



### H.R. 2722: Securing Elections for Democrats Act

With H.R. 1 falling flat in the media and with public opinion, Democrats are continuing their hyper-partisan agenda and have now chosen to markup H.R. 2722, another bill aimed at federally mandating elections. During the H.R. 1 debate, Democrats insisted that the bill contained serious election security components. If that's the case, why are they bringing forth another partisan attempt at election security? There is no room for partisan games when it comes to our nation's election security.

#### Top 3 Most Egregious Provisions:

- **Mandatory Paper Ballots** – This bill mandates that states exclusively use paper ballots, effectively banning any type of direct recording electronic (DRE) voting machines. A mandatory paper ballot voting system introduces many security, logistical, and fiscal concerns:
  - Paper ballots are not foolproof, despite the Democrats' insistent favoritism. They are easily susceptible to damage and may be destroyed, misplaced, or tampered with, which we just saw in North Carolina's 9<sup>th</sup> Congressional District this past midterm election.
  - Paper ballots lead to long lines at the polls, which requires states and local jurisdictions to hire and train more poll workers. This will increase the burden on local election officials and keep voters away from their jobs and families longer, a luxury not all Americans can afford.
  - Paper ballots inherently creates a subjective system where someone other than the voter attempts to determine the intentions of the voter. We saw this problem in the 2000 presidential election, which resulted in the contentious case, *Bush v. Gore*.
  - Paper ballots are more time intensive to implement.
  - Paper ballots also needlessly ignore relatively new and safe voting machines used across the nation.
  - Paper ballots have a disastrous impact on the disability and elderly communities, risking disenfranchising our most vulnerable citizens. All eligible voters should be provided the fair opportunity to vote.
- **Federally Mandated Manual Hand Recounts** – H.R. 2722 would result in significantly more manual hand recounts of paper ballots.
  - Voters want results at the end of an Election Day. Manual recount requirements will result in longer, drawn out elections that are extremely expensive and may takes weeks, if not months, to reach a decision.
  - Manual hand recounts of paper ballots also means fewer elections will be decided on Election Night. This means more litigation and lawyers involved in determining election winners and losers.
  - These mandates create greater opportunity for malicious actors to manipulate election results.
- **Irresponsible Funding Commitment** – The funding of elections is the primary responsibility of the states. Democrats are blindly committing \$1.3 billion over the course of 10 years in their partisan bill. The Republican solution, the Election Security Assistance Act, provides \$380 million in grants in preparation for the 2020 presidential election. Additionally, there is a 25% funding match requirement from states, which forces states receiving federal funds to have their own skin-in-the-game. Unlike the \$380 million appropriated in the Republicans' bill, which is in direct response to actual needs from the states, the Democrats' \$1.3 billion commitment over a decade with no match requirement is a negligent commitment of taxpayer dollars. Congress has a responsibility to be good stewards of taxpayer dollars.