

Vermont Secretary of State's Office Checklist Maintenance & Election Security



Secretary of State Jim Condos

Vermont Secretary of State's Office

Voter Checklist Maintenance

- Town clerks and Boards of Civil Authority
- Automatic Voter Registration (AVR)
- Vermont Election Management System (VEMS)
- Monthly death notices (VDOH)



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Voter Checklist Maintenance

- Move notices from other states
- The Electronic Registration Information Center ([ERIC](#))
- Postcard and ballot mailing efforts in 2020
- 2021 – the "Summer of Checklist Maintenance"



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Election Security Measures

- Checklist maintenance (see above)
- Ballot envelopes: bar coding, sign & certify
- Secure drop boxes for ballot return
- Harsh penalties for offenses against elections
- Town clerk security force and local election workers
- Official Certification of results



Election Security Measures

- Post-election audits
- Recounts
- Paper ballots
- Election processes - built to ensure transparency, security & nonpartisan approach
- Cybersecurity and federal partners



The Myth of Widespread Voter Fraud

- VT has severe criminal penalties for impersonating a voter, or for voting more than once.
- All early or by-mail ballots must be submitted in the certificate envelope, which must be signed by the voter under the pains and penalties of perjury that they are who they say they are, that they haven't voted more than once and their vote has not been influenced.
- Risking potential jail time to try & change an election by one vote isn't something the majority of people would think was worth it.



The Myth of Widespread Voter Fraud

- The control point for the election is at the return of ballots to the clerk.
- No matter how many ballots are out there, each voter may return only one (bar coding, unique ID).
- When a ballot is received by the Clerk, early by mail or in-person at the polls, that voter is checked off the checklist as having voted.
- If another ballot is submitted under their name, the Clerk will know, and an investigation can be triggered immediately.



The Myth of Widespread Voter Fraud

- We will investigate all complaints we receive from the public. We have only received a handful in the last decade.
- Our election management system allows the Clerks to see if a voter has moved, and their voting history follows them. Again, if they try to vote more than once, the system will know, the Clerks will know, and we'll know.
- Clerks know their voters and they are instructed to notify us of any suspicious activity, which we take incredibly seriously.



The Myth of Widespread Voter Fraud

- National, non-partisan studies have shown time and time again that widespread voter fraud is virtually non-existent.
- Voter fraud does occur, but it is so infrequent that the numbers measure well below 1/10th of a percent, based on data experts have analyzed.
- See the Justin Levitt study, which only found 31 POTENTIAL credible cases, out of a BILLION votes analyzed:
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/wonkblog/wp/2014/08/06/a-comprehensive-investigation-of-voter-impersonation-finds-31-credible-incidents-out-of-one-billion-ballots-cast/>
- Also see the Brennan Center's considerable research on vote by mail:
<https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/analysis-opinion/false-narrative-vote-mail-fraud>



The Myth of Widespread Voter Fraud

- Lastly, see the 2020 elections in Vermont and the U.S., perhaps the most scrutinized elections in history.
- In the 2020 General Election a record-breaking more than 370,000 Vermonters voted and we received:
 - 7 complaints of potential double voting (1 confirmed as legitimate)
 - 0 complaints of voter impersonation
 - 0 complaints of voter intimidation
 - 0 unexplainable complaints of someone showing up at the polls having already been checked off as having voted already
 - 0 complaints for stolen or damaged ballots, and
 - 0 complaints for so-called ballot harvesting



The Myth of Widespread Voter Fraud

- In states across the country vote by mail opportunities were expanded due to the pandemic.
- Some states struggled to implement mail voting on such short notice. Not all were as successful as VT and there were challenges, but we did not see widespread fraud.
- The 2020 elections were administered under difficult circumstances and increased scrutiny, with constant coverage, partisan attacks and lawsuits.
- Those elections were certified, audits confirmed the results, and the lawsuits were all thrown out, lacking evidence of fraud.
- There are many threats to our elections and to our democracy but voting by mail and increased voter participation aren't among them.

