

## Voting Under Fire: ERIC, Omega4America and Historic Threats to Election Integrity

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### Executive Summary: Current Threats to Election Integrity

Election deniers are once again active, and voter protection partners are expressing concerns that the integrity of voter files could be seriously compromised heading into the 2024 Presidential election. Conspiracy theories are spreading like wildfire among Secretaries of States and county election officials across the country. Several states are proposing dangerous and drastic new procedures to remove large numbers of voters from the rolls, placing new restrictions on early and absentee voting, eliminating polling locations, and even mounting assaults on college campus registration.

***We may experience drastic voter file purges and election suppression on a larger scale than ever before. The progressive community has not, thus far, mounted the level of coordinated effort required to effectively fight back.***

2020 election deniers have focused attention on the Electronic Records Information Center (ERIC), a multi-state coalition tool designed to conduct fair and accurate voter file purges and to assist states in voter file hygiene. Over the past year, the right-wing website Gateway Pundit launched a fusillade of inaccurate attacks on ERIC, touting conspiracy theories asserting widespread voter fraud and rehashing the 2020 stolen election mantra. The rhetoric is proving effective, and ERIC has been seriously, perhaps even fatally, damaged. Membership in the multi-state ERIC coalition has fallen from 34 states (including the District of Columbia) to just 25. Since January, ERIC has seen resignations from the following states: Alabama, Florida, Iowa, Louisiana, Missouri, Ohio, Virginia, Texas, and West Virginia.<sup>1</sup>

Texas is the most recent defector. SB1070, passed by the state Senate in Texas' 88th legislative session, not only removes TX from ERIC but also floats \$100,000 in seed money to fund an ERIC alternative for Texas, utilizing a third party commercial vendor<sup>2</sup> A similar bill has passed the Texas House. Small differences in the legislation are expected to be ironed out and the bill will likely become law later this summer. A number of proponents of the bill have suggested that Omega4America, a new right wing technical shop, should be contracted.

Omega4America, represents the most insidious threat to voter file integrity and accurate voter file maintenance to date. While the firm has not yet signed a contract with states that have pulled

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<sup>1</sup> NPR, 2023-06-04. <https://www.npr.org/2023/06/04/1171159008/eric-investigation-voter-data-election-integrity>

<sup>2</sup> Texas Tribune, 2023-05-23. <https://www.texastribune.org/2023/05/23/texas-voter-fraud-eric-voting-roll/>

out of ERIC, they are actively seeking clients and are conducting independent purge research on voter files in Florida, Nevada, North Carolina, and Wisconsin.

VVN is working with the Demos Purge Alert coalition, consisting of partners in the voter protection space, to monitor the situation.

This paper presents a history of voter file purge and election integrity threats over the past decade, and outlines why the current threats are more organized and more serious.

### **The Legal Framework: The NVRA, HAVA, and the Emergence of ERIC**

In the United States, elections are administered at the state level; there is no national voter file. This makes tracking individuals who move across state lines very challenging. While the Social Security Administration maintains a Death Master File Index enumerating individuals who have died, matching the database to state voter files is a sloppy, error-prone process. In addition, in many states, an individual convicted of a felony often loses the right to vote, and the restoration of those voting rights upon completion of a prison sentence, is chaotic and incomplete.

Section 8 of the 1993 National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) provides states with general guidelines for periodically cleaning up their voter rolls. Under the NVRA (and supplemented by laws in the various states) individuals may be removed from voter registration rolls under the following conditions:<sup>3</sup>

- \*The voter has requested removal by contacting election officials.
- \*The voter died.
- \*The voter moved out of the voting jurisdiction, typically to another county or state.
- \*The voter has a disqualifying criminal conviction.
- \*The voter is deemed mentally incompetent.
- \*The voter does not respond to an address confirmation notice, typically a postcard sent by election officials, and subsequently fails to vote in the next two federal elections.

Voter roll hygiene procedures vary tremendously from state to state. Indeed, until recently, most states did not even maintain a statewide voter roll, and voter lists were managed primarily at the county level. Statewide files were not required until the passage of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) enacted by Congress in the years following the 2000 Presidential election debacle in Florida. Even under HAVA, states often fail to provide adequate staffing, technical expertise or funding to election officials, creating an unstable, error-prone voter file purging process that disenfranchises hundreds of thousands of voters each federal election cycle.

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<sup>3</sup>US Dept. of Justice. <https://www.justice.gov/crt/national-voter-registration-act-1993-nvra>

The Electronic Records Information Center (ERIC) emerged in 2012 to provide Secretaries of State with affordable, sophisticated tools for performing their required annual or biennial purges. Founded by seed money from the PEW Charitable Trusts, ERIC utilizes highly sophisticated algorithms for voter file hygiene clients. Their systems utilize advanced data security and anonymizing techniques when examining the voter rolls for participating state members.<sup>4</sup>

In addition to assisting in legally required purges, ERIC provides member states with lists of eligible adults who are not currently registered so that election officials may contact them to add them to the rolls, with the goal of increasing national voter participation.

ERIC has come under fire from a variety of right wing groups, most notably the Gateway Pundit website.<sup>5</sup> From the progressive perspective, the attacks read like a compilation of the “best of the bizarre” election conspiracy theories. But the criticisms are gaining traction among base Trump supporters, right wing columnists, and even Members of Congress. More insidious of all, the conspiracy theories have become conventional thinking among an alarming number of Secretaries of State and other election officials, and the misinformation is eroding the public’s confidence in the electoral system.<sup>6</sup>

The progressive coalition has mounted little to no counter-attacks or defense.

The damage is mounting. ERIC’s founder, David Beckham, a nationally respected expert in elections and election integrity, has been driven off the ERIC Board of Directors, and conservative Secretaries of State are dropping ERIC subscriptions.

ERIC membership has fallen from 34 to 25 entities. At the time of this report, ERIC members include Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, The District of Columbia, Georgia, Illinois, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Utah, Vermont, Washington, and Wisconsin.

Nine states have dropped out since January, 2023: Alabama, Florida, Iowa, Louisiana, Missouri, Ohio, Texas, Virginia and West Virginia.

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<sup>4</sup>ERIC security procedures.  
<https://ericstates.org/security/>

<sup>5</sup>The Gateway Pundit, 2023-01. For a list of additional ERIC attacks by the Pundit, see the References Appendix.  
<https://www.thegatewaypundit.com/2023/01/good-news-alabama-secretary-state-officially-announces-states-withdrawal-failed-corrupt-eric-voter-roll-system/>

<sup>6</sup> ABC News, 2022-01-06. <https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/americans-faith-election-integrity-drops-poll/story?id=82069876>

## Historic Attacks on Voter File Integrity 1: Interstate Crosscheck

Interstate Crosscheck was created in 2005 by controversial Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach as an alliance between Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska. Kobach was convinced, in the absence of any substantive evidence, that voter fraud was rampant. Kobach offered a basic voter file purging service to states free of charge. Crosscheck grew to cover 30 states in 2016.<sup>7</sup>

Crosscheck requested Secretaries of State to submit their voter files, often delivered insecurely via compressed email attachments. The system's methodology for identifying duplicate registrations across state lines was naïve and technologically crude, producing thousands of false positive matches. Kobach focused upon identifying "double voters" who may have cast ballots in more than one state in the same federal election.

Crosscheck's data were ultimately so poorly executed and documented that few election officials ultimately used them, ameliorating the damage to state voter rolls.

Crosscheck, however, was not Kobach's only tactic. In 2015, he convinced the Kansas legislature to grant him the unprecedented power to directly prosecute election fraud and double voting, proclaiming that he knew of 100 double voting cases in Kansas alone.

In July, 2017, Kobach avowed, "We have discovered 128 specific cases of non-citizens who either registered to vote or attempting [sic] to register to vote. But that's just the tip of the iceberg. One expert in the case estimated the total number could be in excess of 18,000 on our [Kansas state] voter rolls." Despite the inflated allegations, as of March, 2018, Kobach had garnered just 9 successful prosecutions, a majority of whom were older Caucasian men.<sup>8</sup>

Significant research over several decades has been conducted on double voting and voter fraud. These investigations have found conclusively that double voting and voter fraud in the United States are exceptionally rare.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> Govtech.com, 2017-11-10. <https://www.govtech.com/security/multi-state-voter-crosscheck-system-raises-security-questions.html>

<sup>8</sup> The Wichita Eagle, 2017-07-19.

<sup>9</sup> The Brennan Center for Justice, 2017-01-31. <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/debunking-voter-fraud-myth>

Kobach attempted to take Crosscheck national when he was appointed vice chairman of the newly formed Presidential Advisory Commission on Election Integrity, created by President Trump by Executive Order on May 11, 2017. From the outset, the Commission was poorly received. By placing Vice President Pence at the head of the Commission with Kobach riding shotgun, administration claims of bipartisanship rang hollow, since its leaders were both Republican. Hyperbolic rhetoric at the first Commission meeting led many voter rights advocates to fear that the Commission's unstated objective was to "prove" Trump's oft-Tweeted assertion that 3 million non-citizens cast ballots in the 2016 general election. The Commission ordered states to submit their voter files for inspection. The request was thwarted by a bipartisan gaggle of Secretaries of State, who either outright refused the Commission's request to submit their state voter rolls for examination or agreed only to a partial submission of the data, citing privacy laws. Failing to garner enough data to proceed, the Commission was disbanded by President Trump on January 3, 2018.<sup>10</sup>

As a result, Crosscheck folded, and the threat passed. For a detailed history and analysis of Crosscheck's flawed methodology, see the VVN White Paper, Interstate Crosscheck: Bad Methodology and Bad Policy.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>10</sup>The White House Press Office. Web links were deprecated at the close of Trump's term.

See also:

"Trump Voter Fraud Commission," 2028-01-03.

<sup>11</sup>Interstate Crosscheck: Bad Methodology and Bad Policy, VVN, 2017. <https://vvnstates.org/#research>

## Historic Attacks on Voter File Integrity 2: Husted v. Randolph

In June 2018, the Supreme Court in *Husted v. A. Philip Randolph Institute* greatly expanded the ease with which states may remove voters from rolls. The issue at hand in Husted was the manner in which Ohio conducted a purge of *eligible* voters. If a registrant did not vote over a period of two years, then Ohio sent the person a postcard. If the recipient failed to return the postcard, as did 80% of recipients, then a clock started. If four more years elapsed with no voter activity, then Ohio purged this eligible voter from voter rolls. One of the plaintiffs, Larry Harmon had lived at the same address for over 20 years, voted in 2008, and then sat out several elections. Mr. Harmon never saw a Husted postcard and learned he was no longer registered only when he showed up to vote at his local precinct in 2015.<sup>12</sup>

By ruling in favor of Ohio Secretary of State Husted, the Court weakened the NVRA, allowing states to remove voters not just from moving within a state, but simply for not voting, even while remaining at the same address. The Husted decision has led to larger, more damaging purges in a number of states.

VVN analyzed the damaging impact of Husted in a previous published white paper.<sup>13</sup>

### The Current Threat: The Texas State Legislature's SB1070 and Omega4America

Omega4America, a new software vendor on the right, is deeply rooted in election denial and voter fraud conspiracies. The vendor is calling on states to replace ERIC with their own software product.<sup>14</sup> Omega4America is aggressively lobbying to fill the void left by a weakened ERIC, succeeding where other, earlier schemes, such as Interstate Crosscheck, failed.

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<sup>12</sup>The Washington Post, 2018-01-04.

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/states-are-purging-people-from-voter-rolls-for-not-voting-the-supreme-court-should-stop-it/2018/01/04/b5f13458-efc-11e7-97bf-bba379b809ab\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/states-are-purging-people-from-voter-rolls-for-not-voting-the-supreme-court-should-stop-it/2018/01/04/b5f13458-efc-11e7-97bf-bba379b809ab_story.html)

<sup>13</sup> Democracy at Risk: Husted and Voter Suppression in 17 States, VVN, 2018 <https://vvnstates.org/#research>

<sup>14</sup> Omega4America, 2023. <https://www.omega4america.com/replacing-eric-frequently-asked-questions/>

The Texas State Senate has passed a bill, SB1070, which would pull Texas out of ERIC and provide \$100,000 in seed money to form an ERIC alternative.<sup>15</sup> Funds provided by SB1070 would be made available to a third party vendor to perform voter file purges. Omega4America has backers in the Texas statehouse and is aggressively maneuvering to become that vendor. The bill, in slightly different form, passed the Texas House on May 23. Minor amendment differences will need to be ironed out and the measure will likely be signed into law this summer.

The vendor has already scored political clients on the far right; in 2022, Mike Lindell (right wing activist and My Pillow founder) contracted with Omega4America to work on the Wisconsin Senate Race. Omega4America is currently testing their product with voter file purge trials in Florida, Nevada, North Carolina and Wisconsin.

*\$100,000 is not a lot of seed money, but it is important to understand that a replacement to ERIC need not be sophisticated or even good. With cloud computing, \$100,000 is more than adequate for Omega4America to mount multiple state voter files on a simple database platform in order to perform crude, dangerous deduping and purging procedures. Omega4America is far more dangerous than Interstate Crosscheck: Kris Kobach ultimately failed because he brought no technical expertise to the table. Omega4America has enough technical prowess under the hood to inflict serious damage to state voter files, disenfranchising hundreds of thousands of voters in the run up to the 2024 Presidential election.*

*It's also important to note Omega4America is not the only threat. Any vendor likely to garner the contract in Texas is likely to increase voter challenges and remove voters from the rolls.*

While the computing “revolution” Omega4America touts on their website is largely hokum (their over-hyped “fractal computing” procedure isn’t necessary to perform voter file hygiene or duplicate voter detection; accuracy, not speed, is the ultimate key to a professional product).

The progressive community should be ready to fight Omega4America, and should carefully monitor any direct voter file activities conducted by this vendor. VVN has researched the vendor’s claims and has distilled the following talking points:

**1) Vendors engaged in voter file purges should be strictly non-partisan. Omega4America operates under a web of highly partisan conspiracy theories.**

Omega4America’s website depicts a titanic conspiracy in which the Democratic Party secretly and illicitly casts ballots for tens of thousands of voters. Among the assertions are the presence of millions of “phantom” voters on the registration rolls that the party uses to win elections.

Typical of right wing conspiracies, Omega4America’s claims are offered as fact without supporting evidence. The following two examples on the Omega4America website are typical:

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<sup>15</sup>Votebeat, 2023-03-09..

<https://texas.votebeat.org/2023/3/9/23630956/texas-withdraw-eric-voter-rolls-electronic-registration-information-center>

“Some of those people are sleepers. A sleeper has no idea a political group or election official is casting their ballot for them. They might not even care. In 2020, lots of the sleepers woke up from their deep, electoral slumber and went to the polls. They were the ones, thousands of them, written up as having been told – ‘...you already voted, sorry.’”<sup>16</sup>

“This is like a slush fund, often 3% – 5% of the vote to pull in when needed. It almost always requires coordination with government agencies like the Post Office for returned ballots or election commissions for access to voter rolls, real time in election[sic].”<sup>17</sup>

***2) Voters move and die. Voter files always contain a small percentage of these individuals on the rolls.***

The NVRA was designed to require periodic purges to keep the voter rolls clean. The presence of a small number of undeliverable addresses is expected and not an indication of fraud.

***3) Voters files contain a small number of misspellings, minor name anomalies, or birth date errors. Omega4America assumes each error is part of a broad voter file conspiracy.***

Typos and minor data errors are to be expected in large scale data sets. A voter file with 5 million individuals containing 100 fields of information for each individual comprises 500 million discrete pieces of data. Datasets this large will contain a small number of errors. Indeed, given the “human element” in building voter files and registering voters, the mathematical probability that the dataset would be completely error free is 0 – mathematically impossible.

***4) Omega4America is remarkably naive about database standards and database technology.***

The vendor does not understand the basic concept of a unique ID:

“Election officials use ingenious ways to hide these [phantom voter] folks. One of the more entertaining examples was in a large, swing, midwestern state where the voter IDs use special codes that cannot be seen by current technology.

So the voter ID 001234567 and 01234567 are picked up by conventional technology as the same number – dropping leading zeros. However, those leading zeros are codes virtually invisible to most widely used technology”<sup>18</sup>

This statement is simply wrong and is a red flag that Omega4America is woefully ignorant about very basic database technology and field data types. Leading zeroes are commonly used as unique IDs in many database systems, especially large scale government databases. Handling those IDs is simple. Omega4America is naively treating the ID number as an integer; they need to treat Secretary of State IDs as a character. The leading zero issue is one that should be familiar to any database professional, and even a first year computer science student would be aware of,

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<sup>16</sup> Omega4America, 2023. <https://www.omega4america.com/so-where-are-the-phantoms-they-are-sleeping-in-the-voter-rolls/>

<sup>17</sup> Ibid.

<sup>18</sup> Ibid.



and able to handle, a field with leading zeroes.

Omega4America recently revised their website. In the previous version, they had a longer discussion of the ID “problem” but indicated they had viewed the voter file in Excel. Excel is an accounting data product – by design it eliminates leading zeroes in input data.

**4) *Omega4America assumes a ballot sent to a Post Office Box is evidence of fraud.***

Omega4America gave numerous examples of places in which “phantom” voters could hide:

“They hide in UPS boxes. Integrity teams found entire families living in a single UPS box – with not even indoor plumbing.”<sup>19</sup>

It is standard voter file practice to place a Post Office Box in the registration address for individuals who use the Post Office Box to receive mail. The election officials will also have on file the household’s physical address, used to place the voter in the correct electoral districts and used to assign the physical polling location.. Voter files are used to mail sample and absentee ballots to individuals. Individuals with Post Office Boxes need to have materials mailed to the Post Office Box. Omega4America could have verified this by simply calling or emailing an election official, or by reading the text file “release notes,” which accompany a purchased copy of the voter file.

**5) *Omega4America has an inadequate understanding of undeliverable mail.***

Omega4America assumes every absentee ballot sent to an undeliverable address is tantamount to fraud. Voters move, and typos on a voter registration form can lead to inaccurate addresses appearing on a state voter file. Secretaries of State track these undelivered ballots. They don’t result in fraudulent votes by operatives from the Democratic Party.

“In 2021, with support from Mike Lindell, our team built a list of 1.7 billion U.S. addresses.”<sup>20</sup>

It’s unclear what underlying data sources were used to construct this database, but it could be improperly utilized to mount incorrect challenges to thousands of voters. In the previous incarnation of Omega4America’s website, the vendor touted using Airbnb lists, calling each a non-residential address in their dataset. Utilizing Airbnb lists, likely to assert any voters registered at an Airbnb address are fraudulent voters. Many Airbnb cites are rooms in an existing house or apartment complex.

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<sup>19</sup>Ibid.

<sup>20</sup> Omega4America, 2023. <https://www.omega4america.com/republicans-on-course-to-get-blown-out-by-phantoms-in-2024/>

## How to Fight Back

The attacks on ERIC are unprecedented and the progressive community can and must mount a counter strategy.

- 1) *Track and respond to the misinformation.* Our movement is very successful in talking to our base, but we've forgotten the art of opposition research. We must respond when Secretaries of State, local election officials or Members of Congress voice conspiracy theories or publish incorrect information about voter file maintenance and purges. Jim Hoft, publishing in the Gateway Pundit, was responsible for much of the damage incurred by ERIC and has done more than any one individual on the right to promulgate ERIC conspiracy theories. His articles are easily debunked, but only if we monitor what he is saying, and only if we track how Hoft's misinformation works its way through conservative state houses. If Hoft is appearing in the media, our coalition should demand a chance to respond to his false allegations.
- 2) *Understand the current research.* In How to Talk to a Science Denier, Boston University researcher Lee McIntyre provides a path forward for fighting misinformation.<sup>21</sup> Research clearly shows that misinformation grows in acceptance if it is not clearly, sharply countered. We lose when we don't show up to fight.
- 3) *Respond to voter suppression legislation as soon as bills are proposed.*
- 4) *Be prepared with rapid responses to voter challenges, and closely follow purges conducted by unethical vendors.* Omega4America represents a real threat to increased voter challenges.
- 5) *Craft a unified, data driven strategy to defend ERIC.* Governor Glenn Youngkin of Virginia has made a number of false claims about ERIC. Our team should debunk those claims, even though Virginia has already withdrawn from the ERIC coalition.<sup>22</sup>

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<sup>21</sup> How to Talk to a Science Denier. Lee McIntyre, MIT Press, 2021.

<sup>22</sup> Washington Post, 2023-05-12. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/dc-md-va/2023/05/12/youngkin-voter-rolls-election-deniers-eric/>

## **Conclusion**

Omega4America is extreme. Even if progressives are successful in blocking this vendor from taking over portions of the voter purge project, other vendors are waiting in the wings. ERIC was bipartisan and sophisticated; we have no evidence a replacement for ERIC will be either.

Our movement will need to be creative. In researching larger voter file purges with the voter protection community, VVN has not found significant evidence that a large purge necessarily impacts voters of color disproportionately. That limits our ability to fight voter suppression efforts and large scale purges in the courts. However, we have discovered that the progressive base, especially black voters, are re-registered and placed back on the voter file at far slower rates than working class white voters. It may be possible to build bigger-than-just-the-base coalitions: most Americans, regardless of their partisan ideology, do not support efforts to remove voters from the rolls simply for missing one or two elections. And most Americans are not aware of the draconian measures used in purges. We should engage in additional public education.

## **Appendix A: Additional Resources**

### **A Sample of Gateway Pundit Attacks on ERIC:**

<https://www.thegatewaypundit.com/2022/01/cleaning-voter-rolls-soros-founded-funded-eric-now-used-31-states/>

<https://www.thegatewaypundit.com/2022/01/eric-investigation-part-2-largest-u-s-counties-removed-zero-two-ineligible-voters-voter-rolls-4-years/>

<https://www.thegatewaypundit.com/2022/01/eric-investigation-part-3-soros-open-society-founding-nations-largest-voter-roll-clean-operation/>

<https://www.thegatewaypundit.com/2022/02/eric-part-4-response-panicked-media-attacks/>

### **For Comprehensive Statistical Analyses of Double Voting**

*One Person, One Vote: Estimating the Prevalence of Double Voting in U.S. Presidential Elections.* Goel, Meredith et. al. October, 2017. <https://scholar.harvard.edu/files/morse/files/1p1v.pdf>

See also McDonald, Michael P. and Levitt, Justin, *Seeing Double Voting: An Extension of the Birthday Problem (July 1, 2007)*. 7 Election L. J. 111 (2008); 2nd Annual Conference on Empirical Legal Studies Paper. Available at SSRN:

<https://ssrn.com/abstract=997888> or <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.997888>

### **For Kris Kobach's Interstate Crosscheck:**

*Interstate Crosscheck: Bad Methodology and Bad Policy.* VVN, 2017. <https://vvnstates.org/#research>

### **For Background on Husted v. Randolph:**

*Democracy at Risk: Husted and Voter Suppression in 17 States.* VVN, 2018 <https://vvnstates.org/#research>

United States Supreme Court 2018. [https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/17pdf/16-980\\_f2q3.pdf](https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/17pdf/16-980_f2q3.pdf)

Brennan Center analysis, 2018. <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/court-cases/husted-v-philip-randolph-institute>

### **Texas State Legislature, Voter Suppression Bills:**

*Texas Tribune*, 2023-05-02.. <https://www.texastribune.org/2023/05/02/texas-election-legislation-2023/>

Current Amendments to SB1070 adopted by the Texas House:

<https://capitol.texas.gov/tlodocs/88R/amendments/pdf/SB01070H22.PDF>

## Appendix B: Federal Legislation and Voting

Three major pieces of legislation provide federal guidance for US Elections:

**The Voting Rights Act of 1965:** Signed into law by President Lyndon Baines Johnson, the Act explicitly guaranteed the voting rights enumerated in the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Amendments to the US Constitution. The Act expressly prohibited limiting access to the ballot to racial or language minorities and outlawed poll taxes and other voter suppression methods employed predominantly in the South.

**The National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (NVRA),** Often called the "motor voter bill," because the NVRA required that Department of Motor Vehicle offices enable citizens to register to vote while renewing or obtaining a state drivers' license or id card. The NVRA explicitly instructs states to perform routine file maintenance, or purges, on their voter rolls.

**The Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA):** After the 2000 election debacle, Congress revisited voting rights and enacted the Help America a vote Act of 2002. HAVA dealt with the technical requirements of maintaining voter laws, and ordered the various Secretary of State (SOS) offices to maintain a deduplicated master list of voters for each state. Previous to HAVA, voter lists were primarily maintained at the county level and data quality and duplication issues were epidemic.

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