



COMMISSIONER ELLEN L. WEINTRAUB
FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

FACTS ABOUT VOTING BY MAIL

May 27, 2020

• • • •

The week, I posted 66 tweets setting forth some facts about the safety and integrity of voting by mail. For ease of reading, I have compiled them into this document.

<https://twitter.com/EllenLWeintraub/status/1265841303012638725>

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Ellen L Weintraub
@EllenLWeintraub

Thread! Buckle up.

1/ It's been claimed that voting by mail leads to massive corruption and fraud. But what are the facts?

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Ellen L Weintraub
@EllenLWeintraub

2/ U.S. citizens will vote by mail this year in record numbers. In the face of a global health emergency, election officials across the country from both parties are working heroically to ensure that voting by mail is accurate, accessible, safe & secure.

• • • •



Ellen L Weintraub
@EllenLWeintraub

3/ There's simply no basis for the conspiracy theory that voting by mail causes fraud. None.

@CNN & @washingtonpost fact-checks show this. But many others have examined the issue and arrived at the same conclusion. Still others have provided some key context. Take a look!

• • • •

 **Ellen L. Weintraub**
@EllenLWeintraub

[4/](#) Here is @CNN's fact-check, cited by @Twitter:

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/05/26/politics/mail-in-ballot-vote-by-mail-trump/index.html>

• • • •

 **Ellen L. Weintraub**
@EllenLWeintraub

[5/](#) And here is @washingtonpost's fact-check, also cited by @Twitter:

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2020/05/26/review-trumps-many-unsubstantiated-allegations-voter-fraud/>

• • • •

 **Ellen L. Weintraub**
@EllenLWeintraub


[6/](#) And here are a few more:

@CBSNews political reporter @Grace_Segers:

https://twitter.com/Grace_Segers/status/1265264320860114946

 **Grace Segers** ✓
@Grace_Segers

1. Mail voting fraud is extremely rare, and some experts consider it to be safer than in-person voting because paper ballots can't be hacked.
2. Most studies find that voting by mail doesn't help one party over another.
3. President Trump voted by mail in the Florida primary.

 **Donald J. Trump** ✓ @realDonaldTrump · May 26
There is NO WAY (ZERO!) that Mail-In Ballots will be anything less than substantially fraudulent. Mail boxes will be robbed, ballots will be forged & even illegally printed out & fraudulently signed. The Governor of California is sending Ballots to millions of people, anyone.....
[Show this thread](#)

8:51 AM · May 26, 2020 · [TweetDeck](#)

• • • •

 **Ellen L. Weintraub**
@EllenLWeintraub

7/ @NBCNews:

<https://twitter.com/NBCNews/status/1249661161693462529>



The image shows a screenshot of a tweet from NBC News (@NBCNews) posted on April 13, 2020, at 7:30 AM. The tweet text reads: "President Trump pushes false claims about mail-in vote fraud. Here are the facts." Below the text is a photograph of a person wearing blue gloves sorting through stacks of red and white envelopes in a ballot box. One envelope is clearly visible with the word "vote!" printed on it. Below the photo, there is a short paragraph of text: "Trump pushes false claims about mail-in vote fraud. Here are the facts. The pandemic has ignited a partisan battle around the voting method, with Democrats increasingly embracing the idea as way to ensure a safe election." followed by a link to nbcnews.com. The tweet is attributed to SocialFlow.

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 **Ellen L. Weintraub**
@EllenLWeintraub

8/ @MichaelSteele & @elilehrerc for @WashTimes:





<https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2020/mar/24/conservatives-must-get-behind-vote-by-mail-options/>

Conservatives need to get behind vote-by-mail options in 2020 election


Systems save money, don't require waiting in line and are immune from large-scale fraud



2020 Mail Ballot illustration by Greg Groesch/The Washington Times more >

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FRONT PAGE PODCAST

THE WASHINGTON TIMES FRONT PAGE
May 27, 2020

00:00:00 

Print 

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 **Ellen L. Weintraub**
@EllenLWeintraub

9/ @atrupar for @voxdotcom:

<https://twitter.com/atrupar/status/1265266762079186946>

 **Aaron Rupar** ✓
@atrupar

Five states, including deep red Utah, already conduct elections almost entirely by mail, and only evidence of mail-in election fraud Trump has been able to cite is a "pants on fire" lie [vox.com/2020/4/8/21213...](https://www.vox.com/2020/4/8/21213...)

 **Donald J. Trump** ✓ @realDonaldTrump · May 26
There is NO WAY (ZERO!) that Mail-In Ballots will be anything less than substantially fraudulent. Mail boxes will be robbed, ballots will be forged & even illegally printed out & fraudulently signed. The Governor of California is sending Ballots to millions of people, anyone.....
[Show this thread](#)


9:01 AM · May 26, 2020 · [Twitter Web Client](#)

• • • •


 **Ellen L. Weintraub**
@EllenLWeintraub

10/ @RSchallom for @FortuneMagazine:

<https://twitter.com/rschallom/status/1265261179347353600>

 **Rachel Schallom** ✓
@rschallom

This is false. Over the last two decades, about 0.00006% of total vote-by-mail votes cast were fraudulent.
fortune.com/2020/05/25/vot...

 **Donald J. Trump** ✓ @realDonaldTrump · May 26

There is NO WAY (ZERO!) that Mail-In Ballots will be anything less than substantially fraudulent. Mail boxes will be robbed, ballots will be forged & even illegally printed out & fraudulently signed. The Governor of California is sending Ballots to millions of people, anyone.....
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8:39 AM · May 26, 2020 · [Tweetbot for iOS](#)

• • • •

 **Ellen L. Weintraub**
@EllenLWeintraub

[11/](#) @byjlee fact-check for @snopes:

<https://www.snopes.com/fact-check/mail-in-ballot-voter-fraud/>

Claim

In U.S. elections, mail-in voting systems "substantially" increase the risk of voter fraud compared to in-person voting.

Rating



Mostly False
About this rating ↗

• • • •

 **Ellen L. Weintraub**
@EllenLWeintraub

[12/](#) @JBendery for @huffpost:

<https://twitter.com/jbendery/status/1265263129887457280>



Jennifer Bendery ✓
@jbendery

Oregon has been voting *entirely* by mail since 1998. Gov. Kate Brown said it makes her blood boil to hear Trump's fearmongering about fraud as it is "virtually nonexistent."

"He doesn't know what he's talking about."

huffpost.com/entry/oregon-g...



Donald J. Trump ✓ @realDonaldTrump · May 26

There is NO WAY (ZERO!) that Mail-In Ballots will be anything less than substantially fraudulent. Mail boxes will be robbed, ballots will be forged & even illegally printed out & fraudulently signed. The Governor of California is sending Ballots to millions of people, anyone.....

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8:46 AM · May 26, 2020 · Twitter Web App

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Ellen L. Weintraub
@EllenLWeintraub

[13/](#) @ACLUofNE:

<https://twitter.com/ACLUofNE/status/1265262029159497730>



ACLU of Nebraska ✓
@ACLUofNE

80% of Nebraskans who voted in our May primary voted by mail. Voting by mail is secure. It's effective. It led to record turnout.



Donald J. Trump ✓ @realDonaldTrump · May 26

There is NO WAY (ZERO!) that Mail-In Ballots will be anything less than substantially fraudulent. Mail boxes will be robbed, ballots will be forged & even illegally printed out & fraudulently signed. The Governor of California is sending Ballots to millions of people, anyone.....

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8:42 AM · May 26, 2020 · Twitter Web App

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14/ U.S. Election Assistance Commission White Paper: Deep Dive on Early, Absentee, and Mail Voting (@EACGov):

<https://www.eac.gov/documents/2017/10/17/eavs-deep-dive-early-absentee-and-mail-voting-data-statutory-overview>



DOCUMENTS

WHITE PAPER

EAVS DEEP DIVE: EARLY, ABSENTEE AND MAIL VOTING

Posted: Oct 17, 2017

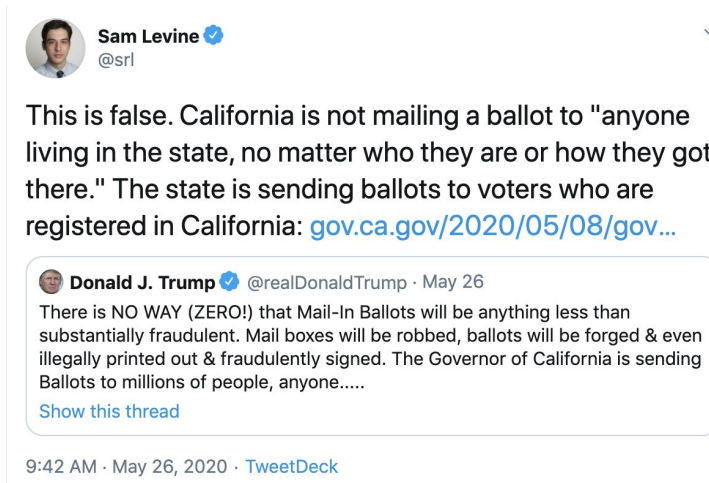
The EAC administers the biennial Election Administration and Voting Survey (EAVS) to collect state-by-state data on the administration of federal elections. In June of 2017, the EAC released the most recent survey with data from the 2016 election.

This survey contains the most comprehensive data about trends in election administration in the United States and provides these numbers at the national, state, and local level. This brief is part of a series of "deep dives" into the EAVS data that will provide an in-depth look at a variety of issues related to administering elections and use data to help better understand these issues.



15/ @srl for @GuardianUS:

<https://twitter.com/srl/status/1265277183272062976>



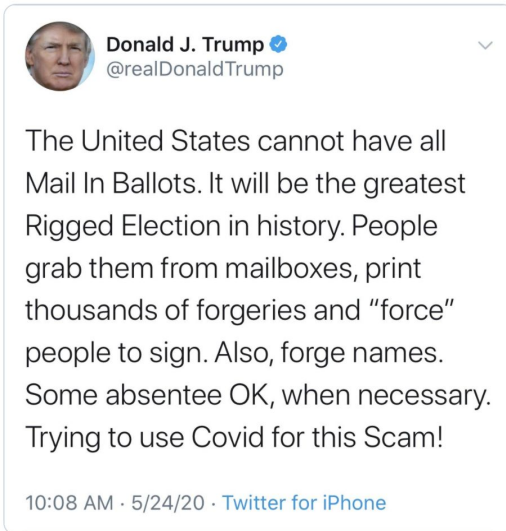


16/ Thread from @brennancenter & @NYULaw Professor Michael Li (@mcpli):

<https://twitter.com/mcpli/status/1264583397864808455>



Bless his heart. He has no idea how mail ballots work (though he should since he votes by mail). There are a couple of key layers of security. 1/



11:45 AM · May 24, 2020 · Twitter for iPhone

• • • •



17/ All types of voter fraud in U.S. elections are minuscule in comparison to the number of ballots cast, according to elections experts (@brennancenter):

<https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/analysis-opinion/false-narrative-vote-mail-fraud>

ANALYSIS

The False Narrative of Vote-by-Mail Fraud

Mail ballots are essential for holding a safe election amid Covid-19, and security concerns can be easily addressed.

Wendy R. Weiser | Harold Ekeh

Jason Redmond

This image shows a snippet of a news article. On the left, there is a red 'ANALYSIS' tag above the title 'The False Narrative of Vote-by-Mail Fraud'. Below the title are social media sharing icons for Facebook, Twitter, and a general share icon. A short paragraph follows, stating that mail ballots are essential for safe elections during Covid-19 and that security concerns can be addressed. At the bottom left, there are two circular profile pictures with names 'Wendy R. Weiser' and 'Harold Ekeh'. On the right side, there is a photograph of several people wearing masks and blue gloves, looking at documents. A small credit 'Jason Redmond' is visible at the bottom right of the photo.

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 **Ellen L. Weintraub**
@EllenLWeintraub

[18/](#) @Reuters poll finds that 72% of all U.S. adults, including 65% of Republicans, support a requirement for mail-in ballots to protect voters (@Cmkahn):

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-election-poll/most-americans-unlike-trump-want-mail-in-ballots-for-november-if-coronavirus-threatens-reuters-ipsos-poll-idUSKBN21P3G0>

POLITICS

APRIL 7, 2020 / 6:53 PM / 2 MONTHS AGO

Most Americans, unlike Trump, want mail-in ballots for November if coronavirus threatens: Reuters/Ipsos poll

Chris Kahn

3 MIN READ



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 **Ellen L. Weintraub**
@EllenLWeintraub

[19/](#) @IssueOneReform Co-Chair @IOWamp (Former Rep. R-TN):

<https://twitter.com/IOWamp/status/1265608087265857536>



Zach Wamp
@IOWamp

Huuuuge difference between “everyone has to vote by mail” and “many people need to vote absentee because of Covid” @realDonaldTrump -the states need resources but they are capable of doing this securely+should under the constitution. #CountryOverParty



Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump · May 27

...happen again. Just like we can't let large scale Mail-In Ballots take root in our Country. It would be a free for all on cheating, forgery and the theft of Ballots. Whoever cheated the most would win. Likewise, Social Media. Clean up your act, NOW!!!!

[Show this thread](#)

7:37 AM · May 27, 2020 · Twitter for iPhone

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Ellen L. Weintraub
@EllenLWeintraub

20/ In 2016, roughly 1 in 4 voters cast their votes via mail-in ballot (@voteathome):

https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/ef45f5_81a3affd554e4b5b9b5852f8fb3c10fd.pdf



Debunking the absentee / vote by mail fraud and abuse argument

One of the most puzzling, frustrating things we run into at the **National Vote at Home Coalition** is the accusation that making absentee ballots far more accessible, much less allowing “Vote at Home” elections in which every voter receives a mailed-out ballot will result in material fraud or abuse. So, let’s set the record straight, with data rather than fear.

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Ellen L. Weintraub
@EllenLWeintraub

21/ “Oregon has mailed out more than 100 million ballots since 2000, with about a dozen cases of proven fraud; a 0.000012 percent rate” (@drvox for @voxdotcom):

<https://www.vox.com/policy-and-politics/2018/5/23/17383400/vote-by-mail-home-california-alaska-nebraska>

The simple voting reform that works wherever it's tried

Recent experiments in Alaska and Nebraska show voting by mail dramatically boosts turnout.

By David Roberts | @drvox | david@vox.com | Updated May 24, 2018, 11:07am EDT

f t SHARE



You've got mail. | Shutterstock

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@EllenLWeintraub

[22/](#) President disbanded his own commission charged with investigating voter fraud in 2018, without producing any systemic evidence of fraud. @miwine & @tackettdc for @NYTimes:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/01/03/us/politics/trump-voter-fraud-commission.html>

Trump Disbands Commission on Voter Fraud



President Trump in 2016 with Kris Kobach, the Kansas secretary of state who went on to become a member of the White House voter fraud commission. Carolyn Kaster/Associated Press

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 **Ellen L. Weintraub**
@EllenLWeintraub

23/ “Deeply conservative Utah has moved almost entirely to vote-by-mail in recent years” (@aseitzwald & @sahilkapur for @NBCNews):

<https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/2020-election/coronavirus-has-ignited-battle-over-voting-my-mail-here-s-n1178531>



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@EllenLWeintraub


24/ President requests vote-by-mail ballot for Florida Republican presidential primary (@mannahorse for @pbpost):

<https://www.palmbeachpost.com/news/20200311/president-trump-requests-absentee-ballot>

President Trump requests absentee ballot

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May 23 at 12:21 PM
- 2 A teen, a teacher, a gun: 2000 school shooting staggered Palm Beach County
May 21 at 7:15 AM
- 3 Florida teacher who sparked inclusion training continued posting homophobic memes
May 21 at 3:16 PM
- 4 Florida's previously suppressed COVID-19 Medical Examiner data made public
May 22 at 1:03 PM



BUY PHOTO HIDE CAPTION
President Donald Trump at Palm Beach International Airport Friday. [ALLEN EYESTONE/palmbeachpost.com]

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 **Ellen L. Weintraub**
@EllenLWeintraub

25/ Fox News Anchor Chris Wallace: "I've done some deep dive into it, there really is no record of massive fraud or even serious fraud from mail-in voting." "It's being carried out in Republican states, it's being carried out in Democratic states."

<https://twitter.com/kylegriffin1/status/1264896497268768768>



Kyle Griffin 
@kylegriffin1

Fox's Chris Wallace: "I've done some deep dive into it, there really is no record of massive fraud or even serious fraud from mail-in voting."

"It's being carried out in Republican states, it's being carried out in Democratic states."



Chris Wallace Demolishes Trump's Mail-In Voting Lies: 'No History of Fraud'
Fox News anchor Chris Wallace debunked President Donald Trump's false claims that fraud is rampant in mail-in voting, noting on Friday morning that...
news.yahoo.com

8:30 AM · May 25, 2020 · [TweetDeck](#)

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 **Ellen L. Weintraub**
@EllenLWeintraub

26/ From more than a billion votes cast between 2000 and 2012, there were only 491 cases of absentee-voter fraud (@news21 Voting Rights Project):

<https://votingrights.news21.com/article/about/>

Facts About Voting by Mail
Commissioner Ellen L. Weintraub
May 27, 2020



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Ellen L. Weintraub
@EllenLWeintraub

[27/](#) Parties are virtually equal in percentages of who votes by mail (@cstewartiii for @caltech):

<https://electionupdates.caltech.edu/2020/03/20/some-demographics-on-voting-by-mail/>

Election Updates

New research, analysis and commentary on election reform, voting technology, and election administration.

[HOME](#) [ABOUT](#)

Some Demographics on Voting by Mail

By Charles Stewart III, MIT

With the sudden surge of interest in mail balloting because of the COVID-19 emergency, there's also been some interest in questions about who tends to use mail ballots now and who would like to use mail ballots. Here is provide some basic demographics related to the question. Because there's so much going on right now, I won't provide much commentary, allowing the numbers to "speak for themselves," which is rarely a good idea.

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Ellen L. Weintraub
@EllenLWeintraub

[28/](#) @NBCNews White House Correspondent @GeoffRBennet:

<https://twitter.com/GeoffRBennett/status/1265620820208029702>



NEW: Trump insists there's "NO WAY" an election with increased mail-in voting will be legitimate. But both Democratic and Republican officials overseeing that process say he's dead wrong.



Trump rants about fraud. But here's the secret to keeping voting by mail secure. Election officials in both parties have put in place safeguards. And they work.
[nbcnews.com](https://www.nbcnews.com)

8:28 AM · May 27, 2020 · [Twitter for iPhone](#)

• • • •




[29/](#) Author and [@UCL](#) Professor [@brianklaas](#):

<https://twitter.com/brianklaas/status/1265260640039587842>



I study election rigging. I co-authored a book called How to Rig an Election. These tweets are lies. The purpose of these tweets is to lay the groundwork to reject or dispute election results if he loses.

 **Donald J. Trump** [@realDonaldTrump](#) · May 26
There is NO WAY (ZERO!) that Mail-In Ballots will be anything less than substantially fraudulent. Mail boxes will be robbed, ballots will be forged & even illegally printed out & fraudulently signed. The Governor of California is sending Ballots to millions of people, anyone.....
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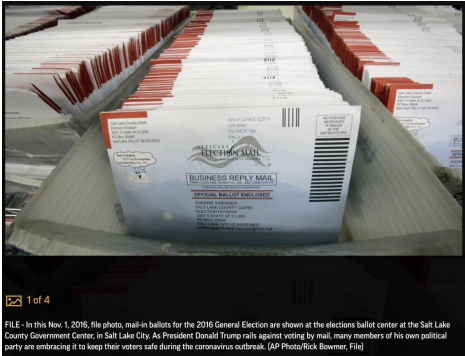
8:36 AM · May 26, 2020 · [Twitter for iPhone](#)

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 **Ellen L. Weintraub**
@EllenLWeintraub

30/ GOP state officials warming to vote-by-mail (NE, OH, WV, IA); Iowa Republican SoS Paul Pate: “sowing doubt about the integrity of the process is as dangerous as vote fraud” (@NickRiccardi for @AP):

<https://apnews.com/4cf54df2ab65b4f7d0ee6d4aed774428>



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 **Ellen L. Weintraub**
@EllenLWeintraub

31/ Mistake, not fraud: “Fraud by individual voters is almost nonexistent; mistakes in a confusing system are the real issue” (@Rutgers_Camden Professor Lorraine C. Minnite):

https://scholars.org/sites/scholars/files/ssn_key_findings_minnite_on_the_myth_of_voter_fraud.pdf

THE MISLEADING MYTH OF VOTER FRAUD IN AMERICAN ELECTIONS

by Lorraine C. Minnite, Rutgers University-Camden

Are fraudulent voters undermining U.S. elections? The simple answer is no. Rather, the threat comes from the *myth* of voter fraud used to justify rules that restrict full and equal voting rights.

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 **Ellen L. Weintraub**
@EllenLWeintraub

32/ @BrennanCenter's “The Truth About Voter Fraud” found that even among the small number of reported incidents of ‘fraud,’ most turn out to be traceable to other causes:

https://www.brennancenter.org/sites/default/files/analysis/Briefing_Memo_Debunking_Voter_Fraud_Myth.pdf

BRENNAN CENTER
FOR JUSTICE
TWENTY YEARS

at New York University School of Law

Debunking the Voter Fraud Myth

Sensationalist claims have circulated this election season about the extent of voter fraud, with some politicians [going so far](#) as to [tell voters](#) to fear that this November's election will be "[rigged](#)." Because electoral integrity is one of the elements necessary to making America the greatest democracy in the world, claims like this garner media attention, and frighten and concern voters. But putting rhetoric aside to look at the facts makes clear that fraud by voters at the polls is vanishingly rare, and does not happen on a scale even close to that necessary to "rig" an election.

• • • •



Ellen L. Weintraub
@EllenLWeintraub

[33/](#) @NaveedAJamali for @Newsweek:

<https://twitter.com/NaveedAJamali/status/1265426007692992512>



Naveed Jamali ✓
@NaveedAJamali

Washington State has successfully used mail-in voting since 2005. In 2018 the only 142 cases of improper voting out of 3.1 million ballots, or just 0.004% of all votes, were designated "improper voting." So, Washington State shows mail-in ballots work.



Donald J. Trump ✓ @realDonaldTrump · May 26

There is NO WAY (ZERO!) that Mail-In Ballots will be anything less than substantially fraudulent. Mail boxes will be robbed, ballots will be forged & even illegally printed out & fraudulently signed. The Governor of California is sending Ballots to millions of people, anyone.....

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7:34 PM · May 26, 2020 from Seattle, WA · Twitter for iPhone

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Ellen L. Weintraub
@EllenLWeintraub

[34/](#) @MarshallCohen for @CNN:

<https://twitter.com/MarshallCohen/status/1265428400656744454>



Marshall Cohen
@MarshallCohen

This tweet is false too — and should be labeled as such, like the earlier tweet about mail-in voting. (Because he says mail-in ballots “lead to massive corruption and fraud,” which is a debunked lie.)



Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump · May 26

.@Twitter is now interfering in the 2020 Presidential Election. They are saying my statement on Mail-In Ballots, which will lead to massive corruption and fraud, is incorrect, based on fact-checking by Fake News CNN and the Amazon Washington Post....

[Show this thread](#)

7:43 PM · May 26, 2020 · Twitter for iPhone

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Ellen L. Weintraub
@EllenLWeintraub

[35/](#) @kirstenfrankly (Chief of Staff, UT GOP Lt. Gov. @SpencerJCox): “there is very little evidence of voter fraud within our mail-in system” (@NBCNews):

<https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/donald-trump/trump-pushes-false-claims-about-mail-vote-fraud-here-are-n1180566>

Trump pushes false claims about mail-in vote fraud. Here are the facts.

The pandemic has ignited a partisan battle around the voting method, with Democrats increasingly embracing the idea as way to ensure a safe election.

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Ellen L. Weintraub
@EllenLWeintraub

[36/](#) GOP leaders have long urged their supporters to vote by mail. GOP governors are sounding the call for easy access to mail-in ballots (@DoyleMcManus for @LATimes):

<https://www.latimes.com/politics/story/2020-05-24/column-trump-doesnt-like-mail-in-voting-but-its-not-his-call>

Column: Trump doesn't like mail-in voting, but it's not his call



President Trump has threatened to block federal funding from states that send mail-in ballots to every voter. (Allen J. Schaben / Los Angeles Times)

• • • •



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@EllenLWeintraub

[37/](#) @MSNBC quoting Michigan @LtGovGilchrist:

<https://twitter.com/MSNBC/status/1265213623611383808>

MSNBC @MSNBC

"More people are killed by deer in a year than have ever been proven to commit voter fraud at a given time," Michigan Lt. Gov. Gilchrist says about claims that mail-in voting will lead to fraud.

Michigan Lt. Gov.: Trump is 'dead wrong' on mail-in voting
As President Trump continues to make baseless claims about mail-in voting leading to fraud, Michigan Lt. Governor Garlin Gilchrist notes that 'more ...'
[msnbc.com](https://www.msnbc.com)


5:30 AM · May 26, 2020 · SocialFlow

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 **Ellen L. Weintraub**
@EllenLWeintraub

[38/](#) @realDonaldTrump votes by mail (@Yamiche for @PBS):

<https://twitter.com/Yamiche/status/1263198640044195840>

 **Yamiche Alcindor** ✓
@Yamiche

So today, Pres Trump, who regularly votes by mail, threatened to hold up federal funds for two battleground states--Michigan & Nevada-- bc they are trying to make it easier & safer to vote during the coronavirus pandemic.

Then, @PressSec referred Qs about it to Trump campaign.

4:03 PM · May 20, 2020 · Twitter Web App

••••

 **Ellen L. Weintraub**
@EllenLWeintraub

[39/](#) @Heritage election fraud database reports just 143 convictions involving fraudulent use of absentee ballots over the past 20 years (approx. 0.00006% of total votes cast):

<https://www.heritage.org/voterfraud>



••••

 **Ellen L. Weintraub**
@EllenLWeintraub

[40/](#) @SenatorRomney says 90% of Utah Republicans vote by mail (@BudrykZack for @thehill):

<https://thehill.com/homenews/senate/498916-romney-counters-trump-90-percent-of-very-republican-utah-votes-by-mail>



Romney counters Trump: 90 percent of 'very Republican' Utah votes by mail

••••



Ellen L. Weintraub
@EllenLWeintraub

[41/](#) "There is no evidence that mail balloting results in rampant voter fraud" (@AmberMcReynolds & @cstewartiii for @thehill):

<https://thehill.com/opinion/campaign/494189-lets-put-the-vote-by-mail-fraud-myth-to-rest>



Let's put the vote-by-mail 'fraud' myth to rest

BY AMBER MCREYNOLDS AND CHARLES STEWART III, OPINION CONTRIBUTORS —
04/28/20 07:00 AM EDT
THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY CONTRIBUTORS ARE THEIR OWN AND NOT THE VIEW OF THE HILL

739 COMMENTS

••••



Ellen L. Weintraub
@EllenLWeintraub

[42/](#) Former Republican campaign strategist compares president to "the boy who cried wolf" in spreading panic and undermining faith in the electoral process, to the detriment of his own base. (@grace_panetta for @businessinsider):

<https://www.businessinsider.com/trumps-crusade-against-vote-by-mail-could-backfire-on-republicans-2020-5>

Why Trump's crusade against voting by mail could backfire on Republicans and hurt the president's own voters

Grace Panetta May 21, 2020, 1:54 PM



President Donald Trump. Associated Press

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Ellen L. Weintraub
@EllenLWeintraub

[43/](#) @KimWyman12, Republican @secstatewa, supports vote by mail. (@llexer for @NYTimes):

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/15/us/politics/washington-where-everyone-votes-by-mail.html?smid=tw-share>

ON POLITICS WITH LISA LERER

Washington: Where Everyone Votes by Mail

We spoke to the secretary of state to get her take on voting by mail and whether she thinks the balloting option could be implemented across the country.

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[44/](#) Research on vote by mail shows neutral partisan effects. (May Wong, @SIEPR):

<https://siepr.stanford.edu/news/new-research-voting-mail-shows-neutral-partisan-effects>

New research on voting by mail shows neutral partisan effects



By May Wong

APR 16 2020

The coronavirus has disrupted state primaries and forced the prospect of major reforms for the 2020 election. Election officials across the nation are mulling expansions or transitions to mail-in voting while Congress is fielding calls for a nationwide vote-by-mail program.

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[45/](#) “Trump casts doubt on mail voting. His campaign promotes it.” (@NickRiccardi for @AP):

<https://apnews.com/6416231367cfa0bd213796149f3cee26>

Trump casts doubt on mail voting. His campaign promotes it.

By NICHOLAS RICCARDI May 12, 2020



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[46/](#) In 2017, the risk of mail-in vote fraud was 0.0004% to 0.0009% (@HopeYen1 & Calvin Woodward for @AP Fact Check, quoting @BrennanCenter):

<https://apnews.com/e45b0fd875cd2bf8be2b92330f37300f>

AP FACT CHECK: Trump misfires on watchdogs, mail-in voting

By HOPE YEN and CALVIN WOODWARD April 12, 2020



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[47/](#) Former Assistant Secretary of Defense under President Reagan, @LarryKorb: “U.S. troops routinely vote by mail. Why can’t the rest of America do the same?” (@MilitaryTimes):

<https://www.militarytimes.com/opinion/commentary/2020/05/18/us-troops-routinely-vote-by-mail-why-cant-the-rest-of-america-do-the-same/>



Commentary

US troops routinely vote by mail. Why can’t the rest of America do the same?

Lawrence J. Korb

May 18

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[48/](#) @LeeDrutman for @FiveThirtyEight: “There is no evidence that vote by mail gives one party an advantage.”:

<https://fivethirtyeight.com/features/there-is-no-evidence-that-voting-by-mail-gives-one-party-an-advantage/>



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[49/](#) Justin Levitt (@_justinlevitt_): “Each act of voter fraud in connection with a federal election risks 5 years in prison....a single extra vote is simply not worth the price.” (@brennancenter @NYULaw):

<https://www.brennancenter.org/sites/default/files/legacy/The%20Truth%20About%20Voter%20Fraud.pdf>

BRENNAN
CENTER
FOR JUSTICE

THE TRUTH
ABOUT
VOTER FRAUD
Justin Levitt

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[50/](#) Oh, and I (@EllenLWeintraub) have also spoken on the topic: “Democrats have studied this, Republicans have studied this, and no one can find any evidence of rampant voter fraud either historically or particularly in the 2016 elections.”

<https://thehill.com/homenews/administration/457942-fec-chairwoman-to-trump-there-is-no-evidence-of-rampant-voter-fraud>



FEC chairwoman to Trump: 'There is no evidence of rampant voter fraud'

BY REBECCA KLAR - 08/19/19 11:44 AM EDT

2,019 COMMENTS

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51/ To sum up:

Many Americans will be voting by mail this year. In the 2016 general election, 139 million people voted overall; even more could do so this year.

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52/ With that many voters, could a few instances of illegal voting activity crop up? Perhaps. But there is no basis to claim that it will be anything other than exceedingly rare.

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53/ Facts matter. Data matters. When Prof. @_justinlevitt_ researched in-person voter fraud between 2000 and 2014, he found just 31 credible allegations – just allegations! – out of more than a *billion* ballots cast.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2014/08/06/a-comprehensive-investigation-of-voter-impersonation-finds-31-credible-incidents-out-of-one-billion-ballots-cast/>

Economic Policy

A comprehensive investigation of voter impersonation finds 31 credible incidents out of one billion ballots cast

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54/ Research by U. of Wisconsin & Stanford political scientists “indicate[d] that the proportion of the population reporting voter impersonation is indistinguishable from that reporting abduction by extraterrestrials.”

<https://www.liebertpub.com/doi/abs/10.1089/ej.2013.0231>

Alien Abduction and Voter Impersonation in the 2012 U.S. General Election: Evidence from a Survey List Experiment

John S. Ahlquist, Kenneth R. Mayer, and Simon Jackman

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55/ The numbers are similarly tiny for voting by mail. Even the Heritage Foundation's voter-fraud database contains only 13 instances of absentee voter fraud across the 5 states that had all-mail balloting going into this year: CO, HI, OR, UT, & WA.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/05/18/opinion/2020-election-results-delay.html>



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56/ Voting by mail will not make the 2020 election substantially fraudulent or massively corrupt.

There is no basis for that claim.

None. Zero. Zip. Nada.

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[57/](#) Specifically:

There is no basis for the claim that the election will be substantially fraudulent or massively corrupt due to mailbox robbery.

There is no basis for the claim that the election will be substantially fraudulent or massively corrupt due to ballot forgery.

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[58/](#) There is no basis for the claim that the election will be substantially fraudulent or massively corrupt due to illegal ballot printing.

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[59/](#) There is no basis for the claim that the election will be substantially fraudulent or massively corrupt due to fraudulently signed ballots.

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[60/](#) There is no basis for the claim that the election will be substantially fraudulent or massively corrupt due to voters being told for whom to vote.

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[61/](#) There is no basis for the claim that the election will be substantially fraudulent or massively corrupt due to a cheating free-for-all.

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[62/](#) There is no basis for the claim that the election will be substantially fraudulent or massively corrupt due to a forgery free-for-all.

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[63/](#) There is no basis for the claim that the election will be substantially fraudulent or massively corrupt due to a ballot theft free-for-all.

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[64/](#) Claims that voter fraud is widespread are, as shown above, “dead wrong,” “crying ‘wolf,’” “false,” “a debunked lie.”

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[65/](#) Such falsehoods are not mere words. These falsehoods may well undermine the American people’s faith in our democracy. And the *real* fraud would be if U.S. citizens were deterred from voting and our government reflected the consent of fewer of the governed.

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[66/](#) True leaders speak truth. Especially in an election season plagued by pandemic, economic uncertainty, and death, the American people deserve nothing less than the truth from our leaders.