DEMOCRACY THREAT :
MASS VOTER CHALLENGES

MASS VOTER CHALLENGES ARE VOTER SUPPRESSION IN REAL TIME AS THEY LAY THE GROUNDWORK FOR FUTURE ELECTION SABOTAGE.

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What are mass voter challenges?

Simply put, anti-voter extremists and election deniers in various states are submitting large numbers of voters' names to local election offices, challenging their eligibility to vote. Fueled by conspiracy theories about ineligible voters being able to submit ballots and by changes in some states' laws that make it easier to challenge a voter's eligibility, these often baseless challenges drain election officials' valuable time and resources. Those who support these mass challenges to voter eligibility aim to disqualify voters they oppose, disrupt our elections, and undermine the will of the people. While there are many safeguards in place that will result in the dismissal of many frivolous voter challenges, they still erode public trust in the legitimacy of our elections and sow seeds of doubt in the outcomes slated for November.

Allowing mass voter challenges could open the door for election sabotage, during which voters and/or their ballots could be challenged and thrown out to achieve a certain outcome. Specific groups could especially be segmented and targeted during these challenges in order to create a pretext that could later be used to justify disqualifying their votes or refusing to certify election results.

In a __report__ released by Protect Democracy, it was found that mass challenges:

✗ Rarely identify improperly registered voters

Only a small proportion of the mass challenges filed are found to be accurate. The vast majority of mass challenges are deemed invalid. In Georgia, even the most receptive-to-challenges county threw out 96.6% of the challenges brought by election conspiracy groups.

✗ Rely on flawed data

Mass challenges often involve matching voter records to outside data sources without the appropriate information to uniquely identify voters, leading to mismatches and inaccurate conclusions.

✗ Overwhelm officials

Mass challenges add significantly to the workload of already under-resourced local election administrators, taking focus from other crucial responsibilities that make our elections function.

✗ Intimidate voters

Mass challenge efforts have engaged in intimidating door-knocking campaigns, frequently without making it clear that they are not election officials or law enforcement.

✗ Discourage voting

Many erroneously challenged (yet eligible) voters may receive notice of their challenge and fear they will face consequences for casting a ballot.

Guardrails Against Challenges

In order to help voters, election officials, election workers, and law enforcement prepare for the 2024 elections, All Voting is Local, along with the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU Law, **published guides** for eight battleground states—Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Michigan, Nevada, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin—to provide voters, voter protection groups, election workers, and election officials with the multiple laws guarding against groundless challenges to voters' eligibility. The guides explain the federal and state laws that limit how challenges can be made, by whom, and with what evidence, among other constraints.

Key Facts

Mass voter challenges pose unnecessary barriers to the ballot. They are meant to dissuade and intimidate people from participating in the democratic process. These meritless challenges must stop immediately, and those who seek to prevent voters from exercising their fundamental right to vote must be held accountable.

IV3 and EagleAI have been utilized by those with a clear agenda: sowing distrust in our elections systems and our hard-working election officials. EagleAI makes massive lists of voters it deems "suspicious," including those who have moved or may have a typo in their property records. These lists are shared with amateur sleuths, who can file mass challenges to hundreds or thousands of voters at a time. Questions about what kind of sensitive information will be stored or how it will protect voters' personal data, including Social Security numbers, remain.

Additionally, a concerning aspect of EagleAI is that it is presented as nonpartisan software, which is disingenuous. This software has repeatedly been supported by known election deniers and groups such as the Election Integrity Network, who want to re-litigate the 2020 election. Its supporters should be understood not as people who are genuinely trying to improve the elections but as people who are purposefully sowing distrust in our elections.

Recently, a federal court concluded that True The Vote's voter list, created by its IV3 software program, "utterly lacked reliability" and was verging on "recklessness." While aspects of IV3 remain shrouded in secrecy, a recent federal court case, *Fair Fight v. True the Vote*, opened a window into the shoddy methodology behind True the Vote's voter challenge efforts. Following a bench trial, the court analyzed the list of voters submitted by IV3 as potentially ineligible. The court observed that the untrustworthiness of True the Vote's data would be readily apparent to a layperson and found that it was "clear that [the group] did not engage in a quality process to create the list, nor did they have proper review or controls in place."