

VOTER FRAUDSTER ALERT

Aaron Harris, Executive Director of Direct Action Texas

How many times have you heard claims of voter fraud dismissed by politicians, media pundits, and political parties? Here are a few examples to refute the denials:

- In 2012, the Donna, Texas school board president hanged himself after the FBI pressed for an indictment that he fraudulently stole his election.
- In 2015, six people were convicted of felony voter fraud in Hildalgo County, Texas for harvesting mail-in ballots in several local elections.
- In the 2016 Republican primary in Hill County, Texas, election officials claimed 9,038 ballots were cast, yet only 7,171 voters actually voted in that election. So 1,867 votes counted with no actual voters to cast the votes! On that same ballot, three races were determined by less than 70 votes. Despite this clear evidence of voter fraud, the county Republican party, the county commissioners, the Republican Party of Texas, and the Secretary of State all certified the election. A criminal investigation by the Texas Attorney General's office found that the election suffered from massive ineptness and an inability to count, but the results stand to this day.
- In 2017, Rosa Ortega (a legal resident) was convicted and sentenced to eight years in jail in Tarrant County, Texas after she illegally voted for ten years as a noncitizen.
- In 2017, an Ellis County, Texas constable was removed from office

and convicted for fraudulently stealing his election.

- In 2018, Tarrant County convicted a felon of illegal voting after she intentionally voted after having been told, in writing, she was not eligible.
- Last April, a judge ordered a new election in Kaufman County, Texas after it was shown in court that fraudulent ballots were improperly counted.

I used to think that voter fraud was minimal and only in places like Chicago. I never expected fraud in my backyard — Republican controlled Fort Worth, Texas.

My first experience of voter fraud was in a local water board race in 2015. Our opponents used “vote harvesting” to defeat us and since then I have documented wide-scale voter fraud in five Texas counties.

Vote harvesting abuses the elderly and disabled's right to vote by influencing voting decisions by hiring political workers to “harvest” votes for a candidate. It is tragically used against mostly Hispanic and African-American citizens usually over the age of 80 who are relatively uneducated. These voters are not likely to discover that someone voted on their behalf and much less likely to call law enforcement about it.

The irony is the political organizations that claim to “look after the downtrodden” are the very ones that refuse to acknowledge the crime being committed. We should fight voter fraud to prevent future victims.

Voter fraud is an equal opportunity offender in both urban and rural communities. Direct Action Texas has active fraud investigations from the March 2018 primary election in six counties, including rural counties.

Why do the media and political parties deny that voter fraud exists?

The first reason is that the penalty for most voter fraud is only a misdemeanor under state statute. Voter fraud cases are complicated to try in court and simply not worth the trouble for just a misdemeanor. Thankfully in 2017, Texas changed the penalty for voter fraud to a felony, a law change that other states should enact.

A second reason why most voter fraud is denied is that they are very difficult to prosecute. Many of the victims are



elderly and years pass before their cases go to court. The senior voters simply cannot recall what happened in an election three years ago, which allows any defense attorney to break their testimonies apart. Few, if any, prosecutors will even try these cases, so they are either never indicted or they plea out to deferred adjudication, which is not a conviction. As a result, there are very few election fraud convictions.

The third reason is that there is no agency or department assigned the responsibility to insure the integrity of our elections. If no one is watching, how do we know if voter fraud exists? Direct Action Texas has been watching and has documented extensive fraud, yet there is no parallel government body watching.

The false claim that “voter fraud doesn't exist” is due to few incentives to prosecute, the cases are difficult to investigate, and a lack of oversight and accountability for the bureaucracies charged with administering elections.

Our elected officials should take this issue seriously and make free and fair elections a political priority at every level of government. Until they do, voter fraud will continue to be denied and election outcomes will be questionable. 

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