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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE UNPREPARED TO HANDLE ALLEGATIONS OF VOTING IRREGULARITIES

Washington, DC — Today, Rep. John Conyers and Rep. Henry A. Waxman released a Government Accountability Office (GAO) report finding that the Justice Department is not prepared to address allegations of voting irregularities in next month's elections. GAO found that the Justice Department has not established clear procedures for recording allegations of voting irregularities and Justice Department actions taken to address them.

GAO found that the Justice Department is unable to reliably track reports of voting irregularities. According to GAO, the Department does not have a consistent method to record and document allegations of voter intimidation and disenfranchisement; it has no written instructions for contractors who might be hired to assist in handling reports of voting irregularities on election day; and it does not routinely track its election monitoring and enforcement activities.

"In what appears to be another razor-thin election, the Justice Department appears woefully unprepared, and once again has left us vulnerable to another crisis in Democracy. The fundamentals of election protection are clearly not being met," said Rep. Conyers.

"It is inexcusable that the Justice Department is not fully prepared to protect the right of all Americans to vote," said Rep. Waxman. "The Justice Department does not have the systems in place that are necessary to respond to reports of voters being turned away from the polls on Election Day."

The letter to the Attorney General and the GAO report are available at: www.democrats.reform.house.gov.