



SUMMER 2017 CONGRESSIONAL RECESS ISSUE GUIDE

Trump's Voter Suppression Commission

Background:

On May 11th, Donald Trump signed an executive order creating the so-called "Presidential Advisory Commission on Election Integrity." The stated purpose of the commission is "to promote fair and honest Federal elections" by evaluating laws and policies that enhance or undermine public confidence in our elections and identifying "vulnerabilities" that could lead to fraud. The real reason for the commission is to justify making it harder for some Americans—like people of color and younger voters—to cast a ballot.

Key Points

- Donald Trump claims he lost the popular vote because millions of "illegal" votes were cast. That lie and similar claims of mass in-person voter fraud are the justification for this commission. However, experts say that's absurd, and studies have repeatedly found that there is virtually no in-person voter fraud in the U.S.
- For years, the Right Wing and Republican elected officials have used false fraud claims to fuel an onslaught of ever more suppressive voting laws, like onerous voter ID requirements. A federal court found that North Carolina's voter ID law was designed to target African American voters "with almost surgical precision." And a study released in May found that Wisconsin's voter ID law reduced turnout by as many as 200,000 votes—Trump won in Wisconsin by 22,748 votes.
- The members of the commission include the far Right's voter suppression "A-Team." The commission is co-chaired by Vice President Mike Pence and Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach, perhaps the nation's lead vote suppressor. It also includes Heritage Foundation's Hans von Spakovsky, a leading purveyor of the "voter fraud" myths, and former Ohio Secretary of State Ken Blackwell, who suppressed the rights of thousands during the 2004 and 2006 elections.
- The commission's request for extensive voter data from the states appears to be an effort to implement a national version of Kobach's "Crosscheck" program, which has been used to purge thousands of eligible voters, predominantly people of color, from voting rolls.

What you can do:

- Lobby your members of Congress in person while they are home for recess!
- Write a letter to the editor!
- Raise awareness in your own community and networks!
- Get the word out on social media!

Find resources to help you do all of that and more at
www.pfaw.org/ResistanceRecess