

The Delray Democrat

The Fraud of “Voter Fraud” The Reality of Voter Suppression¹

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Is it any surprise Donald Trump both despises and fears the United States Postal Service? Its workforce is unionized, earns a living wage, and is disproportionately minority and female. What's not to hate if you're a racist, sexist plutocrat?

Trump fears the women and men of America's favorite federal agency because (unless he can stop them) they will sort, process, and forward the vote-by-mail ballots that will end his presidency and remove his immunity from prosecution. What's not to fear?

Trump openly [admits](#) this is why he is threatening to veto the additional funding needed for the Post Office to process the anticipated surge in VBM ballots:

They want \$25 billion, billion, for the Post Office. Now they need that money in order to have the post office work so it can take all of these millions and millions of ballots.

His absurd rationale, that voting by mail is rife with voter fraud, has been widely debunked and is the real fraud on the American public.

The Actual Incidence of Voter Fraud Is Infinitesimal

A commission Trump established to “prove” he “won” the popular vote [disbanded](#) without finding *any* evidence of voter fraud. An earlier effort launched by the DOJ under former President George W. Bush “turned up [virtually no evidence](#) of any organized effort to skew federal elections.”

The Heritage Foundation's [Election Fraud Database](#) fares no better at establishing significant voter fraud, notwithstanding its claim to have uncovered “1296 proven instances of voter fraud” resulting in “1119 criminal convictions.”

Adjusted for the 20 years and 50 states covered, this translates to *just over one instance of voter fraud per state per year*. Moreover, a substantial number of these cases involved local elections, and virtually all involved individual actors rather than organized efforts.

Finally, [only 143 convictions](#) in the Heritage Database involved voting by mail. *That's less than a total of seven convictions per year spread across the entire country.*

The Real Threat to Democracy Is Voter Suppression

The real threat to democracy is not voter fraud. It is voter suppression, something at which Republicans excel – limiting polling places and hours, purging voter rolls, and imposing ID laws

¹ *The Delray Democrat*, September, cover.

that discriminate against minorities and the poor.

Now they are recruiting [50,000 poll watchers](#) to challenge voters this November. Even if the challenges are bogus, they are intimidating to voters, they create long lines, and they discourage voting.

You can avoid that if you vote by mail, but be sure to immediately fill out your ballot upon receipt and then mail it or, preferably, deposit it in one of the drop boxes at early voting sites or take it to the offices of the Supervisor of Elections.