

Rep. Van Taylor (TX-03)
Committee on House Administration, U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on House Administration Subcommittee on Elections Member Day Hearing
Friday, December 17, 2021 at ~9:30am

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Ranking Member Davis, Chairwoman Lofgren, and members of Committee on House Administration, thank you for the opportunity to testify.

The freedom to vote and make your voice heard at the ballot box is a Constitutional right, fundamental to our society. In that same vein, it is a basic understanding that only American citizens participate in our elections. Throughout my time in elected office, I have investigated voter fraud and election irregularities. When you see cases of voter fraud it is deeply disturbing and gut wrenching. That's why, during my time in the Texas Legislature, I fought to help pass our state's landmark voter ID law, as every act of voter fraud invalidates the vote of a law-abiding citizen and minimizes their voice in government. Fair elections are at the core of our Republic, and we must always strive to make our system better.

To that end, I think it's important we examine federal laws pertaining to our elections. Unfortunately, in Congress, House Democrats continue to craft legislation to be a one-sided messaging tool rather than a genuine attempt to address election reform. This is evident in H.R. 1, which seeks to establish a centralized, federal overhaul of our election process that would outlaw the Texas' voter ID law, infringe on First Amendment rights and constrict free speech by imposing vague standards for any group that wishes to advocate for or against a legislative issue, turns the Federal Election Commission (FEC), currently bipartisan with three Republican and three Democrat commissioners, into a five-member partisan commission that would effectively silence the minority opinion, and funnels millions of dollars to fund political campaigns based on a formula averaging the most expensive campaigns from the previous cycle. To put this in perspective, based on the 2020 election cycle, projections show certain political campaigns could receive over seven million dollars, financed by the federal government, which politicians can spend on anything from travel to negative campaign ads.

What we do not want to see is a Washington-style federal takeover of elections. Article I, Section 4 of the United States Constitution makes it clear that States shall determine the "Times, Places, and Manner of holding Elections for Senators and Representatives" and that the role of Congress is to support the States. Congress should be empowering the States. Unfortunately, political theatre from left insists that Congress – or, more specifically, the socialist progressive wing of the Democrat party – should direct elections across our great country, as we've seen in both H.R. 1 and H.R. 4.

I am very proud of the work Collin County has done in making it easier for eligible citizens to register and vote. Last year, Collin County increased the number of polling locations to all-time highs. We pioneered countywide voting centers so individuals can vote at any location in the county during both early voting and on election day, instead of just at a designated precinct. We also have curbside voting for citizens with disabilities and amazing volunteer election judges – from both political parties – to help with any questions that may arise. Collin County consistently boasts some of the best voter participation rates in the state.

While I didn't make it to the late Senator Bob Dole's funeral service over at the National Cathedral last week, I couldn't help but take it seriously when his daughter read out his farewell letter, in which Senator Dole pondered whether "like others who have gone before me, if I will still be able to vote in Chicago."

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

