leases.

The problem arises when **overseas money** is parked in already high cost housing markets and the property is allowed to be unoccupied, exacerbating the homeless problem and also creating virtual ghost towns like Arcadia California, where roughly **20 per cent** of the houses sit empty. Many of these buyers simply use the address to qualify for sending their children to state schools at a cheaper rate, thereby denying local residents a seat at the University.

**Ivanka Trump** is a party to selling visas to this country for tens of thousands of dollars.

What's the difference between open arms immigration and the incarceration of children? **MONEY**

**MUIRWALKER**



## SMARTPHONE VOTING - HOW SMART?

Two days after May's city elections, Denver's Elections Division held a low-profile audit of key parts of America's most radical new voting system. Over several weeks, 119 residents who were overseas had been using their smartphones to identify themselves and mark and submit their ballots online via **blockchains**, an encryption and storage method. The voters would get an emailed receipt listing their ballot choices, and later a survey asking what they thought about smartphone voting.

Denver and its technology and philanthropic partners were not just showing how they served overseas voters. They were presenting an unprecedented digital evidence trail, as there had never been a similar open audit of ballot receipts, ballot images and voting data kept on blockchains. The city was showing **how far** smartphone voting had come — an internet system whose proponents envision millions of Americans eventually using, but one that critics maintain is inherently untrustworthy.

"We will be live auditing the ballots cast through the **blockchain** against voter-verified digital receipts in today's audit," Denver Elections Deputy Director Jocelyn Bucaro said. The demo took 22 minutes. Only a few of the 119 overseas ballots were audited. It ended with Bucaro and Senti reminding those present that they could independently take these same steps with all of the ballots if they signed up.

Colorado was a national pioneer in voting by mail. When asked if the **app and blockchain** method was more traceable than the vote-by-mail system — where officials lose track of a voter's ballot once it is removed from an envelope (after a signature on the outside has been vetted), or its practice of sending and receiving ballots by email to the overseas voters — Bucaro did not hesitate. "Yes," she quickly replied. "It gives us more data points where we can test and ensure that things happened correctly."

There is an old but enduring schism about voting technology in America. One side favors computerized tools like the *Voatz* app to create ballots, record votes and tabulate results. The other favors **handmade ink marks** on paper and distrusts any layer of technology that stands between those marks and the

vote count. (Those favoring a mix of the best uses of paper and software tend to be distrusted by these factions.)

The technology used, *Voatz's* smartphone mobile voting app, is the most radical new voting system in America. Its features are a microcosm of the most contentious elements in today's systems — including what many jurisdictions are acquiring before 2020 (digitized ballot-marking devices), and what Democrats may use in 2020 presidential caucus states for voters who are not physically present (a telephone-keyed system in Iowa, for example, and possibly another online system in Nevada).

"This is a totally closed and close-mouthed system and company," said critic David Jefferson. "And it's just another internet voting system, however they wish to dress it up with a blockchain." He is a cybersecurity expert, board member of Verified Voting, an anti-electronic voting advocacy group, and co-author of that paper, speaking of *Voatz* and Denver's pilot before the demo.

"They're using terms that the security community means in a very specific way, and they're **faking it**," he said, referring to assertions that *Voatz* could verify ballots as they transited from smartphones to government election offices. "Their **ability to audit** is not end to end, or rather, it is — if you get to **pick the ends**, you can always achieve **end-to-end auditability**."

Seen loosely, this is a clash between proven 20th and emerging 21st century technologies — and innovation's role at the heart of voting. Hovering above this landscape is a more nuanced question applicable to all voting systems. Does it have an observable evidence trail legitimizing the results? In other words, **can it show** that voting has neither been disrupted nor corrupted?

These questions are not easily answered. That is because voting systems already rely on a mix of paper records and digital processing — sometimes seen and other times not visible. Many voters **don't realize** that people almost never count hand-marked paper ballots — computers do. For efficiency, speed and, many contend, greater accuracy, **optical scanners** are used. Such scanners utilize image-based software. Scanners **create and analyze digital images** of each ballot and their votes. That data is fed into the process's tabulation stage.

West Virginia was first to pilot *Voatz's* app for overseas voters. But Denver was first to open up the **blockchain piece** to quasi-public review — the city's audit demo. The other part of *Voatz's* app, using a smartphone's camera and its **biometric sensors** to authenticate voters, ensuring they are a real person (and not an avatar or fake computerized persona), was **not open** to review. That absence of wider scrutiny has angered internet voting opponents from computer science circles. These critics want *Voatz* to give its software code to hackers to attack, which has led to suspending online systems, as Switzerland has done. is the latest example.

Meanwhile, *Voatz* and its allies are pressing ahead. A day after the demo, Bucaro said the city did its own audit of the smartphone ballots — comparing the starting line and finish line records, and decrypting the blockchain in between. "Everything matched," she said, adding that twice the number of overseas residents voted in May compared to Denver's last local election, with half using the *Voatz* app. "Not only that, we collected survey results from voters who used the app. And 100 percent of them said this is how they'd prefer to vote in the future," she said.

Comments like these are a precursor to declaring the pilot a success. But when asked if she struggled with the **blockchain audit**, Bucaro said, "Oh yeah. **Blockchain** is incredibly hard to understand if you are not a computer scientist. I had to educate myself. It is difficult to explain to the public. I think the key is — it is redundant. It's auditable. It's more transparent. And the added layers of redundancy and encryption make it more secure, from our perspective. So as soon as I was able to understand all that, plus the fact that that data can't be altered once it's been written on the blockchain, and stored in the blockchain, without detection, that was all important."

An older generation of election officials, such as Florida's Sancho, said such complexity "works against wider distribution" of new voting systems. That seasoned perspective suggests that *Voatz* has a way to go before thousands of voters, let alone millions, use it. Denver's May pilot had 119 voters. Last November's West Virginia pilot had 144 voters. These are small-scale test runs in contests and not high-stakes elections. But that may soon change.

**Steven Rosenfeld**

This article was produced by Voting Booth, a project of the Independent Media Institute.

**AHHA**  
AFFORDABLE HOMELESS HOUSING ALTERNATIVES  
SAFE WARM DRY FIRST!

**Humboldt County Needs Affordable Housing!**  
Affordable Homeless Housing Alternatives  
Raising Funds for Land & Bridging Communities  
[www.ahha-humco.org](http://www.ahha-humco.org)  
(707) 267-4035      [ahha.humco@gmail.com](mailto:ahha.humco@gmail.com)  
840 E St., Eureka      PO Box 3794, Eureka, CA 95502

Hey Folks-  
Do you like what you see here?  
**GREENFUSE**  
is Produced on a shoe-string, a very thin shoe-string. with donated labor  
You can help keep us on the newsstand with a contribution,  
Write us at:  
Box 493  
REDWAY CA 95560,

[www.greenfuse.work](http://www.greenfuse.work)

**ANCIENT FOREST INTERNATIONAL**

"The question is not whether we will be extremist, but what kind of extremist we will be- will we we be extremist for hate, or for love"  
-MLK

PO Box 1850 Redway, CA 95560  
(707) 223-1294