

The Myth of Voter Fraud

Extensive research reveals that fraud is very rare. Yet repeated, false allegations of fraud can make it harder for millions of eligible Americans to participate in elections.

Overview

It is important to protect the integrity of our elections. But we must be careful not to undermine free and fair access to the ballot in the name of preventing phantom voter fraud.

Politicians at all levels of government have repeatedly, and falsely, claimed the 2016, 2018, and 2020 elections were marred by large numbers of people voting illegally. However, [extensive research](#) reveals that fraud is very rare, voter impersonation is virtually nonexistent, and many instances of alleged fraud are, in fact, mistakes by voters or administrators. The same is true for [mail ballots](#), which are secure and es-

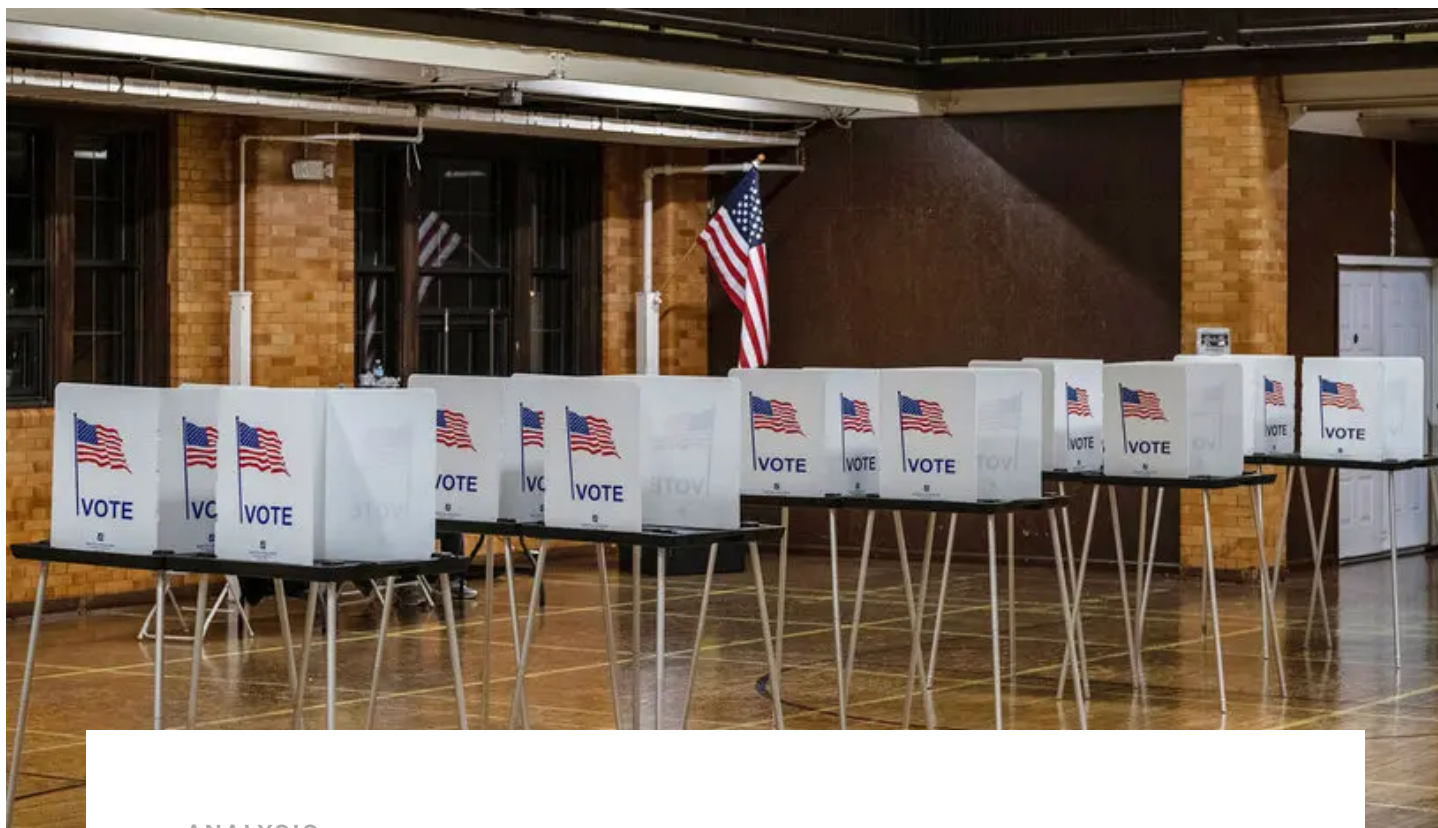
sential to holding a safe election amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Noncitizens are not permitted to vote in state and federal elections. It's a federal crime for noncitizens to register or vote in federal elections, and it's a crime under every state's laws. So it should come as no surprise that every legitimate study ever done on the question shows that voting by noncitizens in state and federal elections is [vanishingly rare](#).

The Brennan Center's seminal report [The Truth About Voter Fraud](#) conclusively demonstrated that most allegations of

fraud turn out to be baseless and that most of the few remaining allegations reveal irregularities and other forms of election misconduct. Numerous **other studies**, including one commissioned by the Trump administration, have reached the same conclusion.

Voter fraud is unacceptable, but we must find solutions that address actual problems instead of imposing policies that make it harder for millions of eligible Americans to participate in our democracy.



ANALYSIS

Noncitizen Voting Isn't Affecting State or Federal Elections — Here's Why

States have multiple systems in place to deter noncitizen voting. Those who violate the law face prison time and deportation.

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