



AMERICANS *for* TAX REFORM

The Honorable Mark R. Meadows
1024 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable James R. Langevin
2077 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

September 15, 2017

Dear Congressmen Meadows and Langevin,

I am writing today to express my strong support of HR 3751, the Protecting the American Process for Election Results (PAPER) Act, a bill which, if passed, would significantly strengthen the nation's election security. Popular representation is one of the central founding principles of the United States, protecting its validity should be a core role of the government.

Foreign hackers attempted to infiltrate the election systems of 39 states during the previous election. There is every reason to believe that elections in 2018 and 2020 will be at greater risk. The threat could come from North Korea, Iran, or any of a number of foreign or domestic adversaries.

HR 3751 would address the threat in a manner that's fiscally responsible, prudent with respect to state and local policy-making prerogatives, and effective in hardening defenses. The measure would limit access to election systems to qualified outside vendors, secure vulnerable voter registration logs, help ensure proper audits of election results when needed, facilitate necessary information sharing about threats, and establish proper standards for transparency. The amendment would give states the ability to address cybersecurity risks without relying on the federal government.

Recently, Chicago's Board of Elections revealed that sensitive information about the city's 1.8 million voters was left exposed online for an unknown length of time. Other credible studies found that hackers successfully compromised election technology vendors who configure voting systems.

These risks are years in the making. According to a recent study, 43 state jurisdictions use electronic voting and tabulation systems that are more than a decade old — dangerously near to the complete lifespan for these systems. Another survey of 274 election officials in 28 states found that most administrators need security upgrades now.

This is about national security. Election hacking can target either party and it presents catastrophic risks to our Republic. The solution to election insecurity lies in President Reagan's old adage: "trust but verify." We should trust that votes are being counted accurately, but we should also be able to verify that this is, in fact, the case. Verification requires the presence of a paper trail: voter-marked paper ballots that can be used to check the results.

This issue matters to both parties. While some Democrats have long been pushing for election security upgrades, President Trump has himself been a vocal advocate for such reforms.

We need a "trust but verify" approach to election cybersecurity. The PAPER Act helps provide it. **Your colleagues in the House of Representatives should support this important common-sense measure.**

Regards,

Grover G. Norquist
President
Americans for Tax Reform

CC: Members of the House of Representatives

722 12th Street N.W.

Fourth Floor

Washington, D.C.

20005

T:(202)785-0266

F:(202)785-0261

www.atr.org