



Florida is the Model for Election Integrity

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The 2020 election was full of chaos and irregularities. States like Pennsylvania took days to finalize election results. Other states, like Wisconsin, had ballot harvesting scandals at nursing homes. Michigan blocked poll watchers from observing officials counting the vote. These delays and scandals caused many

doubts and questions about the vote count to arise.

A bright light in all the darkness was Florida. Unlike almost every other battleground state, Florida had its election results in early on election night. The Sunshine State was free of many of the scandals that plagued the rest of the country.

Since the 2020 election, Governor DeSantis has taken action to strengthen election integrity in Florida even more. The state is leading the way on election reforms and serving as a model for other states.

Throughout the country, election crimes are not being prosecuted. Many prosecutors lack the expertise and resources to prosecute these cases. Florida was no different.

Through public records requests, the Public Interest Legal Foundation, of which I am the president, discovered [156 election crime referrals](#) from nine county supervisors of elections in Florida. Not even one of these was prosecuted. Hillsborough County (Tampa), even informed us of their policy to not alert prosecutors to potential election violations.

There is no deterrence in a system where criminals know they will not be prosecuted. Governor DeSantis recognized this. He proposed that Florida create an investigatory and prosecutorial unit dedicated solely to election crimes. His proposal was passed into law earlier this year.

This will allow for election crimes, from double voting to foreign citizens voting, to be investigated and prosecuted. This is essential to election integrity. Voters deserve to know that people breaking election laws and committing fraud will face consequences.

Other states across the country need to implement similar election crime units.

While Florida is leading the way in significant election integrity reforms, there is still work the state needs to do. Specifically, the state needs to clean its voter rolls to include only eligible Florida registrants.

As of this year, Florida has over 20,000 deceased registrants on its voter rolls. The presence of deceased registrants on voter rolls becomes particularly alarming as vote by mail expands. You do not want someone other than the intended person receiving a deceased individual's ballot.

Another nearly 100,000 Floridians are simultaneously registered to vote in Florida and in another state. For instance, an individual has a winter home in Florida and another residence in Michigan. The individual is registered to vote in both states. This is problematic because that means the individual could improperly vote in both states.

It is essential that voter rolls are accurate and up to date. They are the most important election documents because they determine who is eligible to vote.

Overall, Florida may still have some work to do to improve election integrity, but it is leading the way in cutting edge election reforms. The other 49 states should enact election integrity laws similar to Florida's.

The 2022 elections will be more secure than 2020, but there is still important work that needs to be done.

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