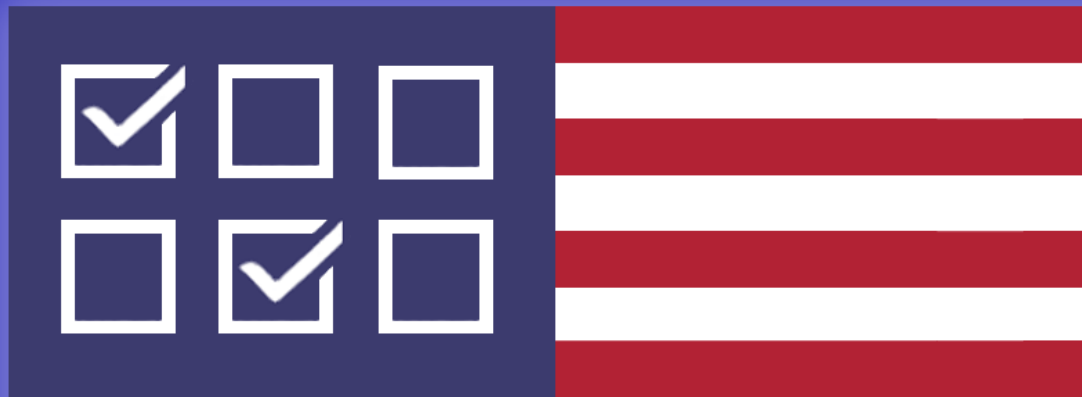


***Protect Your Vote
Vote Early and In-Person***



**REFORM
ELECTIONS
NOW**

Breaking the partisan gridlock

The Two Parties are at War over our Elections.

- President Trump claims the 2020 election was stolen, Democrats cheat, and mail-in votes are ‘MASSIVE VOTER FRAUD.’
- He suggested the Federal government should nationalize elections
- He has threatened to send ICE and other troops into inner cities.
- Republicans have introduced the SAVE Act to protect elections.
- 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.

Our Election System is a Mess

Many voting issues are caused by way our election system is structured.

- Most countries have one election system.
- We have 51 state systems and 8,000 local systems.
- Each state, and sometimes each county, has its own rules for early voting, mail-in voting, voter registration, counting, and auditing of elections.
- Because of the differences, we end up with a hodge-podge of rules and regulations that lead many to question elections.
- That is why the U.S. ranks at the bottom of all developed countries in terms of trust in voting.

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 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 as mail-in votes are counted.
- Without effective election audits, 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.

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 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.

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, we need to understand how few votes are needed to disrupt an election.

Changing Elections Takes Very Few Votes

Disrupting a major election sounds impossible. But the numbers show that changing results only requires changing small number of votes in a few locations.

- In 2000, 538 votes in Florida would have swung the election to Gore.
- In 2004, 118,202 votes in Ohio would have swung the election to Kerry.
- In 2020, Trump lost Arizona by 10,457 votes, Georgia by 11,779 votes, and Wisconsin by 20,582 votes.
- Had Trump received or Biden lost an additional 42,921 votes in these states, Trump would have tied Biden with 269 Electoral Votes and won the Presidency in the House of Representatives.
- Changing the 2020 results, would have required less than 0.4% of the votes.
- In 2024, Senate elections in Pennsylvania and Michigan were settled by 15,115 and 19,006 votes, 0.22% and 0.34% of the total.
- In other words, the results of many elections can be different if only a small number of votes are changed.

UOCAVA War

If you want to understand how small and petty this voting war has become, look at the fights in swing states over UOCAVA (Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act).

- American citizens who live overseas, including military, have the right to vote. However, many governments make it difficult for them.
- **In 2024, 11% of eligible UOCAVA voters cast ballots compared to 76.1% of all voters.* Among this total, military votes have a lower percentage of voting than other overseas voters.** Shouldn't we encourage turnout for people who are defending our country?
- To make it more difficult for these people, many of the swing states are trying to prevent those who have never lived in the state, but whose parents are registered in the state, from voting.
- For example, an 18-year-old is living with his parents on an overseas military base in the Persian Gulf. His parents are from Arizona, but because he has physically never lived in Arizona, there is an effort to stop him from voting. If he can't vote in Arizona, in what state can he vote?
- In fact, the Arizona legislature passed a law barring these people from voting. The Governor vetoed it.
- It is important to understand the extent of the problem for which this law was passed.
- Pima County (Tucson) has 670,000 registered voters, of which 3 would be disqualified by this law. Based on these averages, Arizona would have 19 registered voters who had not physically lived in the state.
- Imagine passing a law to stop 19 people, in a state with 7.8 million people, from voting. The two parties are fighting over very small numbers.

Where To Find These Votes

If Republicans want to discourage Democrats from voting, they only need to look in the swing state cities of Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Atlanta, Milwaukee, Phoenix, Tucson, Detroit, Las Vegas, Raleigh-Durham, Charlotte, and around Native American reservations.

No one else counts.

The same is the case for the Democrats, except instead of in cities, they will find Republicans in rural areas.

Voter Caging and Purging

The first step in the fight to limit the other party is caging and purging voters from registration lists.

- In caging, a political party sends registered mail to the address of voters they have identified as being unfriendly to their cause.* If the mail comes back undeliverable, the voter is placed on a caging list. The political party then petitions to remove that voter's registration.

Purging is the act of removing a voter from the registration list.

- 19 million voters were removed from the registration lists between 2020 and 2022, equating to 8.5% of all voters. This was an increase of 21% from 2014-2016 and about a 40% from 2006 and 2008. This either shows states are doing a better job maintaining their lists or they are trying to keep some people from voting.
- Results varied dramatically by state. From 2022-2024, Mississippi purged 42% of its voters, while New York purged only 0.1% of its voters. Did 42% of people in Mississippi move or die in 2 years? How could New York have removed so few voters?
- Some of those removed may have moved or died, but many may still be fine and may have only forgotten to send back a card from their Election Bureau. In some states, some are removed for not voting in previous elections. **
- With mistakes from voters and active campaigns by political parties, millions of potential voters are removed from registration lists, likely impacting election results.

Encouraging Rejections of Mail-in Votes

The second issue involves convincing states to take a harder line on rejecting mail-in ballots.

- Historically, both parties voted by mail in roughly equal percentages.
- However, in 2020 with the pandemic and President Trump speaking against mail-in votes, 60% of Democrats and only 32% of Republicans voted by mail. In 2024, the margin narrowed to 37% vs. 24%.
- The problem for Democrats and opportunity for Republicans is that some mail-in votes are rejected.
- Some are rejected because they do not contain sufficient information, such as a notary (if required) or witness signature. But most are rejected because the election official thinks the signatures don't match.
- There are no national standards on signature verification or other elements that result in the approval or rejection of a vote.
- However, with the President focusing on illegal votes and with potential inspection by the federal government, states in 2026 could use tougher standards for approving mail-in votes.

Rejection Rates By State

Rejections vary substantially by state and by election.

- New York averaged 13.7% rejections in 2018, while Delaware averaged 13.2% in 2022. These are both Democratic states, yet they led the country in the percentage of rejections.
- Rejection rates can also vary significantly by elections. New York's rejection rate dropped from 13.7% in 2018 to 3.6% in 2020. Delaware went from 1.3% in 2020 to 13.2% in 2022. Perhaps people in N.Y. learned how to sign their names while people in Delaware forgot.
- North Carolina went from 6.8% in 2018 to 0.9% in 2020. Kentucky went from 5.6% in 2016 to 0.5% in 2020. These numbers tell us that this is not a partisan battle. The highest rejection rates were in Democratic states and the lowest in Republican states. It also tells us there is little consistency.

The point is simple. There are no accepted standards for rejecting mail-in votes even in the same state.

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 there was a surge in mail-in votes and 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.

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.
- We believe the low rate of rejections surprised President Trump help lead to his claims of a stolen election.

Election Offices Can't Handle Votes

Why did rejection rates plummet between the primary and the general election?

- The likely answer is that election offices were overwhelmed.
- In 18 states plus D.C., the number of mail-in votes surged from 2.9 million to 21.6 million, an average increase of 676%. Three states and D.C. had over a 10-fold increase. 5 others had more than an 8-fold increase.
- With limited staff and budgets, many states were unprepared for the volume of mail-in votes.
- These votes take extra time to handle. Envelopes must be opened, signatures compared, other form of identification confirmed, and ballots fed into machines.
- The problem was worst in states like Pennsylvania that cannot start to process mail-in votes until Election Day.
- With these pressures, election offices likely approved ballots they might have rejected in previous years or in the primary.

State	MAIL-IN VOTES		% change
	2016	2020	
ARK	27,525	117,555	327.1%
CONN	132,012	673,899	410.5%
DEL	14,025	163,234	1063.9%
DC	16,625	235,486	1316.5%
GA	213,033	1,316,165	517.8%
ILL	377,551	2,013,990	433.4%
KY	38,112	634,595	1565.1%
MD	160,508	1,505,791	838.1%
MASS	155,894	1,531,001	882.1%
MO	279,188	905,132	224.2%
NV	73,425	670,091	812.6%
NJ	355,457	4,228,687	1089.6%
NY	402,151	1,832,724	355.7%
NM	61,287	339,906	454.6%
NC	179,263	981,816	447.7%
PA	266,208	2,653,688	896.8%
RI	39,727	318,426	701.5%
W. VA	12,558	142,445	1034.3%
WIS	139,988	1,305,082	832.3%
Total	2,944,537	21,569,713	632.5%

Rejections Could Increase in 2026

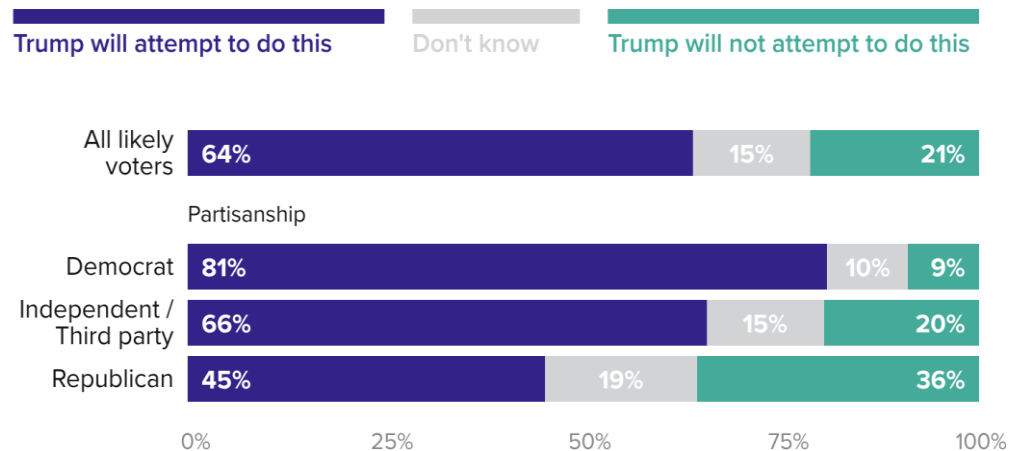
This analysis of 2020 should teach everyone some lessons.

- There was no plot or cabal to fix elections. There were only understaffed election offices struggling to deal with a surge in mail-in ballots and report results in an extremely close election.
- Democrats won the election but had the rejection rate of mail-in votes been higher, as had been predicted, especially after the primaries, rather than lower, results could have been different.
- There is a reason Trump keeps harping on mail-in votes in Georgia. Different standards could have made a difference.
- Just as the pressure to finish counting likely lowered rejection rates in 2020, so pressure on how to treat mail in votes could raise rejection rates in 2026.
- Many states could take more rigorous approach, and a higher percentage of votes could be rejected.
- When states like New York have had rejection rates of over 13%, Congressional and other races could be impacted if a substantial number vote by mail.
- We need a better system for processing and counting mail-in votes.
- However, people mailing in ballots should recognize that rejection rates could increase and they could lose their vote.

*Five ThirtyEight : Why so Few Absentee Ballots were Rejected in 2020, Nathaniel Rakich, 2/17/2021

Voters Believe Trump Will Attempt to Use ICE to Interfere in 2026 Midterms

Do you think President Trump **will** or **will not** attempt to deploy immigration enforcement agents to prevent participation in the 2026 midterms?



January 30–February 2, 2026 survey of 1,307 U.S. likely voters

DATA FOR PROGRESS

Create Bedlam in Inner Cities

A third step to disrupt elections would be for the President to mobilize ICE or the Armed Forces to inhibit voting in inner cities.

Trump has the authority of send the National Guard, ICE, and the U.S. Armed Forces into cities to protect against insurrections or other civil disturbances as he has in Minneapolis and other cities.

- 64% of voters, including 81% of Democrats 66% of Independents, and 45% of Republicans believe Trump will use ICE to interfere in the 2026 Midterms.

Disruption By ICE on Election Day

- Any mass assembly of these troops would be countered with lawsuits claiming the Administration was only employing them to interfere with the elections.
- Given the existing laws, most of the lawsuits would likely be upheld.
- If the lawsuits were upheld and injunctions were issued, the President would withdraw all troops and follow the law.
- This means the Administration would have a narrow time window to deploy the National Guard, ICE, and the military.
- The only real opportunity to deploy a mass number of troops to inner cities would be on Election Day.

How Armed Forces Could Interfere with Voting

To be clear, ICE and the armed forces would not be allowed in or next to polling places, but they still could have a major impact on voting by:

- Asking for proof of citizenship, which most people do not carry, and detain those who could not provide it.
- Threatening those who might be related to non-citizens.
- Blocking streets, making it more difficult for many to reach their polling places.
- Conflicting with local citizens, leading to civil disturbances that would deter people seeking to vote.

The introduction of the military on the streets of cities in swing states on Election Day could impact turnout. By the time the courts adjudicated, the election would be over.

Military on Interstate Highways

Another opportunity is to send the military to interstate highways near Native American reservations.

- Most reservations do not have polling places.
- Native Americans often must travel long distances to vote, in some cases hundreds of miles.
- Many do not have proof of birth or citizenship.
- It would be simple to send ICE to the highways between an Indian reservation and a polling place, stop native Americans, and ask them for proof of citizenship.
- As in the case of the inner cities, the objective might not be to stop someone from voting, rather it might be to hassle and delay enough that they give up on voting.

The Administration Can Disrupt Elections

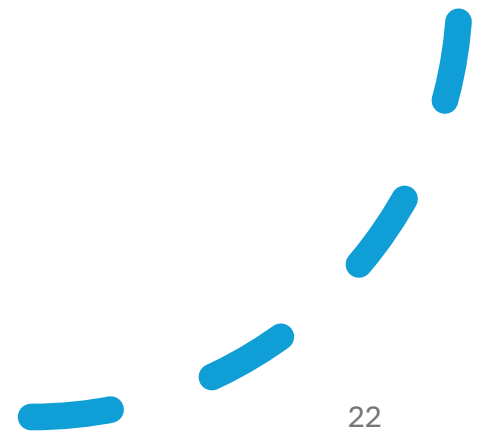
With appropriate political pressure, it should not be difficult to:

- Get states to purge a substantial number of voters.
- Get states to tighten their standards for mail-in votes, leading to much higher levels of rejections.
- Send the National Guard, ICE, and the U.S. Armed Forces to the minority areas of cities in swing states to deter hundreds of thousands of people from voting.
- Send the military to highways next to Native American reservations to deter tens of thousands of Native Americans from voting.
- Get states to pass legislation limiting UOCAVA voters.

Even though the President has no say over elections, the Administration has enough tools at its disposal to disrupt the 2026 elections.

What Can Voters Do?

This all sounds quite frightening, but the irony is there are simple steps voters can take that will render these threats useless and allow us to move on to finding long-term fixes for our electoral problems.



Step 1: Vote In Person

There are two easy steps that should eliminate the threats to the 2026 election.

The first step is to **vote in person**.

- Voting in person eliminates the risk that mail-in votes will be rejected.
- Voting in person also eliminates the argument that mail-in votes swung the election.
- The reality is simple. If you look at the results in Georgia, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania in 2020, you could argue that the lower rate of rejections changed the outcome. If people vote in person, this argument will be moot.

Step 2: Vote Early

The second step is to **vote early**, before Election Day. This step has significant benefits.

- If individuals have been purged from the voting lists, they will have time to reregister and vote.
- With early voting, lines will be shorter. Voters may have to travel longer distances to an early voting polling place, but on balance time voting should be reduced.
- Finally, with early voting, people will be able to avoid contact with ICE, the National Guard, or any other military force.

If people vote in-person, attacks on mail-in voting will be wasted. If people vote early, there will be very few voting on Election Day if the Administration does deploy the military or ICE.

If, by election day, most people have already voted in person, the deployment of military or ICE to polling places will have little impact

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.
- With 48 days, 80% of Minnesota voters voted early in 2024.
- 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.

Early Voting Days by State

Below is a list of the number of early voting days by state.

Alabama	0	Alaska	15	Arizona	27
Arkansas	15	California	29	Colorado	15
Connecticut	15	Delaware	10	D.C.	12
Florida	10	Georgia	22	Hawaii	10
Idaho	15	Illinois	40	Indiana	28
Iowa	20	Kansas	7 to 20	Kennrucky	5
Louisiana	14	Maine	30	Maryland	13
Massachusetts	17	Michigan	10	Minnesota	48
Mississippi	0	Missouri	14	Montana	30
Nebraska	30	Nevada	17	New Hampshire	0
New Jersey	10	New Mexico	28	New York	10
North Carolina	19	North Dakota	15	Ohio	29
Oklahoma	6	Oregon	*	Pennsylvania	up to 50
Rhode Island	20	South Carolina	15	South Dakota	46
Tennessee	20	Texas	17	Utah	14
Vermont	45	Virginia	45	Washington	18
West Virginia	13	Wisconsin	14	Wyoming	28

Early and In-person Lowers the Temperature

People nervous about the pandemic changed their behavior in 2020 to vote by mail, now people nervous about the risk to the elections should also change their behavior by voting early and in-person.

- If you are worried about the Administration taking action against mail-in votes; vote in person.
- If you are worried about ICE, military, or other potential problems on the streets of your city, vote early.
- If you are worried about being purged from a voting list, vote early. If you vote early and in-person, you can correct any problems that might occur with your registration.
- If a large majority of voters vote early and in-person, there will be many fewer claims of fraudulent mail-in votes and few chances of disrupting elections by using ICE or other forms of military.

Neither of these steps will solve the long-term problems, but they will lower the temperature and allow Democrats, independents, and Republicans to know the Administration cannot disrupt the 2026 elections.

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 more complex than the solution for 2026.
- They will require 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.