How To Steal an Election

It's easier to rig an electronic voting machine than a Las Vegas slot machine, says University of Pennsylvania visiting professor Steve Freeman. That's because Vegas slots are better monitored and regulated than America's voting machines, Freeman writes in a book out in July that argues, among other things, that President Bush may owe his 2004 win to an unfair vote count. We'll wait to read his book before making a judgment about that. But Freeman has assembled comparisons that suggest Americans protect their vices more than they guard their rights, according to data he presented at an October meeting of the American Statistical Association in Philadelphia.
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Manufacturers subjected to background checks. Employees are investigated for criminal records. Citizens have no way of knowing, for example, whether programmers have been convicted of fraud.

By a public agency at arm's length from manufacturers. Public questions invited. By for-profit companies chosen and paid by the manufacturers. No public information on how the testing is done.

Casino must contact the Gaming Control Board, which has investigators on call round the clock. They can open up machines to inspect internal mechanisms and records of recent gambling outcomes. In most cases, a voter's only recourse is to call a number at the board of elections that may or may not work to lodge a complaint that may or may not be investigated.