Protect Your Vote
Vote Early and In-Person

REFORM ELECTIONS NOW
Breaking the partisan gridlock

The Two Parties are at War over our Elections.

- President Trump claims the 2020 election was stolen.
- He claims Democrats cheat.
- He has said repeatedly that mail-in votes are ‘MASSIVE VOTER FRAUD.”
- He suggested the Federal government nationalize elections
- He has threatened to send ICE and other troops into inner cities.
- Republicans have introduced the SAVE Act to protect elections, but Democrats believe this act will disenfranchise tens of millions of voters.

When you talk to Democrats, they will tell you they are frightened the President will interfere with the elections to secure Republican victories.

When you talk to Republicans, they will tell you they are frightened that Democrats in inner cities will permit non-citizens to vote and stuff ballot boxes with fake mail-in votes.

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Our Election System is Broken

- Our registration systems are highly inaccurate, because most states don't exchange information with each other and voters are constantly purged from the lists.
- There is widespread disagreement on how to check a voter's identity and ensure non-citizens are not voting.
- Many voters face long lines and long distances to vote on Election Day.
- Our voting equipment is very old, leading to problems of breakdowns and calculation errors.
- The counting of mail-in votes has led to significant controversies.
- Reporting of election results increases distrust, especially when the candidate in the early lead is defeated by late counted mail-in votes.
- Without effective audits of the elections, claims of cheating or fake voting cannot be explained.
- Because almost no states publish the results of their audits. voters have no way of knowing if the auditing process is honest or effective.

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Long-Term Solutions- Short Term Remedies

- The differences between the two parties appear to be very wide, but we believe there are solutions that will significantly increase trust in our election system so both sides can be comfortable that our elections are “fair and honest.”
- Most of these solutions will require legislation, primarily on the state level. That means, even if both parties can agree, it will take time to pass these laws.
- Right now, the biggest risk is from the 2026 election.

Our goal for 2026 is to turn down the temperature for the election, make it easy to vote and eliminate the debate over illegal votes and cheating.

If we do not reduce the divisions in 2026, we could be facing permanent damage to our democracy and even greater polarization.

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Risks to the 2026 Elections

What are the risks in 2026?

- Voters will be purged from registration lists.
- Election workers will be pressured to reject a higher percentage of mail-in votes.
- Military in the streets of the cities could disrupt elections.
- As a result, many elections could swing to one side or the other, leaving both sides believing elections have been stolen.

Before we turn to the specific risks, let's how few votes are needed to disrupt an election.

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2020-Mail-in Conundrum

The most interesting issues with rejections of mail-in votes came in 2020 and likely resulted in claims the election was stolen.

- Prior to the 2020 election, many experts predicted the rejection rate would hit historic highs, largely because first time mail-in voters have been three times more likely to have their votes rejected.
- The 2020 Presidential primaries painted an ominous sign. In the primaries, more than 550,000 mail-in ballots were rejected, 73% more than in the entire 2016 final election, in which there were 3x more votes. Based on the results in the primary, experts expected the rejection rate would rise 5x from 2016.

- In addition, final elections usually have higher rejection rates than primaries, because primary voters tend to be more experienced and focused on elections.
- Thus, with primaries having rejection rates 5x that of 2016 and with a projection that the rejection rate would further increase in the final election, most experts projected a record high rejection rate for 2020. .

***More Than 550,000 Primary Absentee Ballots Rejected In 2020, Far Outpacing 2016, Pam Fessler, NPR, 8/22/2020)**

Rejection Rates Hit Record Lows in 2020

Despite the projections that rejection rates would hit record highs, they sunk to record lows.

- In Pennsylvania, 37,000 mail-in votes were rejected in the primary. In the general election, with 3.5x the turnout, rejected votes dropped to 34,171. The rejection rate in the primary was 5.2%. In the final election, where it should have been higher, was 1.3%. If the final election had the same rejection rate as the primary. An additional 110,230 votes would have been rejected, more than enough to swing the state to Trump.
- In Wisconsin, more than 23,000 ballots were rejected in the primary. In the general election, with almost 3x the turnout, only 2,981 ballots were rejected. The rejection rate in the primary was 4.6%. In the final election, it was 0.2%, If the percentage had been the same as in the primary, about 48,000 more votes would have been rejected, and Trump could have won.
- The same pattern followed in Georgia. Fewer votes were rejected in the final election than in the primary, which had much less than half the turnout. In addition, the percentage of rejected votes dropped from 6.4% in 2016 to 0.4% in 2020.
- The low rate of rejections seem to have shocked President Trump, and, we believe led to his claims of a stolen election.

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Early Voting Periods by State

Early in-person voting is easier than most people think.

All states except Alabama, Mississippi, and New Hampshire have early voting. Oregon is all mail, so it does not have in person early voting.

- In some states, counties have the final decision, so early voting may differ between counties.
- Some states call their system, “no excuses, in-person absentee voting.” In other words, a voter shows up in person and votes “absentee.”
- There are 13 states with 27 days or more of early voting. Four of those have 40 days or more. This is not a partisan issue. Of the 13 states, 4 are largely blue, 6 are red, and 3 are purple.
- States with the longest early voting period are more red than blue. These states include: Arizona 27, Illinois 40, Indiana 28, Maine 30, Minnesota 48, Montana 30, Nebraska 30, New Mexico 28, Ohio 29, South Dakota 46, Vermont 45, Virginia 45, Wyoming 28.
- It should not be a surprise that 79.96% of Minnesota voters voted early in 2024 with 48 days of voting.
- Surely someone in Arizona could find a time in the 27 days before Election Day to cast a ballot, while someone in Virginia could find a time in the 45 days before Election Day.

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Long-Term Solutions

Once we have lowered the temperature on the 2026 elections, we can focus on the long-term solutions to the problems in our voting system.

- These solutions will be far more complex than the solution for 2026.
- They will require substantial bipartisanship and actions by both state and federal governments.
- However, if we can turn away from the hysteria of 2026, we can focus on these longer-term problems.

We will present these solutions in Part-2 of this presentation.

Please join us on March 31.

Peter J. Siris
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