

**NEBRASKA TAXPAYERS FOR FREEDOM ISSUE PAPER:
THESE VOTER INTEGRITY BILLS MUST PASS.**

BACKGROUND. Three voter integrity bills, already heard by the Government Committee, await a committee vote to advance to the full legislature for debate. These 3 bills would ensure that all of our elections would become more safeguarded against tampering, hacking, and other fraud. It is imperative that taxpayers lobby hard for all 3 bills.

LB 1121, sponsored by Sen. Joni Albrecht, would require the Sec. of State office to examine all vote counting machines before every primary, general, and special election to ensure that such machines do not have within them technology that hackers could utilize by directly connecting them via Wi-Fi, hardware, or other unsecured outside source. Such



inspections would ensure all devices in proper working condition. Inspectors would seal the outside of each machine for safeguarding. The Sec. of State would create a report listing all voting machine serial numbers and dates inspected. All inspections done by inspectors employed by the Sec. of State, and no third-party contractor allowed to perform such inspections. When a service performed on a vote counting device by an individual outside the office of the Sec. of State, an inspector employed by such office must be present to observe.

LB 1123, sponsored by Sen. Steve Erdman, would prohibit election commissioners or county clerks from counting early, mailed-in, or in-person ballots on Election Day until all polling places closed. Such law would prevent prospective voters from staying home, believing that their candidate was losing or did not need their votes.

LB 1181, sponsored by Sen. John Lowe, would tighten restrictions for providing identification documents for registering to vote by mail. Each such ballot returned by mail by a voter or by an individual other than the voter must contain an identification envelope with a separate, sealable pocket compartment on the outside of the envelope, in which a voter can insert and seal the copy of an identification document required. Acceptable IDs include a copy of the voter photo identification current and valid or a copy of a utility bill, bank statement, paycheck, government check, or other government document dated within 60 days immediately prior to the date of the election and which shows the same name and residential address of the voter that is on the precinct list of registered voters. Printed upon the separate, sealable pocket compartment is the following: Insert in this pocket a copy of your current and valid photographic identification or a copy of a utility bill, bank statement, paycheck, government check, or other government document dated within 60 days immediately prior to the date of the election and which shows your same name and residential address.

REASONS FOR LB 1121. Manipulating voting machines that count votes is easy. In one South Carolina county in Nov. 2018, a machine counted 58 votes from the previous primary. In another county, a terminal began re-counting votes again the day after the election. Certainly, internal malfunctions may cause mistakes. However, purposeful fraud can occur. U. of Michigan computer scientist J. Alex Halderman, director of the Center for Computer Security and Society, showed 2 congressmen how a presidential election won by George Washington could become flipped for Benedict Arnold. At an annual hackers' conference, he assembled election systems and invited anyone to find vulnerabilities. Many found. In 2007, Ohio and California Secretaries of State examined how machines counted votes in their states. The Ohio official discovered machines widely used there had several pervasive, critical failures, including failing to follow industry security standards. The California official found that in one system, every important software security system appeared vulnerable. A third machine system found susceptible to several attacks that would allow a hacker to control the system. Clever hackers can pick a machine lock in a few seconds and replace computer chips with their own. The modification can change the machine results, altering the vote count. Cyber-academics relentlessly hack into vote count machines, demonstrating how to infect them with malware and discovering keys to voting machine locks that they can order from eBay. They forecast that a subsequent national election would invite an attempt for a coordinated cyberattack, with rigged smartcards to count votes more than once, cryptography left vulnerable to manipulated voting records. In many places, vote counting machines stand unguarded days before an election. Malware inserted without breaking machine tamper-proof seals.¹ No county clerks anywhere in the U.S. have the ability to defend themselves against advanced persistent threats, say experts, and one declares that an iPhone is probably more secure than most vote count machines. An attacker with access to the administration system used to program the memory cartridges before the election could use ROP to distribute malicious code to all the machines (Return-oriented programming is a computer security

¹ Pat Beall, [Will your ballot be safe? Computer experts sound warnings on America's voting machines.](#) Nov. 2, 2020.

exploit technique that allows an attacker to execute code in the presence of security defenses such as executable space protection and code signing).²

REASONS FOR LB 1123. Currently, 17 states, including adjacent Missouri and South Dakota, and Washington, D.C. do not allow ballot counting until the polls close on Election Day.³ This arrangement avoids what currently occurs in Nebraska. For example, in Douglas County, vote counts from early ballots circulate publicly before polls close on Election Day. With a huge and increasing number of mail-in and other early ballots ready for counting, if counted, the publicization of the tally may show that particular candidates or a particular party is winning handily. Such exposure of early results may discourage a number of voters from voting, believing their candidate(s) so far behind that it is not worthwhile going to vote. This discouragement is unfortunate, especially if a race later in the evening becomes extremely competitive from later votes coming in. Conversely, if a prospective voter believes one or more of his candidates far ahead, the voter may not bother to vote. Certainly, **LB 1123** may delay declaration of an election winner for hours, causing nervousness in close races.⁴ However, late voters and their votes deserve the same consideration in deciding an election as early voters and their votes.



REASONS FOR LB 1181. There exists an increasing awareness of and attention paid to fraud pertaining to mail-in ballots. Such fraud includes ballot harvesting, whereby operatives offer “help” to the mentally or physically-impaired filling out their ballots in their private residences, homeless shelters, assisted living facilities, and nursing homes. **LB 1181** would help guarantee that the individual voter mailing in a ballot was precisely that individual. Arkansas requires additional verification returned with an absentee/mail-in ballot. The voter statement on each absentee ballot must have a voter signature under penalty of perjury. Each voter must also provide verification of registration or a copy of a photo ID with the returned ballot. If the election commission determines that the absentee application and voter statement do not match according to name, address, date of birth, and signature, the ballot not counted. Georgia requires the voter driver license number or state ID card data, which then compared to the voter registration record. Absentee ballot return envelopes printed with an oath, which the voter must sign. Election officials confirm the oath signed accurately and compare the voter driver license number or state ID card number to the voter registration information. Ballots with missing information or information that does not exactly match voter record rejected. In Minnesota, a certificate of eligibility to vote by absentee printed on the back of the return envelope, requiring signature by the voter and a witness. Voters also must provide a state driver’s license number, state ID number, or the last 4 digits of the voter SSN. Election judges from different political party affiliations examine absentee ballots. If the voter driver license number, state ID number, or last 4 digits of the voter SSN on the ballot does not match the info on the absentee ballot application, the judges must compare the signatures on the ballot and application. Ballots that fail to meet the requirements rejected. In Ohio, ballot return envelopes printed with an ID statement requiring both the voter signature under penalty of criminal sanction and the voter driver’s license number or the last 4 digits of the voter SSN. Otherwise, a voter may enclose a copy of another eligible ID. Election officials compare the signature on the return envelope with the signature on the voter registration form to determine eligibility.⁵ Texas is only one of several states pursuing strict voter integrity in mail-in balloting. This voter ID requirement acutely needed as evidenced by the Texas 2022 primary. Weeks ahead of that state March 1 primary, local election officials returned thousands of mail-in ballots to individuals who turned them in with non-matching ID. In the largest county, Harris County, election officials returned almost 38% of mail-in ballots because of unverifiable ID. This state requires that the ID voters use in mail-in balloting matches voter registration records. This rule applies to the application to vote by mail and on the return envelope voters use to mail back their ballots. If the discrepancy caught early in election season, officials can send back the ballot for revising, and the voter can return it with accurate ID attached.⁶ If officials determine insufficient time, they must notify the voter by phone or email. Voters must then visit the election office in person to correct the issue or use the new state online ballot tracker to verify the missing information.⁷ Arizona, Louisiana, Michigan, New Hampshire, and South Carolina all passed legislation to require additional ID for mail-in voting. Under a recently-signed law, Florida voters must provide their

² Ben Wofford, [How to Hack an Election in 7 Minutes](#), Aug. 5, 2019.

³ Dena Bunis, [When Will Your Vote Be Counted?](#) Oct. 29, 2020.

⁴ NPR. [When Will Mail-In Ballots Be Counted? See States' Processing Timelines.](#) October 23, 2020.

⁵ National Council of State Legislatures, Table 14: How States Verify Voted Absentee/Mail Ballots. 1-17-2020.

⁶ NPR. [High numbers of mail ballots being rejected in Texas under a new state law.](#) Feb. 15, 2022.

⁷ Charles Kuffner, [On to the next mail ballot problem.](#) Feb. 11, 2022.

driver's license number, state ID number, or last 4 digits of their Social Security number to request a mailed ballot. In South Dakota, those seeking to vote by mail must submit a copy of a photo ID or a notarized oath.⁸

TAKE ACTION NOW. All 3 pieces of legislation needed to deter fraud and human error and improve citizen confidence in our elections. Our right to vote and have accurate elections are crucial constitutional guarantees, and we must vigorously protect the votes of citizens from purposeful fraud and accidental mishandling. Socialist Democrats and their RINO allies in the Legislature oppose these bills, because they want to ease the process to allow fraudulent voting by the prohibited and illegal aliens, who normally vote Democrat. Using the above text, lobby your state senator today to pass these 3 bills quickly. Email netaxpayers@gmail.com for state senator contact information and to join our NTF *Legislature Watch Project*.



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⁸ Christina Cassidy, New voter ID requirements across the county for mail voting..... May 22, 2021.