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By Tom Wiknich

Who is behind the voter fraud problems that many states, including California, experience on election days?

As I reported, CBS 2 news has found concrete evidence of voter fraud in Los Angeles. There have been other investigations around the state, as well as around the country, that there is evidence of illegal voting going on. Estimates state illegal voting could be in the hundreds or thousands across the country. In California, there are estimates of over 100,000 illegal votes every election statewide. The investigations show that most of these illegal votes are done by mail in ballots. Of course, that is a safe way to do it.

There are examples that close elections could have been changed by the illegal votes. The state elections code declares they are purging registrations all the time. They believe the amount of fraud to be so small, as they would not affect any elections. This is unacceptable as far as I’m concerned. What about small, local elections? I’ve seen elections here in Ridgecrest decided by less than 7 votes. So what if there were just 7 illegal mail-in votes here? What if one very opinionated group decided to keep voting for a certain cause or candidate? What if they were able to register their dogs (there are examples of that being done)? What if they don’t report the death of a family member? What if they get their deceased family member’s mail-in ballot in the mail, and they decide, what the heck--Let’s use it to vote? Can this make a difference? Of course. Should it be stopped? Of course. Do the elections officials care? Most do, but not all.

Our elections people are responsible to make sure only legal votes are accepted. I will take it to another level. Could there be a political agenda in the illegal voter fraud? What is strange in the results of voter fraud investigations across the country is that the majority of the fraud cases are in liberal leaning electorates. Now, I didn’t say all, but a majority. There are even reports that some jurisdictions have more registered voters, than they have in population of people eligible to vote. We all know that has to be a serious problem. Since usually only about 65% of eligible voters even register at all. In the hotly contested election in Florida where bush ultimately won the presidency, there were over 100,000 illegal votes. Is there any group behind these fraudulent registrations? Anyone remember Acorn, a liberal group that was found to have registered thousands of voters to help Obama get elected. Of course, these same votes could be used to support other liberal candidates and initiatives. Why don’t the election departments fix the problem? I’d like to not think that they are only doing this on a political basis, but it does seem weird that the most fraud is in primarily democrat held states and districts. Now, I didn’t say all of it was in democrat districts, but a majority is (about 75%).

Is this a function of the electorate in those areas conspiring to impact an election? These problems [reinforce](http://dailysignal.com/2015/07/22/from-sea-to-shining-sea-5-examples-of-voter-fraud-across-america/) the need for measures such as voter ID laws and procedures designed to verify the accuracy of voter registrations. Take East Chicago, Indiana, for example, a town made infamous by the extensive voter fraud that occurred there in the 2003 democratic mayoral primary election. The fraud was so pervasive that the [Indiana Supreme Court](http://law.justia.com/cases/indiana/supreme-court/2004/08060401-bed.html) overturned the results of the primary and ordered a new special election that resulted in a different winner. Forty-six people were convicted of voter fraud. In Knott County, KY, the chief executive of that county, [Smith](http://www.freerepublic.com/focus/f-news/900460/posts) were convicted on federal charges for organizing a conspiracy to pay several impoverished, handicapped, illiterate, or otherwise impaired persons to vote for Newsome and others by absentee ballot in a democratic primary election. Newsome was sentenced to 26 months in prison. Smith got a 24-month sentence. A few years later, another consecutive Knott County judge executive was sent to federal prison on voter fraud charges. A jury convicted Thompson and three co-conspirators of a vote-buying scheme. In 2012, a city council election (originally decided by 4 votes) in Vernon, CA was overturned when it was determined that 5 people who voted for the winner were not residents of the city, and 2 others had not properly mailed in their ballots. A new winner was subsequently named.

Anyway, there are also examples in republican held districts. Many people who want to fix the problem are pushing for voter ID requirements that people should show an ID to verify their right to vote. They argue that you need an ID to buy certain goods, like cigarettes and alcohol, to get on a plane, to cash a check, to do any transaction in a bank, to get credit, to buy a gun, to even drive a car. So why not a voter ID? The other areas of the problem seem to be in states that are issuing drivers licenses to illegal aliens. There seems to be more voter fraud on many of those states. Guess what? California just recently started issuing these drivers licenses, and they also can register to vote when getting their drivers licenses. There are also cases of large groups of convicted felons registering and voting. Current law restricts these criminals of voting. The Obama administration is trying to change that before he leaves office. Some predict that he will issue an executive order soon changing the law on convicted felons and voting. It is predicted he’ll do this in time to help the democrats in the November presidential election. Politically, it seems the democrats don’t really see it as a problem, while republicans do.

In conclusion, voter fraud is wrong. State and county election offices need to do more to stop this problem. Elections officials should purge their registration rolls better. There are elections decided by few votes sometimes. An election won with fraudulent votes corrupts the system.

I’m Tom Wiknich, and that’s what I think. I’d like to know what you think. If you have any comments about this editorial, or would like to discuss or recommend a topic, I’d like to hear from you. Please email them to info@kzgn.net.