



BIPARTISAN POLICY CENTER

Logical Election Policy

RECOMMENDATIONS OF BPC'S TASK FORCE ON ELECTIONS

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Bipartisan Policy Center

Logical Election Policy

REPORT AND
RECOMMENDATIONS
OF BPC'S TASK FORCE
ON ELECTIONS

January 2020

ABOUT BPC'S TASK FORCE

RECOMMENDATIONS:

VOTER REGISTRATION

CASTING A BALLOT

COUNTING THE VOTE

NEXT STEPS

Read the full report at:

<https://bipartisanpolicy.org/report/logical-election-policy/>

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- United States citizens performing an NVRA-covered transaction with state's department of motor vehicles or other social service agencies should be seamlessly registered to vote or have their registration updated as a function of that transaction unless they opt out at the point of service.
- States should set voter registration deadlines to the fewest days necessary to prepare for the election to provide constituents a reasonable opportunity to register to vote.
- States should request additional points of contact, such as a voter's email address or cell phone number, during the voter registration process. These points of contact should not be publicly disclosable.
- States should join the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC) program for effective list maintenance.
- States should implement an online voter registration system that facilitates registration in an accessible and secure manner.

“This report endorses front-end automatic voter registration to resolve deficiencies in motor voter. In states with AVR, we have seen 4x the registrations at the DMV.”

Chris Thomas – Fellow, BPC’s Elections Project



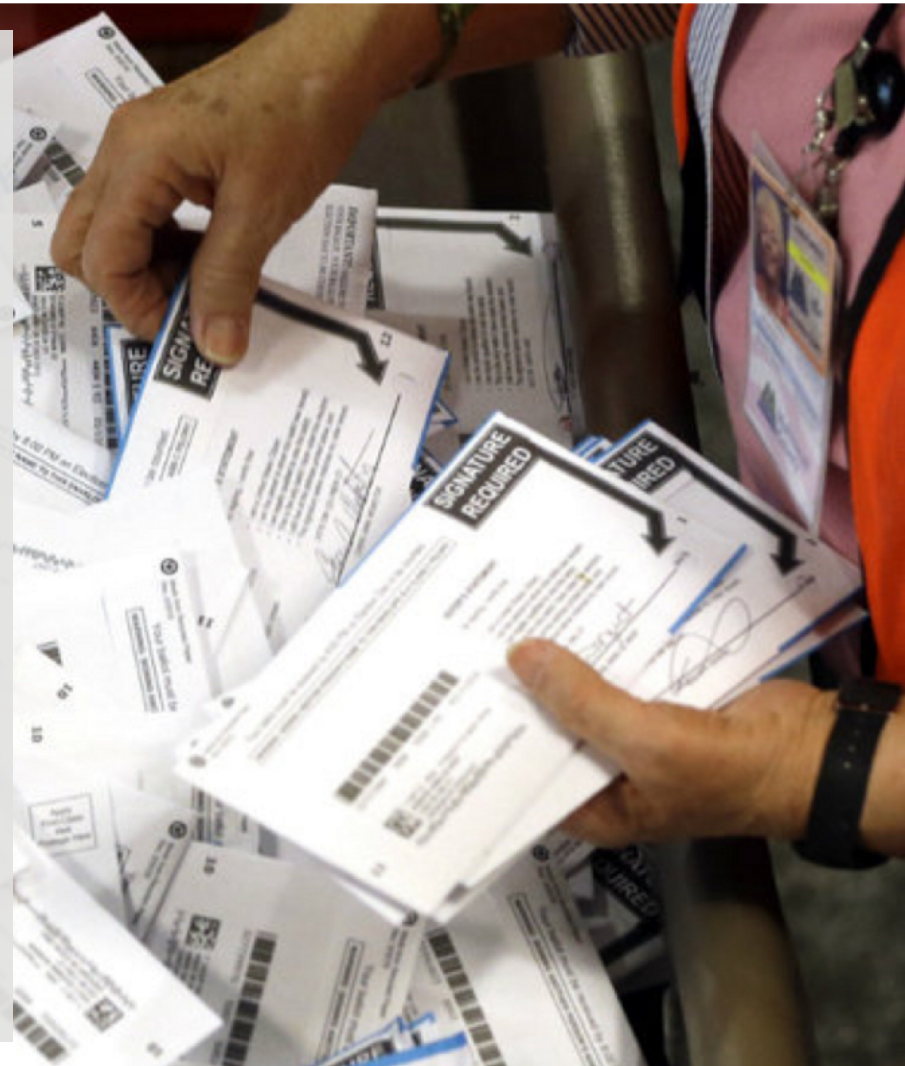


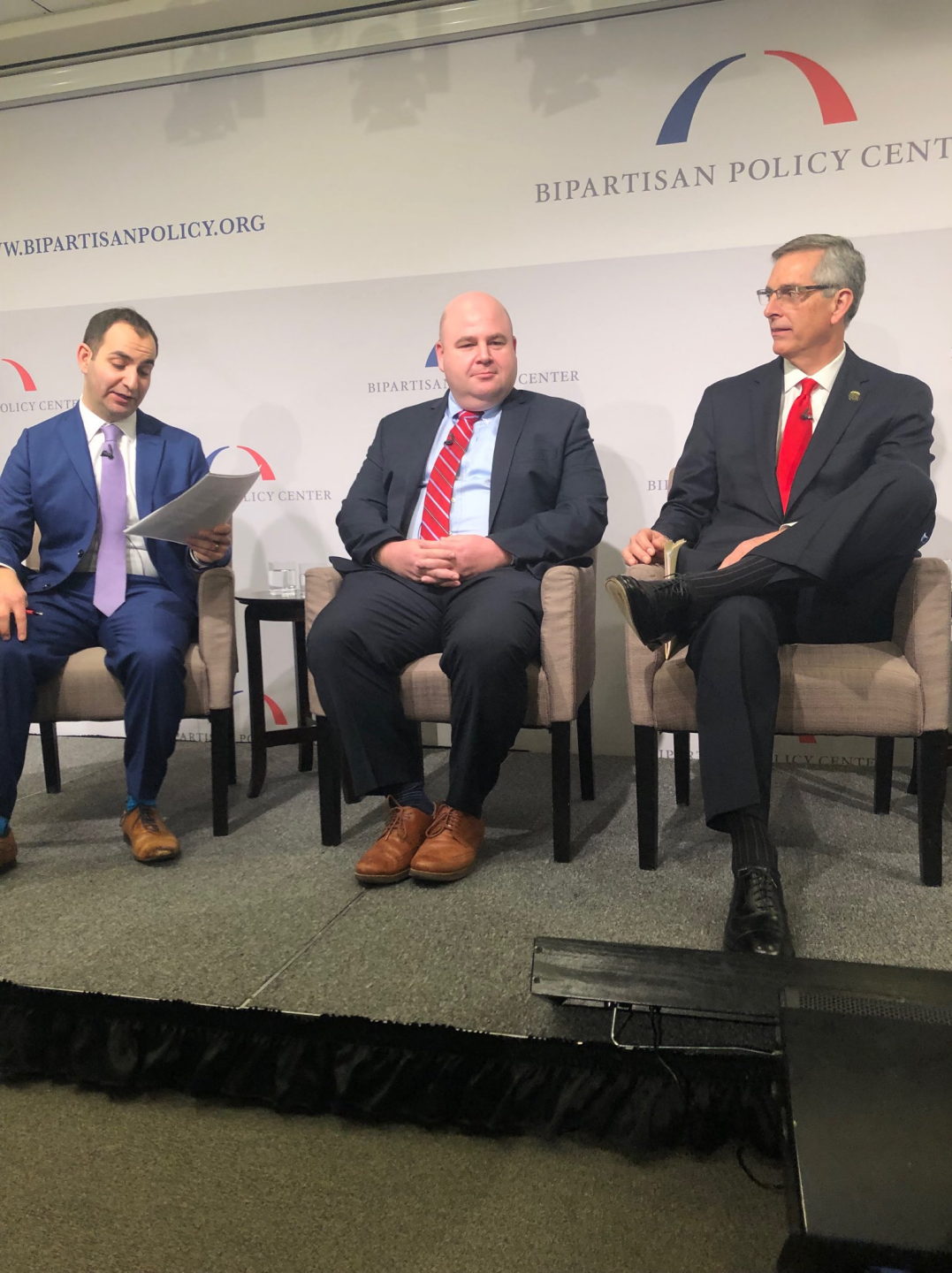
- Voters should have the ability to receive a ballot by mail without being required to provide an excuse.
- States should allow voters to sign up to receive a ballot by mail for multiple elections with one application.
- States should expand the options for the return of vote-by-mail ballots to include secure drop boxes.
- Voters with disabilities who choose to use the vote-by-mail process should have the option to receive a ballot electronically in a format with which the voter can interact and return without assistance.
- Voters should have the option of voting early and in-person for a period of at least seven days in advance of a federal election.
- States should set a minimum standard for the number of early voting sites.





- States should move toward acquiring voting systems that produce voter verifiable paper ballots. The voter verifiable ballot should be the ballot of record for any audit or recount.
- Jurisdictions should implement electronic poll book check-in at all voting sites, supported by the states for smaller election jurisdictions.
- Jurisdictions should conduct data collection on election lines at all early voting and Election Day voting sites.
- Federal, state, and local policymakers must ensure that all polling places are physically accessible for voters with disabilities as required under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), and that they are able to interact with voting technology independently and privately in compliance with the Help America Vote Act.





“Task Force members all come from different ideologies, but could all recognize **the most important thing is the voter.** These recommendations reflect that.”

Brian Corley, Supervisor of Elections, Pasco County Florida



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- A background image showing a person's hand placing a white ballot into a wooden ballot box. The ballot box has a slot for the ballot and a label that partially reads "Ballot". The scene is set in a room with wooden paneling.
- Election administrators should be permitted to process vote-by-mail ballots beginning at least seven days prior to Election Day but must be prohibited from producing results.
 - State election certification deadlines should be set no earlier than 14 days after a general election to provide time to complete pre-certification tasks.
 - States should conduct pre-certification tabulation audits where all types of ballots are subject to review.
 - A post-election audit that finds significant discrepancies should lead to a process to correct the result, such as a recount.
 - States should allow sufficient time for voters to cure eligibility deficiencies in vote-by-mail-ballots, even if this period extends beyond Election Day.
 - States should provide for a government-funded automatic recount that takes account of the margin between candidates and the number of votes cast.

“We want secure elections,
2018 shows improvements.
We have ideas to move
forward and **we need the
help of BPC to do it.**”

Representative Rodney Davis (R-Illinois)





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Next Steps of BPC's Task Force on Elections