

7 PERFECTLY LEGAL WAYS TO COMMIT VOTER SUPPRESSION



*USED BY CELEBRITIES LIKE THE US GOVERNMENT
(PLS DON'T PUT ME ON A WATCHLIST)

1 . P O L L T A X E S

WHAT/WHEN/WHERE/WHY

A price that must be paid in order to vote. Appeared in 1890's in order to prevent black people, a historically economically disadvantaged group, from voting. Poor white people were often 'grandfathered' in, and enforcement was racially biased, so more to exclude people of color (poc), a generally left leaning demographic. Remained legal until the 24th amendment in 1964. (1)

STILL RELEVANT?

While direct poll taxes are now illegal, groups like the ACLU argue there are other fiscal barriers to voting, which disproportionately affect minority and working class voters. The following require some cost not all can afford (2):



TIME OFF
WORK TO
VOTE



TRANSPORT/
FARES TO GET
TO POLLING STATION



DRIVERS
LICENSE
FOR ID



POSTAGE
FOR MAIL-IN
BALLOTS



PRIORITY SHIPPING
SO BALLOT
COUNTED

SOLUTIONS

Make election day a federal holiday, increase early + absentee voting for working class, allow no cost ballot mailing, fund the USPS, pay someone's poll tax, diversify types of IDs accepted.

2 . V O T E R L I S T P U R G E S

WHAT?

Done carefully: the removal of duplicate names, the dead, and other ineligible voters from state's voter roll to keep it up to date.
Done carelessly or deliberately incorrectly: the removal of registered voters.

WHEN/WHERE/WHY?

Voting purges are done quite frequently, between 2004 and 2006, 39 states and DC reported purging more than 13 million voters from registration rolls. The issue is that different states have different means of editing their rolls, and ethic agencies, like the Brennan Center for Justice state "the process is shrouded in secrecy, prone to error, and vulnerable to manipulation" (3).

STILL RELEVANT?

Before the 2016 primary, NY election officials illegally removed 200,000 eligible voters, 2013 Virginia purges had a 17% error rate, in 2017 Georgia removed 107,000 eligible voters (disproportionately black). The Brennan Center reports voter purges have increased in recent years, and may affect this years results, as many are voting by mail and may not realize their registration was revoked. (4)

SOLUTIONS

Check your registration status ASAP, and encourage others to do the same, before each election. Demand public transparency from election officials and representatives on voter purging methods.

3. VOTER CAGING

WHAT

A political campaign or party lists the names and addresses of those likely to vote against their candidate. They then send mail to those voters. If the mail is undeliverable (returned to sender) it's used as evidence that the voter must not live there and their registration is invalid. If this is accepted, the voter is purged from registration, usually without their knowledge. (5)

WHEN/WHERE/WHY

According to the Brennan Center, "voter caging is almost always pursued with partisan aims... often targeted at minority voters" from as early as 1986, though the practice is still legal almost everywhere. Congress has also deemed the practice unreliable and tried to limit it with the Motor-Voter Law, although again, minorities and the poor are less likely to have a license, and therefore benefit less from this. (6)

STILL RELEVANT?

Voter caging is still legal most places, although there are many reasons mail goes undelivered, but you still are eligible to vote. And with USPS being defunded, more and more mail goes undelivered.



HOMELESSNESS
OR FLEEING ABUSE



HOME + MAIL
ADDRESS DIFFERENT



TYPHO IN ADDRESS
OR NAME



RECIPIENT IS
TRAVELING



NO ONE IS REQUIRED TO
ACCEPT MAIL



SOLUTIONS

Fund the USPS! Advocate for the ban of voter caging.

4 . V O T E R ~~DISINFORMATION~~

WHAT

Giving voters false information about when and how to vote, leading them to fail to cast invalid ballots.

WHEN / WHERE / WHY

In 2011 a conservative political group, Americans for Prosperity founded by the Koch billionaires sent Democratic voters incorrect deadlines for returning absentee ballots, causing errors. In current and previous elections lies about ICE stationed at polling places deterred many foreign born citizens or those with relations to immigrants (even legal) from voting, out of fear of persecution. (7,8)

STILL RELEVANT?

This year, under DeJoy's (who refused to review template for accuracy) leadership, USPS sent the nation misinformation on how to vote, knowing voting laws and dates vary significantly by state. Once alerted to the problem, DeJoy refused to stop sending misinformation. Other leaders, like Trump, have spread the myth mail in voting is new and inaccurate, despite existing since the Civil War, and having only a .004% rate of error, according to bipartisan fact checking. (9)

SOLUTIONS

Fund the USPS so that they can improve voter education + ballot delivery. Demand DeJoy's prosecution, advocate for the abolition of ICE for many other real intimidation tactics (10), and educate others!

5 . STRICT VOTER ID LAWS

WHAT

Undue rules on which IDs are/aren't accepted when voting, esp. those that disproportionately affect certain demographics.

WHEN/WHERE/WHY

A common example is limiting ID to driver licenses. Who doesn't have a driver's license? 7% of whites, 10% of latinos, 21% of african americans. The poor are much less likely to have a car or be certified at all, compared to the upper and middle class, and disparities get worse for having an up to date ID, which takes time and money. (11)

STILL RELEVANT?

In 2016 federal court found allowing IDs laws to include military and concealed carry permits, but not state employee or university photo IDs was illegal, as it discriminated based on race and ideology, with black and latinos less likely to qualify, but this didn't stop the same issues from occurring in 2017, this time also ruling requiring voters to spend money traveling to a gov. office to update info counted as a poll tax. This issues remain pervasive across the country. (12)

SOLUTIONS

Expand accepted IDs to all reliable forms of identification, particularly those that do not have fiscal barriers.

6. FELONY DISENFRANCHISEMENT

WHAT

When ex-felons who have served their sentences are prevented from voting. This affects millions, usually minorities, every year, even for laws that have since been repealed and non violent offenses.

WHEN / WHERE / WHY?

Felonies are just crimes for which you can be imprisoned for more than a year. For example sodomy, or gay sex, was and still is a felony in some states, or possession of non addictive drugs, like weed. (13)

Felonies have long been used to disproportionately imprison people of color (poc), particularly black people, since the end of slavery in the US. Rich whites refused to sell or employ now freed black people, yet sought a new source of 'free' labor, as the economy threatened to collapse. This created mass poverty for poc and so lawmakers created the first state prisons, and made things like homelessness, loitering, and effects of poverty felonies, thus revoking their ability to vote and creating a new slave labor force, with ex-slave patrols become the first police departments, searching for poc to arrest and imprison. All legally, as under the 13th amendment, slavery was prohibited EXCEPT in the case if imprisonment. (14)

And nothing has changed since then. The war on drugs specifically criminalized crack more harshly than cocaine, although experts attested the only real difference between them was that whites tended to use cocaine and blacks tended to use crack (15). The justice system continues to target poc more than whites despite similar drug use, prosecute them more often (16) and sentences them more severely than white people. And the US economy has never ceased relying on 'inmate labor' as a means of profit and work, with for profit prisons currently dominating the sector. See below for better explanations and potential solutions:





7. THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE

WHAT



We don't get to vote for candidates in elections, we really only are voting on how we'd like our state's electoral college or electors, to vote. A candidate only needs 270 electoral votes to win, and depending on your state, electors do not have to vote according to the voters' preferences. So a candidate can lose the popular vote, but win an election, like in the 2000 and 2016 elections.



WHEN / WHERE / WHY

The electoral college was created by the founding fathers as a last line of defense against the people's voice. They believed the citizens were too uneducated to decide for themselves who should govern, and included this as a means to suppress their voice. In addition, the number of electors your state gets has not kept in proportion with the populace of the state, meaning that a greater group of people can have less of a say than a smaller group, just bc of where you live, as opposed to all people having an equal say. (17)



SOLUTIONS?

Abolish the electoral college. It's really not a radical idea, we're the only democracy that does things this way, and actively chooses to ignore the will of the people. You can be the change.

1. https://ballotpedia.org/Poll_tax

2. <https://tinyurl.com/y3ct7s9g>

3. <https://tinyurl.com/y245poa2>

4. <https://tinyurl.com/y245poa2>

5. <https://tinyurl.com/y5rkgwzz>

6. <https://tinyurl.com/y623vg5h>

7. <https://tinyurl.com/y2dxprar>

8. <https://tinyurl.com/y2dxprar>

9. <https://tinyurl.com/yavkGGLE>

10. <https://tinyurl.com/yxa9g7al>

11. <https://tinyurl.com/y623vg5h>

12. <https://tinyurl.com/z3y2csb>

13. <https://tinyurl.com/y6tujn3q>

14. <https://tinyurl.com/yydt6khf>

15. <https://tinyurl.com/y28az7p2>

16. <https://tinyurl.com/yby8x7bh>

17. <https://tinyurl.com/yy6px73u>

