
8 Things You Can Do Now to Help STOP Voter Fraud



*A Citizen Guide to Ensuring Free and
Fair Elections in 2014 and Beyond*

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Judicial Watch, Inc. • 425 Third Street, SW, Suite 800 • Washington, DC 20024
202-646-5172 • 1-888-593-8442 • 202-646-5199 fax
info@judicialwatch.org • www.judicialwatch.org

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Making Sure Your Vote Counts...a Message from Tom Fitton

Thank you for joining Judicial Watch in our efforts to ensure free and fair elections for all Americans. We have all heard about voter fraud; and as you will learn in reading through this citizen guide, the problem is real, widespread, and substantial to the point that it can decide elections. It also drives honest citizens out of the democratic process and breeds distrust of our government. The danger lies not only in the results of the fraud itself, but also in the reality that voters who fear their legitimate votes will be outweighed by fraudulent ones are likely to feel disenfranchised and may not even show up at the polls to vote.

The sad truth is that our nation's recent history consists of far too many elections which have been called into question due to allegations of incompetence and outright misconduct. Most notable have been the abuses by ACORN¹ and its state organizations, which in 2008 were implicated in at least 35 well-documented election fraud schemes in 17 states, leading to multiple convictions, fines, and even prison. And while ACORN activities became so nefarious, it was forced to officially disband (though, in reality, spinoff groups have survived). Project Vote, an affiliate of ACORN, remains very active in its flagrant attempts to influence elections for its leftist allies.

To illustrate to you how a small number of illegal votes can affect election results, some make the credible argument that voter fraud handed a U.S. Senate seat to Al Franken, which helped cement the Democratic majority for the first two years of the Obama presidency. Franken won by a razor-thin margin of only 312 votes out of some 3 million cast on election day in 2008.² Since then, an investigation by Minnesota Majority, an organization fighting for clean elections in the state, discovered that 289 convicted felons voted in Minneapolis's Hennepin County — which is illegal under state law — and another 52 voted illegally in St. Paul's Ramsey County.³ Instances of duplicate registrations, multiple voting by the same person, vacant and non-deliverable addresses, and deceased voters still on the rolls also turned up, underscoring the abuses that apparently occurred during a very narrow election, with the result that the wrong person

may well be representing the state of Minnesota in the halls of Congress.

But, there is good news. Across this country, state groups are working tirelessly to monitor the registration of voters, election day activities, and the counting of ballots in thousands of precincts to ensure that the people who vote are those — and only those — who are legal residents with the right to vote. Such grassroots organizations as **True The Vote**, headquartered in Houston, Texas, is currently working across the country. Other groups such as **Defend the Vote** in Illinois, **Show ID to Vote** in Massachusetts, **Election Integrity** in Maryland, **Virginia Voters Alliance** in Virginia, and Minnesota Majority in Minnesota reflect the growing resentment Americans are feeling toward those who have no qualms about breaking the law to bring about the result they want in an election.⁴

Also good is the fact that *you can help*. There are important steps you can take to make sure your vote is counted...and to help stop voter fraud at your polling place. Judicial Watch tells you *how* in this booklet. We'll examine the problem and explain further why voter ID laws matter. After that, we discuss how you, like the citizens in California who are participating in a volunteer-based election integrity project can make a difference in coming local, state and federal elections.⁵

At the end of this citizen guide is a listing of organizations you can contact for further information; and I would like to personally encourage you to visit the Judicial Watch Internet site at www.judicialwatch.org for more information on our entire **Election Integrity Project**.

Yours for Free and Fair Elections,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom Fitton', written in a cursive style.

Tom Fitton
President

Robert D. Popper
Senior Attorney at Judicial Watch

Dear Concerned American,

My background and training give me a particular interest in election integrity in America. Before joining Judicial Watch, I was Deputy Chief in the Voting Section of the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice, where I worked for the better part of eight years. During that time, I served as a Justice Department election monitor and team leader in a number of elections.



I believe that the topic of election integrity is among the most important that American citizens are asked to consider. Spanish philosopher José Ortega y Gasset observed that:

“The health of democracies, of whatever type and range, depends on a wretched technical detail: electoral procedure. All the rest is secondary.”⁶

There are good reasons to believe that the American public needs to be reassured that elections are fair and honest. In poll after poll, for some time now, large segments of the American public have expressed their dismay with various aspects of our electoral system. A Rasmussen poll from August of 2013 reported that only 39% of Americans believe elections are fair.⁷ In 2012, a Monmouth University poll reported that more than two-thirds of registered voters thought voter fraud was a problem.⁸ In 2008, when a Gallup poll asked respondents around the world whether they had “confidence in the honesty of elections,” 53% of Americans said that they did not.⁹

These polls reveal a startling lack of faith in our electoral system. Whether the American people are right to have these doubts is, of course, an open question. It is clear, however, that there are rational grounds for being concerned about the integrity — as well as the public’s perception of the integrity — of our elections. Threats to this integrity can take different forms.

A fundamental threat to the perceived integrity of elections occurs where voters face violence or violent threats at the polls. Election-related violence is typically a mark of a fledgling democracy or of a society where true democracy has yet to take root. No citizen voting in the United States today should have to endure such intimidation.

In the 2008 federal elections, two members of the New Black Panther Party stood in a doorway to a polling place in Philadelphia. They were in uniform and in something resembling a formation. One of them carried and brandished a club. They argued with passersby and shouted racial insults at poll watchers. They attempted to block a poll watcher from entering the polling place. They were recorded at the polling site by a poll watcher with a video-camera. I was the Deputy Chief in the Justice Department assigned to prosecute the civil action commenced against these men for intimidation and attempted intimidation under the relevant federal statute, Section 11(b) of the Voting Rights Act.¹⁰

The case against the defendants was strong, and they subsequently defaulted by refusing even to answer the charges against them.

That case was, however, abruptly curtailed and all but shut down by newly appointed officials in the first Obama administration. In the end we had to settle for a short, limited, and toothless injunction against only one of four defendants. I have never heard a convincing explanation, either in or out of the Justice Department, or in any of the subsequent investigations, as to why that case was cut short, and I believe to this day that it was a partisan abuse of what are supposed to be neutral law enforcement efforts. The damage to the reputation of Obama's Justice Department was enormous and enduring. The damage to the public's perception of the integrity of elections was incalculable.

Public faith in our electoral institutions is also harmed when election officials exhibit, or allow others to exhibit, partisanship or bias on Election Day. In my time as an election monitor I have seen many examples of this. At one polling place, an official poll worker actively urged every voter she assisted to vote for one of the candidates. Poll workers sometimes wear clothing emblazoned with the slogans of one of the candidates. Often the rules about partisan solicitation inside a polling place are simply not enforced, and poll workers permit aggressive electioneering by party members or inappropriate partisan displays.

A famous example of a partisan display occurred in 2012. In one polling place, also in Philadelphia, a painted mural of President Obama along with his campaign logo and a quote from one of his speeches covered a large stretch of wall almost to the ceiling. After a judge issued an order to cover the mural, the President's face was partially covered by paper, although the logo and the speech remained visible. Allowing this kind of display inside a polling place tells the voters who go there that the election officials do not take seriously their obligation to be impartial.

In all of these cases, the public perceives that election officials are rooting for one of the candidates. Even if it never changes or influences a single vote, this behavior sends a bad message to the public. It suggests that officials are not going to be fair in carrying out their duties. Such displays generally are, and should be, against the law.

These observations shed an interesting light on another important electoral issue, namely, whether it is necessary to require photo identification in order to vote (voter ID). There are obvious parallels between that reform and the other kinds of rules I've been describing.

No one would dismiss the need for legislation forbidding the violence or the threat of violence at a polling place because evidence shows that such violence is rare, that few voters actually fail to vote on account of it, or that it has not swayed the outcome of a particular, recent election. No one would deny the value of laws against electioneering or partisan displays inside a polling place on the ground that such activities did not change anyone's vote or determine an election. The laws forbidding these activities provide some of the necessary legal safeguards that *should* protect the electoral process.

Voter ID laws provide the same basic kinds of protection. Allegations of fraud are a regular feature of every federal election cycle, and fraud does sway elections. For those who care to look, there are is a steady stream of stories concerning electoral fraud of various kinds.¹¹

But the justification for voter ID laws does not depend on establishing such fraud. It is enough that fraud should not be permitted, and that the opportunity to commit such fraud exists.

That there is an opportunity is clear. To begin with, voter fraud is both hard to spot and hard to prove. Particularly where it is successful, voter fraud may never be detected. For example, the authorities are unlikely to discover that someone who is not required to show identification has voted on the still-valid registration of his friend who has moved out of state. But even where voter fraud is detected, successful prosecutions remain unlikely. There may be no way to track down a perpetrator where, for example, authorities often have nothing but a bogus signature on a poll book or a bogus registration or absentee form.

The decentralized nature of our electoral laws and enforcement activity, our national mobility, and the nature of our demographics also create opportunities for voter fraud. In 2012, the Pew Research Center on the States released an astonishing report noting that “[a]pproximately 2.75 million people have active registrations in more than one state.” That same report observed that “24 million — one of every eight — active voter registrations in the United States are no longer valid or are significantly inaccurate,” and that “[m]ore than 1.8 million deceased individuals are listed as active voters.”¹²

In light of these realities, it simply makes sense for American citizens to act to help ensure that voter fraud never becomes a significant problem. By reading this manual you have taken an important step in a growing effort to restore Americans’ faith in their electoral institutions.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert D. Popper". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and "P".

Robert D. Popper

Voter Fraud — Fact or Fiction?

The Obama administration and its leftist and partisan surrogates would like you to think that voter fraud and errors on Election Day hardly exist and have had no impact on elections. We sometimes also hear claims suggesting that voter registration fraud is somehow not voter fraud. These are myths intended to mask a blatant attempt to keep this administration in office by registering people — both legally *and* illegally — who are likely to support President Obama and the Democratic Party.

The bottom line, of course, is that all Americans who are legally eligible to vote, regardless of their political beliefs, should be able to vote...and to have that vote counted. The perception of fraud keeps people who should vote away from the polls; and the existence of fraud can neutralize legitimate votes and even change the outcome of elections.



Contrary to the claims of the Obama administration and election officials in some states, fraud, incompetence, intimidation, and inaccurate voter registration records *do* exist, and the consequences are alarming. In fact, according to a recent study by the non-partisan Pew Center on the States (PCS) research organization, more than 24 million voter registration records in the United States — about one in eight — are inaccurate, out-of-date, or duplicates. Some 2.8 million people are registered in two or more states, and as many as 1.8 million registered voters are dead.¹³

Cases of voting fraud are a regular feature of every election. Some examples are discussed in greater detail in the following pages. Just to give a brief idea of how bad it can get, there are many documented cases of non-citizens casting fraudulent ballots in



Evidence of a name signed multiple times on a Wisconsin petition to recall Governor Scott Walker. The name on the petition is that of a person who claims he never signed it at all.

recent U.S. elections. In December 2013, Michigan Secretary of State Ruth Johnson asked her attorney general to investigate 10 non-citizens who voted in Michigan elections.¹⁴ Ohio Secretary State Jon Husted was able to confirm that at least 17 non-citizens voted in Ohio in the 2012 presidential election.¹⁵ A 2012 Philadelphia City Commissioner report on voter fraud confirmed that 19 non-citizens were registered in the city, with at least 7 voting.¹⁶ A Bosnian citizen was among those illegally registering and voting in Iowa.¹⁷ In 2005, the Government Accountability Office found that perhaps 3 percent of 30,000 persons called for jury duty from voter registration rolls in a single U.S. district court were not U.S. citizens.¹⁸

Does that sound like a problem that “hardly exists,” and can anyone say for certain that none of the election results in 2008, 2010, and 2012 were affected by these kinds of errors, inaccuracies and outright crimes?

What possible explanation can there be for the fact that in many of our states there are more registered voters than there are people in the 2010 Census? Judicial Watch found this to be the case all across the country. A Judicial Watch investigation, in fact, determined that lists of registered voters in Alabama, California, Colorado, Florida, Indiana, Iowa, Mississippi, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia, for example, contain the names of individuals who are ineligible to vote. Further information on this widespread problem and Judicial Watch’s **Election Integrity Project** can be found at www.judicialwatch.org.¹⁹

Perhaps election officials who don’t maintain clean voter lists share the viewpoint of the chair of the Illinois Board of Elections, who said, “There’s nothing we can do about any of this because we don’t have any money to stop the fraud.”²⁰ Apparently, this official was motivated more by budget problems than the need to ensure clean elections.

It's also important to point out that the government's abuse of federal law has made the problem of voter fraud harder to address. In 1993, the National Voter Registration Act was passed. It is also called the "Motor Voter Law" because Section 5 of the law requires driver's license offices and motor vehicle departments to offer voter registration. Section 7 of the law requires voter registration opportunities to be offered at all government offices providing public assistance, including welfare offices.

The Obama administration has been vigilant in forcing states to abide by this section of the law, suing states for non-compliance in instances where the states have not set up voter registration efforts acceptable to the administration. The reason for this vigilance is the administration's belief that these efforts are more likely to add core Democratic voters to the voter rolls.

There is, however, another important provision of the law: Section 8, which mandates that the states shall make a reasonable effort to clean up the registration rolls by eliminating those who have moved or are deceased. Obviously, the still-active registration of a voter who has moved away or died provides an opportunity for a fraudulent vote. Yet, consider the words of J. Christian Adams reporting on a meeting he attended while he was with the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ):

"I recall a meeting in November of 2009, when Julie Fernandez [Deputy Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights at the DOJ] came to the Voting Section and assembled everybody in the room and announced that they would not be enforcing this provisional law during the Obama administration. They plainly said in no uncertain terms that Section 8 of the motor voter law was not something they had an interest in, because *it had nothing to do with increasing minority turnout.*"²¹

The message here is that the DOJ has decided which aspects of existing voting rights law are to be enforced, based on what will keep President Obama and the Democrats in office. And it's clear that Section 8 is intentionally being ignored, as no Section 8 lawsuits have been initiated.

The story is not the same for Section 7. What happened in Colorado is a telling example of the Obama administration's strong-arm tactics in implementing the voter registration requirements of Section 7. The threat of a lawsuit forced state election officials to work with ACORN front Project Vote in setting up increasing opportunities to register to vote at welfare and other public assistance offices.

The results were disastrous. In fact, the number of rejected registrations — or at least the ones that were caught — rose to more than *four times the national average.*²² Several other states are now dealing with the same threats and attempts by the Obama administration to use federal voting law to achieve partisan, Democratic aims.

In Colorado's case, the state reacted to the *threat* of a lawsuit by the Obama administration. In South Carolina, Texas, and North Carolina, the Justice Department has filed suit and is specifically opposing state voter ID laws intended to protect the integrity of the voting process. The Justice Department lost in South Carolina (and had to pay legal fees). But its lawsuits in Texas and North Carolina are ongoing.



Members of New
Black Panther Party

Then there's the problem of intimidation. Perhaps the most flagrant example of interference with the election process occurred during the 2008 general election. Two members of the New Black Panther Party, Minister King Shabazz and Jerry Jackson, were charged with voter intimidation for confronting voters attempting to enter a precinct polling station in Philadelphia.²³ Witnesses stated that both men shouted racial slurs, including "you're about to be ruled by the black man, cracker." One, Shabazz, carried a billy club. Poll watchers reported that they saw voters approach the polls and then turn away after seeing the two men standing at the entrance.

You may have read that Attorney General Eric Holder has been insisting that voter fraud is not a problem. Well, he pretty much has egg on his face after a video surfaced in which James O'Keefe — the undercover reporter who caught ACORN employees providing advice on how to violate tax and prostitution laws — rather easily and illegally obtained a ballot to vote under Holder's name in his Washington, DC precinct.

Undoubtedly stung by the embarrassment, Holder, of course, struck back, and the District of Columbia Board of Elections investigated O'Keefe for "potential criminal activity." Apparently, the Election Board is more concerned about punishing O'Keefe than ensuring the validity of the voting process.

There's also the famous case in which Democratic party officials were convicted of conspiracy, forgery, and official misconduct in the 2008 presidential primary election. According to the testimony of two former Board of Election officials who pled guilty, St. Joseph County chairman Butch Morgan ordered Democratic officials to fake the names and signatures that Obama and Clinton needed to qualify for the 2008 presidential race.²⁴

In Indiana, a candidate must secure 500 signatures from each of the state's nine congressional districts in order to appear on the ballot. Barack Obama managed to qualify — barely — with 535 signatures. However, Erich Speckin, an expert forensic document analyst hired to review the documents, told the *South Bend Tribune* that up to 270 of the

ballot signatures for candidate Obama were fraudulent. People whose names appeared on the Obama and Clinton petitions were contacted to confirm the forgeries, and many were shocked to find that their names had been used.

While Morgan was sentenced to prison, the larger question is whether or not Obama should even have been on the ballot.²⁵

Lists of news stories pertaining to allegations, investigations, and convictions relating to voter fraud are available at www.rnla.org/votefraud.asp, www.true-the-vote.org/news/did-you-know-there-are-voter-fraud-convictions-and-prosecutions-in-46-states, and www.electionintegritywatch.com/news-stories/.

Why Voter ID Laws Matter

The argument we often hear from the Obama administration is that voter ID laws (typically laws that require a photo ID to register and vote) tend to discourage minorities, young people, and the elderly from voting. The target of the most ardent attacks by the administration are the inclusion of photo IDs as a requirement to identify a voter. Yet, we know from reputable surveys that the commonsense use of photo IDs is supported by every demographic group in America. Two-thirds of African-Americans support it; two-thirds of Hispanics; two-third of liberals; and even two-thirds of those who consider themselves to be Democrats.²⁶

President Obama, when he was a senator, likened photo identification to a new form of poll tax; and Debbie Wasserman Schultz, his handpicked chair of the Democratic National Committee, has said that Republicans want to “drag us all the way back to Jim Crow laws.”²⁷ Former President Bill Clinton said that one of the most pervasive political movements going on outside Washington today is the determined effort to keep most of our youth from voting next time. Adding to the vitriolic spew is Phil Noble, president of the South Carolina New Democrats, who said, “Instead of having hoods and Klan meetings, we’ve dressed it up as law, but it still has the same effect as a barrier to keeping black folks from voting.”²⁸

The culmination — at least to date — of this administration’s efforts to manipulate voting laws in the perceived interest of the Democratic Party is the lawsuit filed by the Justice Department in September 2013 to block a North Carolina law that requires a photo ID in order to vote. This follows a March 2012 suit by the Justice Department (which is ongoing) to block a Texas law requiring the use of photo IDs. This in turn followed a similar lawsuit against South Carolina, which, however, the Obama Justice Department lost.

There is simply no evidence to support the contention that the use of photo IDs discourages legitimate voters from voting. In fact, in states such as Indiana and Georgia where photo ID requirements have been implemented, studies show that voter turnout has actually increased.²⁹



Other means of identification are universally acceptable by a number of states in addition to a photo ID, as shown in this Kansas voting law ad, "It's Just That Easy".

Photo IDs have become part and parcel of living in a modern society. We have to show a photo ID to fly on a plane. We are often asked for a photo ID to cash a check, to purchase prescription drugs, and to enter federal and even private office buildings.

As Andrew Young, the former mayor of Atlanta and one-time colleague of Martin Luther King, has said: "You cannot be part of the mainstream of American life today without a photo ID."³⁰ And in Rhode Island, Governor Lincoln Chafee, who is a liberal independent, signed a photo ID law into existence, stating: "I am signing this law because of requests from the minority community about voting fraud in Providence and other cities."³¹ The sponsor of the bill in the Rhode Island state senate was Harold Metts, who is the only African-American in the entire body. In his opinion, "It's not about red state, blue state, who's on the left or who's on the right. It's about strengthening the people's faith in the system."³²

Actually, the Obama administration is overlooking an important point. Even in those states that require a photo ID, a voter who comes to the polls without one will not lose his or her opportunity to vote. If there is any question about a voter's eligibility, federal law requires that that voter be provided a provisional ballot, which can be voted and will be counted as long as the voter is, in fact, subsequently determined to be eligible.

8 Things You Can Do Now to Help Stop Voter Fraud³³

Clearly, our election process is vulnerable to incompetence, errors, oversights, and blatant corruption which can happen at any point during the process, from the registering of voters to the counting of ballots. The first line of defense in preventing corruption *IS YOU*, and people like you ... people willing to volunteer their time and services to ensure free and fair elections, a process that encompasses events before, during, and after Election Day.



You might ask: “What can I do?” “I don’t work for the city or town; I’m not on an election board; I don’t even work for a candidate.” The answer may surprise you. In fact, there is much you can do, and it mostly involves being present, being watchful, and being willing to question and speak out as permitted by state law and election officials.

1. Become a Poll Worker

First and foremost, you can, if you wish, become a *poll worker*. Poll workers are usually volunteers who are hired and trained by election officials and typically work at a local precinct throughout Election Day. As a poll worker, your primary focus will be on certain specific duties, such as preparing the precinct by helping to set up the voting equipment and distributing election supplies, greeting voters and helping them to sign in, checking voter registrations and handing ballots to voters. You may also be called upon to provide instructions to voters on how to use the voting machines; and once the polls are closed, you will likely be involved in closing the precinct.

A disadvantage of serving as a poll worker is that while you can help ensure that the election process under your control is honest and fair, you have limited ability to observe the actions of others: Voters, other poll workers, election board members and people who may or may not have a legitimate reason for being there. A position that will enable you to make a significant contribution to ensuring accuracy and fairness in elections is that of a *poll watcher*.

2. Become a Poll Watcher

Poll watchers — called “poll observers” in Massachusetts and California, and “challengers” or “checkers” in Illinois — have certain rights and obligations, and must adhere to prescribed rules (depending on state law which varies somewhat from state to state). For example, the state of New York allows each candidate on the ballot to have up to three poll watchers per precinct, only one of which can stand or sit next to the table with the election officials; while Massachusetts permits one per candidate, and none within six feet of the check-in or check-out station.

In Illinois, on the other hand, the number is unspecified, but in the case where a polling place becomes overcrowded with poll watchers, the election officials (called “poll judges” in Illinois) may decide to limit the number by drawing lots, but to no less than one for each candidate (as well as one for each of the other permitted groups). Illinois uses ballot applications and signature verification records, and in terms of where they can stand,

poll watchers are allowed to be near enough to the election officials to be able to compare the signature on the application with the verification record.

The city of Chicago permits a single poll watcher per candidate in a primary election and two per candidate in a general election. Poll watchers are allowed to be close enough to election officials to see and hear instructions to voters.

What you need to know in becoming a poll watcher

Following are rules that *generally* apply within the states. The important point is that all states and all precincts permit poll watchers. *You should also know that your rights as a poll watcher and what you can and cannot do are determined and regulated by each state.* Guides for poll watchers are published by most states and you should be able to obtain a copy through your state election commission.

- In most states, the prospective poll watcher must present signed credentials to the election officials, typically a completed appointment certificate or authorization form signed by a candidate, the state chair of a party, or the representative of a group seeking the passage/defeat of ballot measure. In some states, such as South Carolina, a letter signed by a candidate is acceptable, while in other states, such as Massachusetts, presenting credentials to an election official is recommended, but not essential.
- At a minimum, poll watchers must be registered voters in the state; and in certain instances, depending on the state and the election, they may be required to be a registered voter in their particular precinct or district. (In Massachusetts, however, poll observers are *not* limited to where they live and may change poll locations.)



Election officials checking in voters and handing out ballots

- Poll watchers are permitted to be present: a) before the polls open to observe the set-up procedures; b) during the voting hours to observe the voting process; and c) after the polls close to observe the counting of the ballots.
- A poll watcher wishing to challenge what may seem to be questionable activity on the part of a voter or a poll worker, should state their objection(s) to the head of the election officials at the polling station. A voter who is challenged may be given a provisional ballot. A provisional ballot allows that person to cast a vote, but it is not counted — and is usually retained in a separate location — until the validity of the challenge is determined.

How do you become a poll watcher?

The easiest and surest way is to “volunteer” through **True The Vote**, which will accomplish two things: First, you will be connected with a program leader and an organization in your state. If none already exists, **True The Vote** — which is non-partisan and unaffiliated with any party or candidate — will help you start an organization. Second, you will receive the training you need to be an effective poll watcher and team builder.

Alternatively, you could contact one of the other groups listed in this guide, depending on where you live. Finally, you can also contact the headquarters in your state for the candidate or party of your choice, and become certified that way. You will then need to contact local officials for your precinct before Election Day to let them know you wish to be a poll watcher.

But, again, your best bet is to contact **True the Vote** through its website (www.truethevote.org) and sign up as a volunteer. Someone from that organization will contact you and help you through the process.

What to look for as a poll watcher

As a poll watcher, you will need to be vigilant at all times before the polls open, during the voting hours, and during the counting of votes after the polls closed. (You can also be present when the absentee votes are counted, even at nursing homes.) You will ensure that the ballot box registers “0” ballots as the polls open, and also ensure at the close of the polling station that the remaining blank ballots are destroyed or otherwise rendered unusable. A few examples of what you will be looking for are:

- Voters reading their name or address off of a piece of paper, which could suggest they are not the person they say they are.
- Someone known to be deceased or an address known not to exist. (You may know this from the voter registration research done prior to Election Day. True The Vote can help you with this).
- More than one person in a voting booth at the same time, unless one of them is a child under 18, or unless a disabled person has requested assistance.

- An intoxicated voter being given assistance in a voting booth.
- A voting machine not working properly.
- A voter speaking softly in stating a name and address so that others can't hear.
- A person attempting to vote who is not a registered voter.
- A person attempting to vote who has already voted.
- Voters who try to leave the polling place with a ballot.
- People with election materials (signs, buttons, pamphlets, etc.) within a distance to the entrance of the polling place prescribed by state law (for some states, this distance is 100 feet, while for others it is much less).

What you cannot do as a poll watcher

While you do have certain rights as a poll watcher, in practically all states there are things you cannot do. First and foremost, you cannot talk with a voter at any time before, after, or during the voting process. If you wish to challenge a particular voter or you see something suspicious, you must speak directly with the head of the election officials for the precinct you are observing. (In some states, you are allowed to speak with the police officer on duty.) Other things you cannot do:

- You cannot interfere with the election process in any way. You cannot be in the way or block the view of poll workers.
- You cannot use a cell phone inside the polling place. (In Massachusetts, believe it or not, you can bring a camera inside and take photos and videos of people...but not the contents of any ballot. Also, you cannot record check-in and check-out audio.)
- Typically, you are not allowed to use the materials provided to poll workers. You should bring your own pencils, paper, chairs, registration lists, etc.
- You cannot wear political buttons, stickers, jewelry, or clothing of a political nature.
- In many states, you are not allowed to speak directly with the poll workers, just the head of the election officials (the judge or judges).

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Catherine Engelbrecht, founder and president of True the Vote and King Street Patriots

- Finally, you cannot be a poll watcher if you are on the ballot as a candidate for an office, or if you are an elected official whose name appears on the ballot, or a poll worker, a police officer or any law enforcement official.

If you have a question about what you can and cannot do, guides are published by each state. You may also wish to contact **True The Vote** or an organization listed at the back of this booklet, if one exists in your state. Finally, should you be interested in being a poll watcher at your local precinct, you may want to attend the training sessions for poll workers and election judges.

Training programs for poll workers are usually conducted at the county level. They may also be augmented on-line and with published training materials. Attending available sessions is your right. The election commission in your state will have the details.

3. Perform Voter Registration Research

Without question, the key to ensuring voter integrity during an election is being able to verify that the names and addresses on the voter registration list are legitimate and up-to-date. In each state, voter registration lists can be obtained ahead of the election. Checking these lists against other available data is a laborious, time-consuming — but essential — job for which your help would definitely be welcomed.

While voter registration lists can be purchased from an online service and directly from some of the states (either of which can be expensive), you should have no difficulty getting a copy of the list for your precinct from the state headquarters of your candidate or your party.³⁴ You can also file an “Open Records” request with your state. Perhaps the best thing to do, however, is to begin by contacting True The Vote, which maintains an extensive database of voter registrations for each state.

The process of checking voter registration lists requires a degree of patience and creativity. For example, volunteers working on lists will attempt to check the voter entries against other available resources, such as property tax information and dates of birth. The website, www.tributes.com, and local papers can even be checked for obituaries.

Duplicate registrations, which do occur, will be more easily discovered. As indicated, the process is time-consuming and tedious, but it is an extremely important function, as it is the bedrock of ensuring voter integrity on Election Day.

What else can you do? Here are a few ideas to make your voice heard:

4. Speak Out at Election Board Hearings and Local Precinct Sessions

Meetings and hearings of election boards — called election divisions and election centers in some states — are an excellent opportunity to find out what’s going on and what issues are and are not being addressed. It is your right both to ask questions when the opportunity presents itself during the hearing and to voice your opinion. Discussions

about dead people voting, electronic voting fraud, and ballot tampering *should* come up; if not, you can raise these important issues.

The office of the secretary of state (or commonwealth) should be able to help you find out more about election board meetings. You can also ask questions, should you decide to attend training sessions held by your local precinct for poll workers. And again, you can look to **True The Vote** for help and advice.

5. Write “Letters to the Editor” and Opinion Editorials

Letters to the editor can be an extremely important tool for grassroots activists in election reform. They allow you to comment on and respond to articles in local and national papers. While such letters may seem trivial, many legislators and policymakers keep an eye on letters to the editor, so they can find out what the public is thinking about a particular issue.

An opinion editorial is similar to a letter, in that it is printed on the editorial page, but differs in some key ways. An op-ed is generally longer than a letter to an editor, and it provides more in-depth analysis and commentary on a particular policy alternative or article. You need to be concise, honest, and relevant. Be sure that your facts are correct, and include your contact information so the paper can get in touch with you. Also, you should check with the editor of the publication to obtain the guidelines for op-ed writing and submission.

6. Call in to Radio Talk Shows

Each day, millions of people tune in to talk radio at home or during their commutes to and from work. You can reach thousands of people at a time by calling into these shows, even local or regional shows ... which are your best bet, especially since you will want to be talking about election fraud in your state.

You will need to write down what you want to say before you call in, so you can voice clearly the points you want to make when it’s your turn. Every radio show has a call screener that will want to know who you are and what you want to talk about. Have a one-line answer prepared. Also, make sure you are calling into a show in which the subject being discussed is relevant or at least conducive to what you want to talk about.

7. Create Your Own Blog, or Blog on Other Sites

A blog is a type of website or part of a website on which a person regularly posts content, commentary, or links to interesting items, such as articles on news websites. Today, there are millions of blogs on the internet ranging in topics from politics to personal lives.

You can also start your own blog and share your opinions with the world. You’ll



need to define your goals and select a topic, and if you can, find a subject or style that makes your blog unique. Election fraud is a sensitive issue and you should have no difficulty getting people to respond. Be sure to be well informed by staying on top of relevant events and what the media are saying in your state and region . There are many books on how to get a blog going, how to make it effective, and how to publicize your blog.

8. Be Active in Social Networking

Millions of people have found social networking sites like Facebook and Twitter are an effective way to communicate and to organize. If you haven't already joined in, go to www.facebook.com. There you'll find an easy-to-use sign-up form. Enter your name, email address and birthday, and create a password. It's that easy. Facebook will help you find friends — people you wish to connect with — by accessing your email account's address book. As you'll soon find out, you can edit your privacy settings to control who can see the information you post on your profile.

Twitter is a simpler social networking tool in which you post short messages that are limited to 140 characters. With these messages, you can tell your “friends” what you're doing, share interesting news stories, or just say what is on your mind. Go to www.twitter.com and click the *Get Started* button on the homepage. Simply fill out the requested fields and click. *Create Account*. You'll be on your way to expressing your opinions through social networking.

Can You Actually Make a Difference?

The short answer is “yes”... definitely! In every county in every state where more people are listed on voter rolls than are counted in the Census, there is a problem, and one that can lead to fraud. Recently, in Montgomery County, Maryland, volunteers meticulously combed through the voter registration rolls and reported to state election officials 5,400 irregularities in the 7,000 records examined.³⁵ While some of these errors were perhaps minor, almost certainly, without this critical volunteer help, people would have voted in the next election who are not eligible to vote.

Clearly, the voter registration rolls in many states are a mess, and the job of cleaning them up can be greatly improved with the help of volunteers like you, either working through organizations such as **True the Vote**, or a local group, or simply as an individual. Your help is needed both to examine voter registration rolls and to act as poll workers and poll watchers for your precinct. Only in this way can we ensure free and fair elections.

Organizations You Can Contact

For information on the status of voter fraud cases in the U.S. and for press releases, articles, and special reports on related subjects, and in particular, Judicial Watch’s **Election Integrity Project**, please see the contact information below:

Judicial Watch

425 Third Street, SW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20024
Tel: 1-888-593-8442 (toll-free)
Fax: 202-646-5199
Email: info@judicialwatch.org
Web: www.judicialwatch.org

True the Vote is the foremost citizen-led effort to restore and ensure fair and legal elections in the U.S. The organization has training programs and is mobilizing poll watchers, election workers, and volunteers engaged in voter registration research. They are currently working in 32 states and can be contacted as follows:

True the Vote

P.O. Box 27368
Houston, Texas 77227
Contact: Catherine Engelbrecht, founder and president
Tel: 713-401-3550
Email: info@truethevote.org
Web: www.truethevote.org

Other organizations monitor local, state, and federal elections in an effort to validate the integrity of the voting and ballot-counting processes. As such, these organizations elicit and train workers to watch for possible instances of fraud at the polls and in the counting of votes, not only on election day, but also in terms of absentee ballots, and — when deemed legitimate — provisional ballots. Volunteers are also trained to review voter registration records for possible errors in names and addresses.

While additional organizations with a similar purpose may also exist, these are known to represent the voters in their prescribed states. At least two of the organizations, **Election Integrity Maryland** and **Virginia Voters Alliance**, are affiliated with **True the Vote**.

Alaskans for Clean Elections

P.O. Box 200842
Anchorage, Alaska 99520
Tel: 907-230-5617
Fax: [to be determined]
Email: michelle@alaskansforcleanelections.org
Web: www.alaskansforcleanelections.com

Minnesota Majority

1730 New Brighton Boulevard, PMB 233
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55413
Tel: 612-605-3303
Fax: 612-605-3324
Email: dan.mcgrath@mnmajority.org
Web: www.minnesotamajority.org

California Election Integrity Project

Contact through internet site:
www.electionintegrityproject.com

Show ID to Vote

45 Shawsheen Road, #9
Bedford, Massachusetts 01730
Tel: 781-281-8067; 815-301-8969
Fax: 815-301-8969
Email: info@showIDtovote.com
Web: www.showIDtovote.com

Defend the Vote

One West Surry Lane
Barrington Hills, Illinois 60010
Tel: 847-382-1100
Email: info@defendthevote.com
Web: www.defendthevote.com

Virginia Voters Alliance

PO Box 221581
Chantilly, VA 22153
Tel: 703.803.8482 office
Email: info@virginiavotersalliance.com
Web: www.virginiavotersalliance.com

Election Integrity Maryland

Contact through internet site:
www.electionintegritymaryland.com

NOTE: *Numerous other organizations in 35 states reportedly focus on monitoring voter registrations and voting at polling stations, and the counting of ballots with the intent of addressing incompetence and fraud in local, state, and national elections.*

End Notes

- ¹ ACORN = Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now. Despite its bankruptcy, ACORN groups have reemerged, such as AHCOA (Affordable Housing Centers of America) and various supposedly independent state organizations.
- ² “Sen. Al Franken (D., ACORN),” *The Corner on National Review Online*, 29 September 2009.
- ³ Dan McGrath, “Report of Fraudulent Votes Cast by Ineligible Felons in Minnesota’s 2008 General Election,” prepared for Minnesota Majority, 28 June, 2010.
- ⁴ Donna Garner, Education Policy Commentator, “Election Trickery, True The Vote Comes to the Rescue,” *Education News*, 11 February 2012.
- ⁵ To learn about the California Election Integrity Project, check out the organization’s Internet site at www.electionintegrityproject.com.
- ⁶ JOSÉ ORTEGA Y GASSET, *THE REVOLT OF THE MASSES* 158 (1932).
- ⁷ Available at http://www.rasmussenreports.com/public_content/politics/general_politics/august_2013/new_low_39_think_u_s_elections_are_fair.
- ⁸ Available at <http://www.politico.com/news/stories/1012/82936.html>
- ⁹ Available at <http://www.gallup.com/poll/111691/worldwide-views-diverge-about-honesty-elections.aspx>.
- ¹⁰ 42 U.S.C. § 1973i(b).
- ¹¹ For just a few of many available stories, see, for example, THE CORRUPTION CHRONICLES, *More 2008 Election Fraud Uncovered*, Judicial Watch, April 05, 2012 (available at http://www.judicialwatch.org/blog/2007/06/illegal_immigrants_vote_in_us/), and *Illegal Immigrants Vote In U.S. Elections*, June 12, 2007 (http://www.judicialwatch.org/blog/2007/06/illegal_immigrants_vote_in_us/). Catalogues of recent stories about vote fraud are helpfully collected at the websites of the Republican National Lawyer’s Association (<http://www.mla.org/votefraud.asp>), and True the Vote (<http://www.truethevote.org/news/did-you-know-there-are-voter-fraud-convictions-and-prosecutions-in-46-states>).
- ¹² *Inaccurate, Costly, and Inefficient: Evidence That America’s Voter Registration System Needs an Upgrade*, PEW RESEARCH CENTER ON THE STATES, Feb. 14, 2012, at 1.
- ¹³ Gregory Korte, “Pew Study: 1 in 8 Voter Records Flawed,” *USA Today*, 13 February 2012.
- ¹⁴ “Michigan Investigation Sought of Non-Citizen Voting,” Associated Press (Dec. 6, 2013).
- ¹⁵ Fox News, *Non-citizens caught voting in 2012 presidential election in key swing state*, Eric Shawn, December 18, 2013, available at <http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2013/12/18/non-citizens-caught-voting-in-2012-presidential-election-in-key-swing-state/>.
- ¹⁶ Report of City Commissioner Al Schmidt, “Voting Irregularities in Philadelphia County, 2012 Primary Election,” July 2012, p. 18 (“In 2012 alone, the Philadelphia Voter Registration office has already cancelled the registrations of 19, illegally-registered voters in Philadelphia County who are not U.S. Citizens. Of the 19 illegally-registered voters, 7 have voted in at least one election over the past 10 years, as recently as the 2012 Primary.”).
- ¹⁷ “Guilty Pleas Resolve All Five Voter Fraud Convictions in Iowa,” *DesMoinesRegister.com* (Dec. 15, 2013); Jason Noble, “Denison Woman is Latest Charged with Voter Fraud in Ongoing Iowa Investigation,” *DesMoinesRegister.com* (Dec. 20, 2013).
- ¹⁸ Hans A. von Spakovsky, *The Threat of Non-Citizen Voting*, Legal Memorandum No. 28, The Heritage Foundation, available at <http://www.heritage.org/research/reports/2008/07/the-threat-of-non-citizen-voting>.
- ¹⁹ See **2012 Election Integrity Project** link on www.judicialwatch.org and Judicial Watch Special Report, “The Voter Fraud Threat to Free and Fair Elections,” 2 August 2011.

- ²⁰ “With USJF Support, Defend the Vote Testifies To Illinois Election Board,” United States Justice Foundation online report, 23 February 2012.
- ²¹ Judicial Watch Special Report, “Announcement of 2012 Election Integrity Project,” 9 February 2012.
- ²² Judicial Watch press release, “Documents: ACORN and Project Vote Activity Led to Dramatic Increase in Invalid Colorado Voter Registrations for 2008 and 2010,” 4 August 2011.
- ²³ “New Black Panther Party Voter Intimidation Case,” Wikipedia, updated 18 April 2012.
- ²⁴ Eric Shawn, “Officials Found Guilty In Obama, Clinton Ballot Petition Fraud,” Foxnews.com, April 26, 2013.]
- ²⁵ Hans A. von Spakovsky, “Election Fraud Tainted the 2008 Presidential Race in Indiana,” *National Review*, 9 April, 2012.
- ²⁶ Judicial Watch Special Report, “The Voter Fraud Threat to Free and Fair Elections,” 2 August, 2011.
- ²⁷ “Debbie Wasserman Schultz Compares GOP-Backed Voting Bills to Jim Crow,” *Tampa Bay Times*, Politifact.Com, 9 June 2011.
- ²⁸ Maya Noronha, “Democrat Makes Outrageous Comparison of Voter ID to Ku Klux Klan,” Republican National Lawyers Association, 21 July, 2011.
- ²⁹ Ross Kaminsky, “Holder Upholds Voter Fraud,” *American Spectator*, 4 March, 2012.
- ³⁰ Judicial Watch Special Report, “The Voter Fraud Threat to Free and Fair Elections,” 2 August, 2011.
- ³¹ *Ibid.*
- ³² *Ibid.*
- ³³ The rules and regulations and permitted activities for poll workers and poll watchers are provided in guidelines published by each of the states, which are available through the state elections divisions. The documents for many of the states are also available online.
- ³⁴ In Montana, for instance, lists of registered voters can be purchased for each county, or even a complete list for all 56 counties in the state.
- ³⁵ Pam Fessler, “Tea Party Spawns New Effort Against Voter Fraud,” NPR, 13 March, 2012.

If you would like additional copies
of the report please contact:

Judicial Watch
425 Third Street, SW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20024

Tel: (202) 646-5172
FAX: (202) 646-5199

Email: info@JudicialWatch.org
www.JudicialWatch.org

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