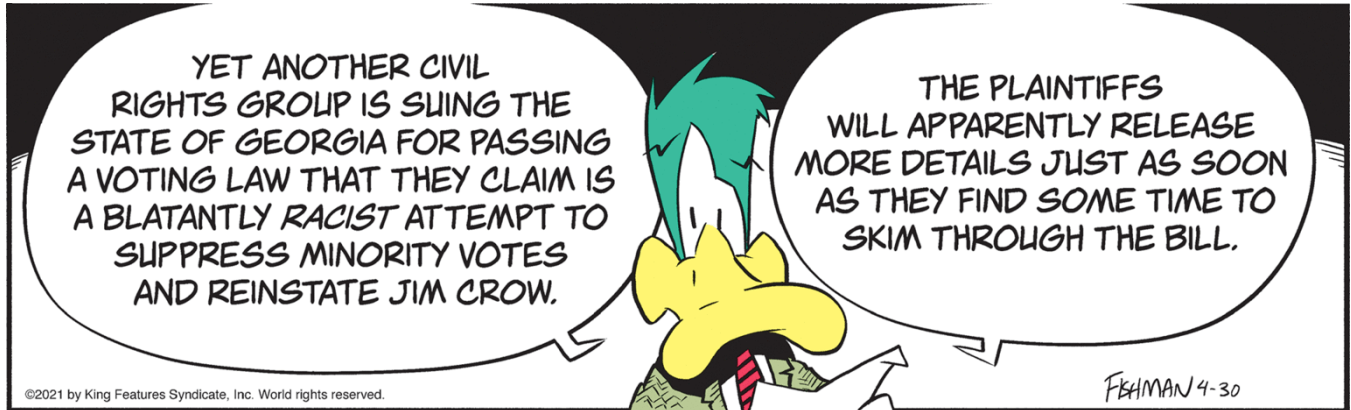


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Minimize election controls – a democrat strategy

By Steve Bakke  May 4, 2021

Mallard Fillmore



America's Founders preferred that elections be controlled by state legislatures. Democrats are now trying to formalize the COVID influenced relaxation of election rules in 2020 by creating national election laws. HR1, the "For the People Act," is intended to become the "election law of the land." In reaction, states are implementing new individual state election laws as our Founders intended.

Joe Biden is our President. You'll find no assertion of stolen election in my commentary. But we should question whether the 2020 relaxed election rules produced the cleanest and smoothest election on record, as democrats assert. A growing body of evidence assures us a course correction is needed to ensure future public confidence.

All elections produce incidents of fraud and many examples of errors and sloppiness, and 2020 had problems. Relaxed, COVID inspired rules should not be promoted as ideal. We can do better, and expressing that sentiment is not a crackpot conspiracy theory.

One dependable indication of "control errors" comes from statistical anomalies. For example, absentee/mail-in ballot rejection rates dropped unexpectedly in numerous states compared to prior elections and primaries. Mail-in ballot signature and ID checks were relaxed, and it appears that had an effect on the accuracy – to what extent let's not speculate. Remember, our goal is rebuilding public confidence in elections by doing better.

You can investigate this phenomenon thoroughly at news.ballotpedia.org, [washingtonpost.com](https://www.washingtonpost.com), [npr.org](https://www.npr.org) and other easy to find sources. As for compilations of fraud/errors in general, common sources are The Heritage Election Fraud Database, and numerous books/articles written by Rich Lowery of National Review.

Many states are reacting responsibly to HR1 by proposing their own election law reforms specific to their unique requirements and problems, as preferred by our Founders. Georgia's reforms, now signed into law by the governor, have been widely criticized by democrats and the Biden administration.

Factchecking a few baseless attacks against Georgia's new law provides an idea of how determined democrats are to remove and resist fair voting controls. Here's a sample:

- Biden claims Georgia's ID requirement for absentee ballots is voter suppression. I find no signature verification or ID presentation requirements for mail-in voters. However, the mail-in voters need only provide a driver's license number or another state ID number, and a birth date, for identification. 97% of population already have a proper ID, and IDs will be provided at no charge. In-person voting does require a qualifying ID.
- The claim that it's a crime to have water in voter waiting lines is false. It is forbidden for campaigners to promote candidates by providing water.
- Biden complained that voting hours ended early so working folks couldn't vote. That's nonsense. Election day voting hours are unchanged and weekend voting hours are extended for those voting early.
- And we've all read and heard Biden's "Jim Crow" comments. They are nonsense. I'll expand on this below.

President Biden has said Georgia's reforms are more extreme voter suppression than the racist Jim Crow practices of decades ago. He's labeled it as "Jim Eagle" racism – "Jim Crow on steroids." Biden declared we are reentering the Jim Crow era when Black voters had to guess the number of jellybeans in a large jar or answer complex questions. Requiring an ID is far from resembling Jim Crow. He is implying that Georgia's election reform exceeds the evil of the Jim Crow era when Blacks were indiscriminately hanged. Even the Washington Post factcheckers assigned 4 Pinocchio's to some of these accusations.

Georgia is tightening up the procedures from the 2020 COVID inspired shortcuts, but rules are less stringent than the pre-2020 process. Yet by any valid measure they are fair and reasonable.

As republicans battle for election integrity, several realities should be foremost in everyone's minds:

- Human nature is such that combining opportunity with a righteous desire to win, makes mischief inevitable. Without controls set in advance, that mischief will inevitably lead to massive fraud which could change election results.
- This is 2021, not 1921, and we must adjust and accommodate technological developments and changes.
- Voter identification and ballot control transcend the passage of time and technology changes.
- Democrats should accept the fact that some controls they reject are necessary and inevitable.
- Republicans must stop the fruitless jousting at windmills of "stolen elections."
- As for the numerous post-election lawsuits, adequate preparation could not be made, and no complex claims of fraud could be fairly and conclusively addressed given available evidence at that time. A thorough examination "on the merits" was impossible. That's why we must work hard now to implement sound policies.

Effective controls are not voter suppression. We must work against reforms that deemphasize legitimate controls, while supporting election rules that promote public confidence in future elections as fair and honest. The United States will forever be diminished if we allow election integrity and voter confidence to deteriorate.