

# Upgrade Democracy with Technology

BRENNAN CENTER FOR JUSTICE  
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## Congressman Introduces Bill to Address Outdated Voting Technology

May 2, 2016

U.S. Rep. Hank Johnson (D-Ga.) [introduced](#) the Verifying Optimal Tools for Elections Act (VOTE Act) last Friday, which would create a \$125 million grant program to replace aging voting machines in precincts across the nation.

In addition to upgrading outdated machines, the VOTE Act would allocate funds specifically for educational resources for election officials and incentivize states to develop open-source technology, such as those used in Los Angeles, California and Travis County, Texas, through another grant program.

"We applaud Congressman Johnson, the first member of Congress to introduce a solution to the looming voting technology crisis," said **Lawrence Norden**, deputy director of the Brennan Center's Democracy Program. "The VOTE Act proposes common sense solutions that would have immediate impact for many precincts that are struggling to find funds to replace outdated and aging equipment."

"No one expects a laptop to last for 10 years. How can we expect these machines, many of which were designed and engineered in the 1990s, to keep running?"



## Evolution of the Smartphone



'World's Cheapest Smartphone' Goes On Sale For \$4 In India