

Congress delays voting machine reforms

by UPI

WASHINGTON -- Leaders of the U.S. Congress are delaying efforts to overhaul the nation's voting system until 2012, The New York Times reported Friday. Election officials from across the United States told Congress they could not implement changes in the way votes are cast in time for the 2008 presidential elections, the Times said. "My sense is there's no way to get this thing in place by the election of 2008," Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., and chairwoman of the Senate Rules Committee, told the Times. "Without adequate time, we could cause real problems in the election." Lobbyists for the disabled had also favored a delay because of concerns that some voters would not be able to use optically-scanned ballots favored by some members of Congress without special assistance. The overhaul of the voting system had been a priority of the Democrats in control of the Congress, but Senate Democrats told the Times that the delay could increase chances of winning passage of voting system reforms by gaining Republican support.

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