

ABOUT VOTING RIGHTS AND ELECTION SECURITY...

UNDER BIDEN

During President Biden's term, Democrats have proposed many pieces of legislation to address voting rights and election security, almost all of which were blocked/not considered by Republicans in the US House and/or Senate.



- In December 2022, Biden signed into law the bipartisan *Electoral Count Reform Act*, which established clear guidelines for the system of certifying and counting electoral votes for President and Vice President, to preserve the will of the people and to protect against attempts to overturn elections that led to the January 6 insurrection.
- In 2021, Biden signed an executive order directing an all-of-government effort to promote access to voting. These efforts include enhancements to the vote.gov website and providing voter registration information to student loan borrowers and users of IRS Form 1040.

IF BIDEN IS RE-ELECTED

Democrats believe in the following measures to make it easier to vote, not harder, and to ensure Election Security:

- **Allow Online Voter Registration:** 42 states (plus DC and Guam) allow online voter registration. Texas does not.
- **Allow "No-Excuse" Absentee Voting:** 28 states allow any voter to vote by mail (also called "absentee voting"). Texas allows only four specific groups of voters to apply to vote by mail.
- **Allow Same-Day Voter Registration:** 22 states and DC allow same day voter registration. Texas does not. In fact, a voter must register in Texas *thirty days* prior to an election to be eligible to vote in that election.
- **Expand Definition of "Acceptable Photo ID:"** 37 states, including Texas, have voter ID laws. Texas has one of the strictest voter ID requirements in the country, even though people of color and people with disabilities are more likely to lack access to an acceptable form of ID. As another example, a voter can use a Concealed Carry license as an acceptable voter ID, but not a student ID card from a state university.
- **Pass the Voting Rights Act and Freedom to Vote Act:** Congress must pass the *John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act* and the *Freedom to Vote Act*. Biden supports eliminating the filibuster to prevent a minority of Senators from blocking action on voting rights. When it comes to protecting majority rule in America, the majority should rule in the US Senate.
- **Upgrade Election Technology and Increase Oversight:** Democrats will increase investments to help state and local governments upgrade election technology, including cybersecurity technology, and ensure that election technology is accessible for people with disabilities. Democrats will also increase oversight of private election vendors to ensure voting systems are secure and worthy of voters' trust.
- **Prevent Foreign Meddling:** Democrats will forcefully act to prevent foreign meddling in our elections and those of our allies.

ACTION ON VOTING RIGHTS UNDER TRUMP 2016-2000 and TEXAS REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP

- In 2017, Trump signed an executive order establishing the “*President Commission on Election Integrity*,” following Trump’s repeated claims, without evidence, that he won the 2016 popular vote. The Commission made an unprecedented request to states for details on every registered voter. Many states refused to comply.
- In 2021, the Texas Legislature passed the anti-democracy *Senate Bill 1*, which includes restrictive and discriminatory provisions largely targeting Latino and Black voters. This law has been challenged in court by the Brennan Center for Justice.
- In 2020, *Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton* filed the lawsuit *Texas v. Pennsylvania* at the US Supreme Court (SCOTUS), contesting the administration of the 2020 presidential election in Georgia, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin (states where Biden defeated Trump). SCOTUS refused to hear the case since Paxton (an attorney general *from out of state*) lacked standing to challenge the results.
- Paxton conducted a 22,000 hours investigation of Harris County’s 2020 election results and discovered *16 cases* of false address out of more than 1,640,000 votes. In the 15 years Texas has maintained an election unit, *no cases of widespread fraud* have been detected.
- Trump appointed three very conservative justices to the Supreme Court and more than 200 conservative judges to the federal bench. Many (if not most) of these justices/judges are consistently ruling against the expansion of voting rights, including gutting the *Voting Rights Act*.

“If I don’t get elected, it’s going to be a bloodbath for the country...I don’t think you’re going to have another election in this country, if we don’t win this election.” Trump (March 16, 2020)

IF TRUMP/TEXAS REPUBLICANS ARE RE-ELECTED

Without detailed policy proposals, it is hard to say for sure what agenda Trump would pursue if elected again. But there’s no reason to believe he’d do any more in a second term to ensure voting rights than his first term. Texas Republicans have made it clear what their plans are.

- After the 2020 presidential election, Trump organized an effort to seat false electors to ensure he won the Electoral College vote.
- The president encouraged the January 6, 2020 insurrection that demanded Vice-President Pence to declare Trump the winner.
- The following proposition on the Texas Republican 2024 Primary ballot passed with 96% of the vote: “The Texas Constitution should be amended to require proof of citizenship before any individual can be registered to vote.”
- In 2021, US Senate Republicans blocked the *Freedom to Vote Act* that would have overridden restrictive voting laws in Texas.
- Project 2025 (separate handout) has a published goal to “reassign responsibility for prosecuting election-related offenses from the Civil Rights Division [of the Department of Justice] to the Criminal Division.”
- In December 2023, Trump called on supporters to “guard the vote” during the 2024 election, a phrase that pro-democracy advocates say signals permission to take extreme measures that could intimidate voters and threaten election workers.