



S.1: A FEDERAL TAKEOVER THAT WILL MAKE ELECTIONS LESS FAIR AND LESS SECURE

TOPLINE MESSAGING:

- S.1 is not about voting rights. It is a politically motivated federal takeover of the election system that would make elections more chaotic and less secure.
- The strength of the election system is in the diversity of the election system. S.1 would force a single, partisan view of elections on more than 10,000 jurisdictions across the country – taking control away from state and local officials who are closest to voters and giving it to bureaucrats in Washington.
- With federal primary elections starting in less than a year, state and local election administrators would be forced to change how they register voters and which voting systems they use; how they handle early voting and absentee ballots; and how they maintain voter lists.
- S.1 makes election fraud easier to commit and harder to detect by allowing unlimited ballot harvesting, undermining overwhelmingly popular voter ID laws, and making it more difficult to maintain accurate voter lists.
- S.1 permanently tips the scales in favor of Democrats by politicizing the Federal Election Commission, pouring federal funds into campaigns, and chilling free speech.
- S.1 is bad policy in search of a problem. Democrats have said that S.1 is necessary to increase voting rights, particularly for minorities, but overall turnout in the 2020 election was 66% – the highest share of eligible voters since 1900 – and most states had their highest turnout in 40 years.
- That’s because S.1 isn’t about policy. Democrats have admitted that passing S.1 is a political imperative. When asked about maintaining a Democrat majority in the House, Speaker Pelosi recently said “we would be better if we can pass H.R.1 and S.1.”
- S.1 is chock full of unnecessary and unpopular provisions that would erode voter confidence in elections. It is the same partisan wish list Democrats have tried and failed to pass in the past. It would be a huge mistake for them to permanently change the nature of the Senate to ram it through now.

10 WORST POLICIES IN S.1:

- **Guts Overwhelmingly Popular State Voter ID Laws:** S.1 would render state voter ID laws meaningless by requiring states to allow affidavits in lieu of identification. In a recent [poll](#), 56% of Americans supported voter ID laws and only 36% opposed them. Another [poll](#) put national support at 75%, including 69% of Black voters and 60% of Democrats.
- **Allows Unlimited Ballot Harvesting:** S.1 allows paid campaign operatives to collect ballots – a practice known as ballot harvesting. Ballot harvesting is prohibited or limited in some states because it creates the risk of fraud, where harvesters either fake ballots or deceive voters, especially the elderly. A strong majority of 62% of respondents in one [poll](#) thought ballot harvesting should be illegal.
- **Mandates Ballot Drop Boxes:** Combined with unlimited ballot harvesting, ballot drop boxes increase the risk of fraud by allowing people other than the voter to drop off marked ballots outside of the view of election officials and poll workers, and increase the risk of ballots being stolen or destroyed.
- **Restricts States' Ability to Maintain Accurate Voter Rolls:** S.1 would restrict states' ability to remove inaccurate and duplicate registrations from voter rolls. A 2018 [poll](#) found 77% of Americans supported this kind of voter roll maintenance.
- **Provides Government Funding for Campaigns:** \$6 of federal government money would be sent to political candidates for every \$1 they raise from small donors. This provision could essentially force Americans to fund candidates they don't agree with and support attack ads against those they do.
- **Creates a Partisan FEC:** The bill gets rid of the bipartisan makeup of the Federal Election Commission, giving the party in power an advantage in seats and the ability to control the commission's agenda.
- **Chills Free Speech:** S.1 chills speech through cumbersome and misleading donor disclosures and allows the IRS to look at a group's ideology when considering whether or not to grant it tax exempt status.
- **Federalizes Redistricting:** S.1 would put in place one set of federal rules for redrawing congressional districts, which has traditionally been a role for each state. If someone doesn't like the work of the commission, the bill provides multiple opportunities for federal courts to draw the maps. Even if a state manages to comply with all of these requirements, the bill still requires the redistricting plans to be reviewed by the Department of Justice. Given the delays in distributing the 2020 census data and the short deadlines in S.1, it's a certainty that federal judges will draw nearly all of the maps for this redistricting cycle.
- **Imposes Costly, Burdensome Mandates on States:** S.1 requires election officials to take on burdensome and expensive changes to their election systems. Even if states have adopted some of the "reforms" in this bill, they would have to make changes to their systems to comply with S.1 before the next election.
- **Requires Felon Voting:** S.1 requires states to give felons the right to vote once they're out of prison. This would only apply to federal elections, meaning states might need to maintain two separate voter rolls and have two types of ballots if people were voting for federal and other elections on the same day.