Don't wait until Election Day to find out you have the wrong ID, your registration's "inactive," (9.9 million of you) or you're on some creep's challenge list.

1. Don't Don't DON'T Mail In Your Ballot

For those of you who mailed in your ballot, please tell me, what happened to it? You don't know, do you? I can tell you that in the last election, half a million absentee ballots were never counted, on the flimsiest of technical excuses. And when they don't count, you don't even know it. Worse: Tens of thousands of ballots are not mailed out to voters in time to return them - in which case you're out of luck. Most states won't let you vote in-precinct once you've applied to vote absentee. Every time I hear of a voter going "absentee" to avoid computer screens, I want to "go postal."

2. Vote Early – Before the Ballot Bandits Wake Up

Every state now lets voters cast ballots in designated polling stations and at county offices in the weeks before Election Day. Do it. Don't wait until Election Day to find out you have the wrong ID, your registration's "inactive," (9.9 million of you) or you're on some creep's challenge list. By Election Day, if your name is gone or tagged, there's little you can do but hold up the line.

3. Register and Register, then Register Again

Think you're registered to vote? Think again, Jack. With all this purg'n going on (13 million and counting), you could be x'd out and you don't know it. So check online with your Secretary of State's office or call your County Board of Elections. Then register your girlfriend, your wife, your mailman, and your mommy. Then contact the Rainbow PUSH Coalition, the League of Women Voters, and Rock the Vote and commit to a couple of days of door-to-door registration, especially at social service agency offices. In Florida, that means you'll get arrested. I'll send a file in a cake.

4. Vote Unconditionally, Not Provisionally

In 2012, they'll be handing out provisional ballots like candy, a couple million to Hispanic voters alone. If your right to vote is challenged, don't accept a provisional ballot that likely won't get counted no matter what the sweet little lady at the table tells you. She won't decide; partisan sharks will. Demand adjudication on the spot of your right to a real no-BS from poll judges. Or demand a call to the supervisor of elections; or return with acceptable ID if that's the problem. And be a champ: defend the rights of others. If you've taken Step 1 above and voted early, you have Election Day free to be a poll watcher. You'll need training and credentials, either from a

voter group or, in some states, a designation from a political party. Then challenge the challengers, the weird guys with BlackBerrys containing lists of “suspect” voters. Be firm, but no biting.

5. Occupy Ohio, Invade Nevada.
The revolution will not be podcast. Let go of that mouse, get out of your PJs and take the resistance door-to-door - to register the vote, to canvass the voters, to get out the vote. Donate time to your union (if you’re not in a union, why not?) or to the troublemakers listed here. This may seem a stupendously unoriginal suggestion, but I know of no other method more effective for confronting the armed and dangerous junta that would seize the White House.

6. Date a Voter
Voting, like bowling and love, should never be done alone. As our sponsor, the Rev. Jesse Jackson says, make a date to ‘Arrive with Five.’ And keep a copy of Billionaires & Ballot Bandits in your holster, our website www.BallotBandits.org and a photo ID that matches your registration name and address. And Bobby, make sure your ID says, “Robert F. Kennedy JUNIOR” – or your vote is toast.

7. Make the Democracy Demand: No Vote Left Behind!
I have this crazy fantasy in my head. In it, an election is stolen and the guy who’s wrongly declared the loser stands up in front of the White House and says three agic words: “Count the votes.” You
can have all the paper ballots in the world, but if you don’t demand to look at them, publicly, in a recount, you might as well mark them with invisible ink.

Democracy requires vigilance The Day After. That’s when you check in at www.BallotBandits.org one more time. Who are these masked men? Who are the Ballot Bandits?

Greg Palast is the author of the New York Times bestseller, "Armed Madhouse" (Penguin Paperback 2007). When Palast, an investigator of corporate fraud and racketeering, turned his skills to journalism, he was quickly recognized as, "The most important investigative reporter of our time" [Tribune Magazine] in Britain, where his first reports appeared on BBC television and in the Guardian newspapers.