The Mail-In Ballot Fiasco
August 17, 2020

"Since 1936, the Social Security Administration has issued **450+ million** SSNs. The current population of the United States is around 320 million people, so this number makes sense."

While many Americans are concerned about the outcome of the national elections, one problem may be the way in which the election is determined. The coronavirus has accelerated the demand for mail-in ballots for those people who are either unable or unwilling to go to a polling station to cast their vote. As has been demonstrated by recent elections where mail-in ballots have complicated the outcome of elections at the local level, imagine the risks of abuse at the national level! Do not ignore the fact that we are a leader in information technology, where is the application of this capability to the voting process? Unfortunately, the application of such advances appears to be zero and we are going backward in that a polling place now has paper ballots to ensure accuracy in the vote. For many years, the voting was counted by machines and not paper ballots. How many people must be involved in counting paper ballots? Are they all honest? If illegal immigrants or dogs and cats can determine the outcome of elections through devious voting and illegitimate paper ballots, what happens next?

Why don't politicians ask information technology companies to come up with a means to address the problem? How many legitimate voters have access to a computer? Given our progress at the state and local level, we could put together a combination of a Social Security number and an internet connection to allow virtually everyone to vote legitimately. People do not have to be able to access the internet, all they need is public access through a library or other public building that has internet access. In the extreme, if they do not have that access, a legitimate polling person should be able to bring a laptop to them to cast their vote. As we fight back against crooks who are hacking our computers, there should be the ability to come up with a system to minimize illegitimate voting. In addition, with the help of all that technology muscle, the outcome of any election can be determined in hours, not days or weeks. We are not technicians nor information technology gurus, but such an approach makes much more sense than counting paper ballots by thousands of people over weeks if not months.

If the mail-in fiasco dominates the November elections, the official outcome could be put off for weeks. The presidential outcome could become secondary to the official results for the Congress. Remember the confusion of the 1980 election and the uncertainty that came down to the decision of the Supreme Court as to what votes were cast and not cast. What happens if the outcome has not been determined by the end of November or, in a worst case, January? This situation could happen if there are a myriad of challenges to close elections. This will be an election to remember!