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Voter ID: a reasonable requirement

By Steve Bakke  May 14, 2021



The author on May 12 of “Reconsider opposition, Democrats,” gave credit to his liberal “enlightened perspective” for a unique understanding of what’s really going on in the election reform wars. The subject of proper election controls is massive, but I think there’s one major republican hot-button that he acknowledges – election integrity.

It’s important to understand that the effort within the states to create reform legislation is two-fold. First, states are trying to retain the responsibility for federal election controls within their state legislatures, as intended by our Constitution. Second, the 2020 election was conducted with relaxed rules and controls, primarily justified by COVID safety concerns. Many states are trying to reestablish important commonsense election security rules.

The writer has a good idea. He believes ease of voting is sacred, while acknowledging voter identification as a reasonable requirement. He suggests supporting IDs as a step toward bipartisan election reform. He’s right! Although there’s a lot to debate, voter IDs is sacred for republicans. Much of election security happens at the intersection of voter identification and ballot control. With a more legislative thinking like he suggests, bipartisan agreement would be closer to reality.

That’s the type of thinking that, although the writer approached it from a condescending “throw them a bone” perspective, could lead to progress. Let’s agree that human nature, combined with opportunity and a righteous desire to win, makes election mischief inevitable. Let’s also agree that reasonable and effective controls, such as he suggests, don’t equate to voter suppression.