



Written Testimony of Chad Ennis
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House Bills 2571 and 2572
Kansas House Committee on Elections
February 8, 2024

House Bills 2571 and 2572 strengthen the protection for advance voting ballots that are returned in a manner other than by mail. HB 2571 requires that any ballot returned to an unsupervised drop box be marked provisional subjecting its origins to heightened scrutiny from the county board of canvassers. HB 2572 provides that if a person returns their ballot in person to the county election officer, the person returning the ballot shall present identification and be photographed with each ballot that the person is returning.

Voting outside of a polling place has long been one of the key methods for introducing fraud into elections. Instances of mail ballot fraud have been cataloged in a searchable format by The Heritage Foundation in their voter fraud database.¹ A review of these cases, as performed by the Brennan Center for Justice, reveals that mail ballot fraud is a nationwide problem.² Even left-wing Brennan Center analysis showed that there were 71 documented cases where someone, “unlawfully assisted, coerced, or deceived voters who were completing or casting absentee ballots.” In 38 of those cases, the culprit was the candidate or the campaign. In addition, they described 58 cases where defendants, “unlawfully cast an absentee ballot in another’s name or attempted to do so.” And they cataloged 13 more cases where a person, “unlawfully applied for an absentee ballot for themselves or another.” These cases show that absentee ballots present a ripe opportunity for would-be fraudsters to game the system. Ideally, vote trafficking should be illegal in all forms, and the handling of ballots should be restricted exclusively to voters, caregivers, and immediate family members. Absent this, additional protections against vote trafficking are clearly needed.

Some example versions of mail ballot fraud follows.

¹ <https://www.heritage.org/voterfraud>

² <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/heritage-fraud-database-assessment>



Arizona	2023	Gloria Lopez Torres	Criminal Conviction	Fraudulent Use Of Absentee Ballots	^
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Gloria Lopez Torres

Gloria Lopez Torres, a San Luis City Councilwoman, was charged by the state with felony counts of conspiracy and ballot abuse after trafficking absentee ballots during the August 2020 primary election as part of a larger ballot harvesting scheme. Torres picked up 7 ballots from Nadia Lizarraga-Mayorquin (who was also charged and convicted) and put them into a drop box in 2020. Arizona law only permits family members and close relatives to do this. Torres pleaded guilty to one count of ballot abuse and was sentenced to 24 months of probation and fined \$2,500. She may not run or be appointed to public office again, but she was allowed to finish her current term ending in December 2024.

Source: herit.ag/4aFU4Vw , herit.ag/4aK3Mq0 , herit.ag/3NOw8p0 , herit.ag/3tEqRcL

Connecticut	2023	Bridgeport Municipal Mayoral Democratic...	Judicial Finding	Fraudulent Use Of Absentee Ballots	^
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Bridgeport Municipal Mayoral Democratic Primary 2023 Election

The results of the City of Bridgeport, Connecticut Democratic mayoral primary election, which was held on September 12, 2023, were overturned due to absentee ballot fraud in an election where only 251 votes separated the winner (Joseph Ganim) and the loser (John Gomes). Superior Court Judge William Clark ordered that a new primary election between Ganim (the party-endorsed candidate) and Gomes (the challenger) should be held because an unusually large number of absentee ballots that were counted had been illegally placed in drop boxes by two unauthorized ballot distributors who were Ganim supporters: Wanda Geter-Pataky (a Democratic Town Committee member and the Leader of Voting District 136) and Eneida Martinez (a candidate for City Council). The court determined that videos of Geter-Pataky and Martinez illegally dropping off stacks of votes into various drop boxes “provided evidence of ballot harvesting, in violation of state law.” Geter-Pataky made 10 drops either directly or indirectly, and Martinez made 5 separate drops of multiple ballots. The court also found “the volume of ballots mishandled is such it calls the result of the primary election in serious doubt and unable to determine the legitimate result of the primary.”

Source: herit.ag/3TBYUNy



Michigan	2023	Nancy Juanita Williams	Criminal Conviction	Fraudulent Use Of Absentee Ballots, Illegal "Assistance" At The Polls	^
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Nancy Juanita Williams

Nancy Williams was charged by the state in Wayne County with 3 felony counts of forging a signature on an absentee ballot, 2 felony counts of election law forgery, 5 misdemeanor counts of false statements on applications for absentee ballots, and 7 misdemeanor counts of receiving a payment to influence vote after participating in an absentee ballot trafficking scheme involving elderly voters at a nursing care facility. She submitted voter registration and absentee ballot applications for 26 legally incapacitated residents under her care without their consent. Williams had the absentee ballots mailed directly to her. She pleaded guilty to 7 counts of receiving a payment to influence vote in exchange for dismissal of the other charges, was sentenced to one year of probation, fined \$3,500, and assessed \$1,096 in fees. Similar charges against Williams in Oakland County are still pending.

Source: herit.ag/3EHTtE1 , herit.ag/3rdlfVE

Indiana	2022	James Bartlett	Criminal Conviction	Fraudulent Use Of Absentee Ballots	^
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James Bartlett, Troy Kemper

James Bartlett was charged by the state in Dearborn County with one felony count each of perjury and fraudulent subscription of another person's name after his involvement in an absentee ballot trafficking scheme during the Lawrenceburg 2019 General Election. Bartlett, a former City of Lawrenceburg employee, worked with co-conspirator Troy Kemper to fill out fraudulent absentee ballot applications and absentee ballots. The fraud was detected by the Election Board because the signatures on the original voter registration forms did not match the signatures on the absentee ballot applications and the absentee ballots, and after contacting 20 voters, learned they did not apply for an absentee ballot or permit Kemper to turn in their ballot. Bartlett pleaded guilty to one felony count of conspiracy of fraudulent subscription and was sentenced to 910 days in prison, which was suspended if he completes one year of probation without violation. He was also ordered to complete 40 hours of community service and fined and assessed court costs of \$1,285. Upon completion of his probation, his felony charge will be reduced to a misdemeanor.

Source: herit.ag/3HVQ99l , herit.ag/3HTrl1X , herit.ag/3RXuAdp