



American Bridge
Trump Policy Brief: Trump's
"Presidential Commission on
Election Integrity"

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TRUMP'S "PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION ON ELECTION INTEGRITY"

In May 2017, President Trump created a "Presidential Commission on Election Integrity" to investigate problems within the U.S. election system. He named Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach vice-chair of the commission, an official known for his staunch support of extreme voter ID laws.

Trump made repeated, unsubstantiated claims about voter fraud throughout the campaign and beyond. He claimed "illegal immigrants" were casting ballots across the country in great enough numbers to swing the election, and even urged his white, suburban supporters to travel to non-white neighborhoods and watch voters' behavior on Election Day. Trump doubled-down on his voter fraud claims once in office, blaming his popular vote loss on "the millions of people who voted illegally."

There have been almost no cases of voter fraud in the United States. Out of over 135 million ballots cast in the 2016 election, just four cases of fraud had been found by December.

The commission was likely established to vindicate Trump's popular vote loss, over which he struggles to hide his insecurity. Trump constantly brings up the election results, even at inappropriate times, and keeps a stack of results maps in the dining room next to the Oval Office to pass out to reporters and visitors. Trump said his decision to fire FBI Director James Comey was in part due to the FBI's investigation into his campaign's ties to Russia calling the election results into question.

The 2016 election outcome likely has more to do with GOP attempts at voter suppression than with widespread voter fraud. Trump won the swing state of Wisconsin by 23,000 votes while approximately 200,000 Wisconsinites were kept from voting.

Trump Created A "Presidential Commission On Election Integrity"

TRUMP CREATED A "PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION ON ELECTION INTEGRITY"

May 2017: Trump Issued An Executive Order Creating A "Presidential Commission On Election Integrity." According to the White House Office of the Press Secretary, "Today, President Donald J. Trump announced the issuance of an executive order forming the bipartisan Presidential Commission on Election Integrity. The President also named Vice President Mike Pence as Chairman and Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach as Vice-Chair of the Commission." [White House Office of the Press Secretary, [5/11/17](#)]

ABC News: Creation Of The Commission Followed Trump's "Controversial And So-Far Unsubstantiated Assertion That 'Millions' Of People Illegally Cast Ballots In The 2016 Presidential Election." According to ABC News, "The commission is tasked with submitting a report on its findings sometime in 2018, officials said, and is expected to meet for the first time this summer. The announcement is the latest indication that the president intends to pursue action, as promised, on his controversial and so-far unsubstantiated assertion that 'millions' of people illegally cast ballots in the 2016 presidential election." [ABC News, [5/11/17](#)]

Trump Named A Staunch Proponent Of Voter ID Laws As Vice-Chair Of The Commission

TRUMP NAMED KANSAS SECRETARY OF STATE KRIS KOBACH AS VICE-CHAIR OF THE COMMISSION

Trump Named Kansas Secretary Of State Kris Kobach As Vice-Chair Of The Commission. According to the White House Office of the Press Secretary, “Today, President Donald J. Trump announced the issuance of an executive order forming the bipartisan Presidential Commission on Election Integrity. The President also named Vice President Mike Pence as Chairman and Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach as Vice-Chair of the Commission.” [White House Office of the Press Secretary, [5/11/17](#)]

KOBACH HAS A HISTORY OF SUPPORTING EXTREME VOTER ID LAWS

New York Times: Kobach “Has Championed The Strictest Voter Identification Laws In The Country.” According to The New York Times, “Mr. Kobach, who has championed the strictest voter identification laws in the country, will be the vice chairman of the commission, which is to be led by Vice President Mike Pence and is expected to include about a dozen others, including state officials from both political parties, the official said. The official spoke on the condition of anonymity to describe an announcement expected later on Thursday.” [New York Times, [5/11/17](#)]

In Kansas, Kobach Instituted Requirements That New Voters Show A Passport, Birth Certificate, Or Naturalization Papers In Order To Vote, And Tried To Disqualify The Votes Of Thousands Who Did Not Meet The Requirements In 2016. According to The New York Times, “Mr. Kobach has been the driving force behind a Kansas law requiring new voters to produce a passport, a birth certificate or naturalization papers as proof of citizenship or be denied the ability to cast ballots. He worked last year to disqualify the state and local votes of thousands of people who did not meet the criteria. He has advocated the proof-of-citizenship requirement at the federal level as well, citing rampant voter fraud without producing proof of a widespread problem.” [New York Times, [5/11/17](#)]

- **Kobach Agreed To Reinstate Thousands Of Kansas Voter Registrations Only After Being Threatened With Contempt Of Court.** According to The Associated Press, “Thousands of prospective voters who did not provide citizenship documents will be able to cast traditional ballots in the November election in Kansas, rather than being forced to use provisional ones, under a deal brokered Thursday that halted contempt proceedings against the state's top election official. U.S. District Judge Julie Robinson canceled a contempt hearing scheduled for Friday after Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach agreed to concessions that will fully register and clearly notify people who registered at motor vehicle offices without providing proof of citizenship that they can vote. Their names would be listed as registered on the state's website and in separate poll books kept at election sites.” [Associated Press, [9/29/16](#)]

Kobach: Voter Fraud Proponents “Have Burrowed Into Every Corner Of Our Country.” According to The New York Times, “Only in 2009, when he decided to run for secretary of state, did Mr. Kobach begin a sustained attack on voter fraud, warning that fraud proponents ‘have burrowed into every corner of our country’ and that illegal registration of immigrants was ‘pervasive.’ Weeks after he took office in 2011, the Kansas Legislature adopted his proposal to require anyone registering to vote to prove citizenship, and to require an approved photo ID card at the polls.” [New York Times, [5/14/17](#)]

Kansas City Star Editorial: “Kobach’s Determination To Solve This Non-Problem Has Brought Him National Attention As An Adviser On The Non-Issue To President Donald Trump.” According to an editorial in The Kansas City Star, “The Javert of voter fraud now has a ninth conviction to show for Kansans’ tax dollars and his own single-minded pursuit. Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach claimed in a statement last week that, ‘This conviction demonstrates once again how prevalent the crime of double voting is. In

Kansas, we are making it clear that people who willfully vote twice will be prosecuted.’ [...] Kobach’s determination to solve this non-problem has brought him national attention as an adviser on the non-issue to President Donald Trump. The president also claims, despite a lack of evidence, that in-person fraud is a major problem and is the reason he lost the popular vote to Hillary Clinton.” [Editorial – Kansas City Star, [5/6/17](#)]

Trump Made Repeated, Unsubstantiated Claims About Voter Fraud Throughout The Campaign And Beyond

ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL, TRUMP CLAIMED “ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS” WERE VOTING ALL OVER THE COUNTRY AND COULD SWING THE ELECTION

Trump, October 2016: “Illegal Immigrants Are Voting All Over The Country.” According to The Huffington Post, “Donald Trump continued railing against what he says is voter fraud Monday night, this time claiming that ‘illegal immigrants are voting all over the country.’ ‘There is tremendous voter fraud. And how Republican leadership doesn’t see that is beyond me,’ Trump told Fox News before a Green Bay, Wisconsin, rally. ‘So many cities are corrupt and voter fraud is all too common,’ Trump said a short time later from the stage.” [Huffington Post, [10/17/16](#)]

Trump Falsely Claimed That “14 Percent Of Noncitizens Are Registered To Vote.” According to PolitiFact, “One of Trump’s rallying cries as Election Day nears has been that the election system is rigged and rampant with voter fraud. We’ve debunked this idea in more than one way, but more recently, Trump offered several statistics to back his claim up during a rally in Cleveland, Ohio, on Oct. 23. [...] Trump said, ‘14 percent of noncitizens are registered to vote.’ Trump is citing a study that has been refuted by the experts who actually gathered the underlying data. Trump’s remark references an unreliable data point that uses a small sample size to represent an entire population. We rate Trump’s claim False.” [PolitiFact, [10/24/16](#)]

Trump Claimed That “Non-Citizen Voters Were Responsible For Obama’s 2008 Victory In North Carolina,” Which Politfact Rated As “Pants On Fire.” According to PolitiFact, “It’s possible that non-citizen voters were responsible for Obama’s 2008 victory in North Carolina,’ Trump said. North Carolina’s 15 electoral votes hardly would have made 2008 Republican nominee John McCain the president – Obama won 365 votes in the Electoral College to McCain’s 173. But this claim of an illegitimate victory is still a pretty shocking accusation coming from the current Republican nominee. [...] North Carolina figures to be a toss-up again this year, after it narrowly went for Mitt Romney in 2012. A RealClearPolitics average of polling from the first half of October showed Hillary Clinton with a 3-point lead over Trump in the Tar Heel State. [...] There is no evidence to support that theory, and that’s not for a lack of attention. A federal appeals court has looked into it, as has the N.C. Board of Elections, and both found nothing of concern. Political scientists also disagree with Trump. And even if the study Trump was citing is valid – although many say it’s not – it still doesn’t back up Trump’s claim. We rate this claim Pants on Fire.” [PolitiFact, [10/19/16](#)]

TRUMP URGED SUBURBAN WHITE VOTERS TO TRAVEL TO NON-WHITE NEIGHBORHOODS AND WATCH VOTERS’ BEHAVIOR ON ELECTION DAY

Trump Urged Suburban White Voters To Travel To Non-White Neighborhoods And Watch Voters’ Behavior. According to The Washington Post, “Trump has repeatedly warned his supporters that he might lose the election because the system is ‘rigged’ against him, and his campaign is recruiting election observers.

During rallies held in white suburbs of diverse cities, Trump has often urged his followers to go to neighborhoods other than their own and ‘watch’ the voters there.” [Washington Post, [10/7/16](#)]

Trump: “Voter Fraud Is All Too Common” In Cities Like Chicago, Philadelphia And St. Louis.

According to The New York Times, “Warning darkly of a stolen election, Donald J. Trump has called on supporters to turn out in droves on Election Day to monitor polling places, telling them they need to be vigilant against widespread voter fraud and a rigged outcome. ‘Voter fraud is all too common, and then they criticize us for saying that,’ he said at a rally Tuesday in Colorado Springs. ‘But take a look at Philadelphia, what’s been going on, take a look at Chicago, take a look at St. Louis. Take a look at some of these cities, where you see things happening that are horrendous.’ His language has stirred increasing fears of intimidation of minorities inside polling places, where their qualifications to vote could be challenged, or outside, where they would face illegal electioneering.” [New York Times, [10/18/16](#)]

- **At A Rally In A Detroit Suburb, Trump Instructed Supporters To Go To “Some Other Place And Go Sit There With Your Friends And Make Sure It’s On The Up And Up.”** According to The Washington Post, “Many voting rights activists have accused Trump of encouraging voter intimidation. ‘You’ve been reading the same stories as I’ve been reading, so go to your place and vote, and then go pick some other place, and go sit there with your friends and make sure it’s on the up and up,’ Trump said at a rally in the Detroit suburbs Sept. 30.” [Washington Post, [10/7/16](#)]
- **Trump Told A Predominantly-White Crowd In Pittsburgh That It Was “So Important That You Watch Other Communities, Because We Don’t Want This Election Stolen From Us.”** According to The New York Times, “Last week outside Pittsburgh, speaking to a nearly all-white audience, Mr. Trump told supporters that it was ‘so important that you watch other communities, because we don’t want this election stolen from us.’” [New York Times, [10/18/16](#)]
- **Trump Also Told A Mostly-White Crowd In Northeast Pennsylvania To “Watch Other Polling Places” In Philadelphia To “Make Sure That This Election Is Not Stolen From Us.”** According to The New York Times, “At rallies since the summer in rural Pennsylvania, Mr. Trump has spoken of the potential for ‘shenanigans’ in Philadelphia, urging supporters to ‘go around and watch other polling places.’ ‘I hear these horror shows, and we have to make sure that this election is not stolen from us and is not taken away from us,’ he said last week to a nearly all-white crowd in northeast Pennsylvania. ‘And everybody knows what I’m talking about.’” [New York Times, [10/18/16](#)]

Washington Post: Trump’s Use Of The Phrase “Other Communities” Was A “Loaded One.”

According to The Washington Post, “‘Other communities’ is probably not an intentional phrase from Trump, but it’s a loaded one. Those *other* people. Ambridge and Wilkes-Barre are both three-quarters white. Most of the crowd at both rallies was also white. It was the *other* communities where there was a problem. Communities that happen to be mostly black. Those communities are going to steal the election from ‘us.’” [Washington Post, [10/11/16](#)]

- **The Atlantic: “Anyone Who Doesn’t Know” What The Phrases “Other Communities” Or “Some Other Place” Refer To “Has Slept Through All Of American History.”** According to The Atlantic, “It’s not just any voter fraud. In a subsequent radio interview, he clarified that ‘other communities’ in his Ambridge talk referred to Philadelphia, a majority-minority city. That description wasn’t really necessary, though: Anyone who doesn’t know what that phrase—or ‘certain areas’ or ‘some other place’—really means has slept through all of American history. In Pennsylvania and Michigan, Trump’s supporters may very well believe they can now besiege, clog, and disrupt minority-area polls for one day, and thus shift the states’ electors to Trump.” [The Atlantic, [10/13/16](#)]

TRUMP DOUBLED DOWN ON HIS VOTER FRAUD CLAIMS ONCE IN OFFICE, FALSELY BLAMING “THE MILLIONS OF PEOPLE WHO VOTED ILLEGALLY” FOR HIS POPULAR VOTE LOSS

The Hill: “Trump Repeatedly Made Baseless Claims About Voter Fraud During The 2016 Election, Claiming Millions Of Fraudulent Votes Are The Reason Hillary Clinton Won The Popular Vote.”

According to The Hill, “Trump repeatedly made baseless claims about voter fraud during the 2016 election, claiming millions of fraudulent votes are the reason Hillary Clinton won the popular vote. ‘You can never really find, you know, there are going to be — no matter what numbers we come up with there are going to be lots of people that did things that we’re not going to find out about,’ Trump said in January after taking office. ‘But we will find out because we need a better system where that can’t happen.’” [The Hill, [5/11/17](#)]

Trump: “I Won The Popular Vote If You Deduct The Millions Of People Who Voted Illegally.”

According to PolitiFact, “President-elect Donald Trump provoked a firestorm on social media with a series of tweets on Nov. 27 that questioned the integrity of the balloting that elected him president. In one tweet, Trump wrote, ‘In addition to winning the Electoral College in a landslide, I won the popular vote if you deduct the millions of people who voted illegally.’” [PolitiFact, [11/28/16](#)]

- **PolitiFact: Trump Presented No Evidence To Support His “Ridiculously Illogical” Claim.** According to PolitiFact, “Neither Trump nor his allies have presented any evidence of widespread illegal voting. In reality, studies have consistently shown that voter fraud is nowhere near common enough to call into question millions and millions of votes. Indeed, the ability to carry off such a far-reaching conspiracy — potentially involving millions of people over the course of several months and without being noticed by election administration officials, many of them in states controlled by Republicans — is ridiculously illogical. We rate Trump’s statement Pants on Fire.” [PolitiFact, [11/28/16](#)]

Trump Tweeted That His Administration Would Investigate Voter Fraud By “Those Who Are Illegal.” According to The Washington Post, “The White House has yet to provide details, but Trump said in back-to-back tweets that the investigation into ‘VOTER FRAUD’ — Trump used all capitals for emphasis — would cover ‘those registered to vote in two states, those who are illegal’ and ‘those registered to vote who are dead (and many for a long time).’ ‘Depending on results,’ Trump tweeted, ‘we will strengthen up voting procedures!’” [Washington Post, [1/25/17](#)]

2017: Trump Said He Would Launch A “Major Investigation” Into Voter Fraud In The 2016 Election. According to The Hill, “President Trump stirred bipartisan controversy on Wednesday by pledging to launch a ‘major investigation’ into his baseless claim that widespread voter fraud cost him the popular vote in the 2016 presidential election. Trump’s assertion that as many as 3 million illegal ballots were cast has been disputed by news organizations, state attorneys general and academics who study voter fraud claims.” [The Hill, [1/26/17](#)]

There Have Been Almost No Cases Of Voter Fraud In The U.S.

THERE WERE 4 DEMONSTRATED CASES OF VOTER FRAUD IN THE 2016 ELECTION OUT OF OVER 135 MILLION VOTES CAST

Washington Post: There Were Four Demonstrated Cases Of Voter Fraud During The 2016 General Election Out Of More Than 135 Million Votes Cast. According to The Washington Post, “Three weeks ago, the votes of more than 135 million Americans were counted, and Donald Trump was declared the

winner of the 2016 presidential election. [...] As of writing, there are four demonstrated examples of people committing voter fraud during the 2016 general election. That's 0.000002 percent of the ballots cast in the race for the White House — if they counted, which they won't." [Washington Post, [12/1/16](#)]

ANALYSES OF THE 2016 ELECTION TURNED UP NO BASIS FOR TRUMP'S VOTER FRAUD CLAIMS

Politico: "Multiple Independent Fact-Checkers Have Deemed Trump's Unsubstantiated Claim About Fraud In The 2016 Election False." According to Politico, "Multiple independent fact-checkers have deemed Trump's unsubstantiated claim about fraud in the 2016 election false." [Politico, [1/26/17](#)]

Washington Post: "Analyses Of The Election Found Virtually No Confirmed Cases Of Voter Fraud, Let Alone Millions." According to The Washington Post, "Trump continues to face scrutiny, along with some mockery, for insisting during a private reception with congressional leaders Monday that there were between 3 million and 5 million ballots illegally cast in the election, allowing his Democratic rival, Hillary Clinton, to win the popular vote by more than 2.8 million votes, although she lost the electoral-college vote to Trump. The president and his aides have yet to provide any verifiable facts to back up his claim, and analyses of the election found virtually no confirmed cases of voter fraud, let alone millions." [Washington Post, [1/25/17](#)]

The National Association Of Secretaries Of State, A Group Of Majority Republican State Elections Official, Said There Was No Evidence Of Trump's Claims Of Voter Fraud. According to Bloomberg, "The National Association of Secretaries of State said there was no evidence of such fraud in 2016. 'We are not aware of any evidence that supports the voter fraud claims made by President Trump,' the group of state elections officials, a majority of them Republicans, said Tuesday in a statement. 'In the lead-up to the November 2016 election, secretaries of state expressed their confidence in the systemic integrity of our election process as a bipartisan group, and they stand behind that statement today.'" [Bloomberg, [1/25/17](#)]

VOTER FRAUD HAS NOT BEEN A FACTOR IN ANY 21ST CENTURY ELECTION IN THE UNITED STATES

A Comprehensive Investigation Of Voter Fraud Found 31 Different Incidents Out Of A Total Billion Ballots Cast In All General, Primary, Special, And Municipal Elections From 2000 Through 2014.

According to Loyola Law School, Los Angeles professor Justin Levitt in The Washington Post, "I've been tracking allegations of fraud for years now, including the fraud ID laws are designed to stop. In 2008, when the Supreme Court weighed in on voter ID, I looked at every single allegation put before the Court. And since then, I've been following reports wherever they crop up. To be clear, I'm not just talking about prosecutions. I track any specific, credible allegation that someone may have pretended to be someone else at the polls, in any way that an ID law could fix. So far, I've found about 31 different incidents (some of which involve multiple ballots) since 2000, anywhere in the country. If you want to check my work, you can read a comprehensive list of the incidents below. To put this in perspective, the 31 incidents below come in the context of general, primary, special, and municipal elections from 2000 through 2014. In general and primary elections alone, more than 1 billion ballots were cast in that period." [Justin Levitt – Washington Post, [8/6/14](#)]

Voter Fraud Was Found By The Brennan Center For Justice To Exist In "Very Small Numbers" Between 0.00004% And 0.0009%. According to CNN, "A report called 'The Truth About Voter Fraud' issued by the Brennan Center for Justice found voter fraud rates were between 0.00004% and 0.0009%. Voter fraud exists 'in very small numbers,' said David Becker, executive director of the Center for Election Innovation & Research." [CNN, [1/26/17](#)]

University Of California Law And Political Science Professor Richard Hasen: “It Just Doesn’t Happen In The United States.” According to The Washington Post, “‘We’ve never seen anything like this coming from a presidential candidate,’ said Richard L. Hasen, a law and political science professor at the University of California at Irvine who is the co-author of a leading casebook on election law. [...] Hasen said voter impersonation fraud is rare and that in his years of research, he has yet to find a single election where such cases compromised the results. ‘It just doesn’t happen in the United States,’ he said. Daniel A. Smith, a political science professor at the University of Florida, added that Trump is ‘trying to undermine the election system, which is very decentralized, which has very good people.’ ‘If anything, it’s putting a damper on the ability to register and creating some paranoia that is unfounded,’ Smith added.” [Washington Post, [10/7/16](#)]

The Commission Was Established To Vindicate Trump’s Popular Vote Loss, Over Which He Struggles To Hide His Insecurity

TRUMP CONSTANTLY BRINGS UP HIS ELECTION VICTORY, EVEN AT INAPPROPRIATE TIMES

Headline: “Donald Trump Can’t Stop Talking (And Talking) About The 2016 Election” [Chris Cillizza – CNN, [4/25/17](#)]

Headline: “The Election Is Over, But Trump Can’t Seem To Get Past It” [New York Times, [5/13/17](#)]

Trump Keeps A Stack Of 2016 Election Result Maps In The Dining Room Next To The Oval Office, And Hung A Large Portrait Of The Map In The West Wing. According to The New York Times, “In the small dining room next to the Oval Office where he works much of the time, President Trump keeps a stack of color-coded maps of the United States representing the results of the 2016 election. The counties he won are blotchy red and span most of the nation. Mr. Trump sometimes hands the maps out to visitors as a kind of parting gift, and a framed portrait-size version was hung on a wall in the West Wing last week. In conversations, the president dwells on the map and its import, reminding visitors about how wrong the polls were and inflating the scope of his victory.” [New York Times, [5/13/17](#)]

Cillizza: “Trump – Almost Daily – Finds A Way To Shoehorn The Fact That He Won When No One Else Said He Could Into Conversations.” According to an analysis by CNN editor-at-large Chris Cillizza, “Donald Trump was asked Wednesday by The New York Times why he thought Democrats were opposing Neil Gorsuch’s nomination to the Supreme Court. Here’s how he answered: ‘Well, I think that some of it had to do with the election. They thought they were going to win. You know, winning the Electoral College is, for a Republican, is close to impossible, and I won it quite easily. And I think they are still recovering from that, but they are recovering now.’ The reason Trump thinks Democrats oppose his pick for the Supreme Court is because he won the Electoral College vote so easily. Er, OK. This is a far from isolated incident with Trump. Although he is rapidly approaching the 100th day of his presidency (this is Day 77), Trump -- almost daily -- finds a way to shoehorn the fact that he won when no one else said he could into conversations.” [Chris Cillizza – CNN, [4/6/17](#)]

Trump Stopped To Hand Copies Of The 2016 Electoral Map To Reporters During A Discussion About Chinese President Xi Jinping: “It’s Pretty Good, Right? The Red Is Obviously Us.” According to Business Insider, “During a discussion about Chinese President Xi Jinping, Trump stopped to hand copies of the 2016 electoral map to each of the reporters. Areas of the US Trump won were marked in red. ‘Here, you can take that, that’s the final map of the numbers,’ Trump said, according to Reuters. ‘It’s pretty good, right? The red is obviously us.’” [Business Insider, [4/28/17](#)]

Trump Mentioned His Election Victory At A Visit To CIA Headquarters To Discuss National Security. According to The New York Times, “Even setting aside the Russia investigation, Mr. Trump has seemed absorbed by his election victory, one that defied the odds and nearly all political prognostications. Since taking office, he has spoken regularly of his campaign triumph, even at events where it might not have seemed fitting, as during a visit to C.I.A. headquarters to discuss national security. In his first days in office, he was fixated on the size of his inauguration crowd.” [New York Times, [5/13/17](#)]

Trump, At A White House Event Celebrating House Passage Of The AHCA: “I’m President. Hey, I’m President. Can You Believe It?” According to The New York Times, “He still exults over the win. ‘November 8, wasn’t that a great evening?’ he asked a couple of weeks ago at the National Rifle Association. At times, he still seems surprised about the results. At an event in the Rose Garden to celebrate a House vote on his health care legislation, he turned to Republican lawmakers. ‘How am I doing?’ he asked. ‘Am I doing O.K.?’ Then, answering his own question, he said: ‘I’m president. Hey, I’m president. Can you believe it?’” [New York Times, [5/13/17](#)]

TRUMP SAID HIS DECISION TO FIRE FBI DIRECTOR JAMES COMEY HAD TO DO WITH THE RUSSIA INVESTIGATION CALLING HIS ELECTORAL VICTORY INTO QUESTION

Trump Said He Fired FBI Director Comey In Part Because The Russia Investigation Cast Doubt On The Legitimacy Of His Election: “This Russia Thing With Trump And Russia Is A Made-Up Story. It's An Excuse By The Democrats For Having Lost An Election That They Should've Won.” According to a transcript of President Trump’s interview with NBC News via RealClearPolitics, “TRUMP: They -- he made a recommendation. He's highly respected. Very good guy, very smart guy. And the Democrats like him. The Republicans like him. He had made a recommendation. But regardless of recommendation, I was going to fire Comey knowing there was no good time to do it And in fact, when I decided to just do it, I said to myself -- I said, you know, this Russia thing with Trump and Russia is a made-up story. It's an excuse by the Democrats for having lost an election that they should've won. And the reason they should've won it is the electoral college is almost impossible for a Republican to win. It's very hard because you start off at such a disadvantage. So, everybody was thinking they should've won the election. This was an excuse for having lost an election.” [RealClearPolitics, [5/11/17](#)]

Asked About His Statement That The Russia Investigation Was A Total Hoax, Trump Complained That “Everybody Seems To Think That” The Russians Affected The Vote. According to a transcript of President Trump’s interview with NBC News via RealClearPolitics, “HOLT: What you said a moment ago about supporting the idea of investigation. A lot of people would find it hard to believe that the man who just said that tweeted very recently it's a total hoax. It's a taxpayer charade. TRUMP: Oh, I think that looking into me and the campaign -- look, I have nothing to do -- this was set up by the Democrats. There is no collusion between me and my campaign and the Russians. The other thing is the Russians did not affect the vote. And everybody seems to think that.” [RealClearPolitics, [5/11/17](#)]

JANUARY 2017: WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY SEAN SPICER SUGGESTED THE ADMINISTRATION WOULD ONLY PURSUE VOTER FRAUD IN DEMOCRATIC STATES

Headline: “WH Spox: Trump’s Voter Fraud Probe Will Look At Big Blue States.” [Business Insider, [1/25/17](#)]

Press Secretary Sean Spicer Said Trump’s Voter Fraud Investigation Would Focus On Bigger States “That We Didn’t Compete In.” According to Business Insider, “Attorneys who were representing the

president-elect during the recounts in several states emphatically stated 'all available evidence suggests that the 2016 general election was not tainted by fraud or mistake,' so how do you square those two things?' [Fox News reporter John Roberts] asked. Spicer suggested the lawyers' statement wasn't referring to 'states we didn't compete in.' 'Well, I think there were a lot of states we didn't compete in where that is not necessarily the case,' he said. 'You look at California and New York, I'm not sure that those statements were — we didn't look at those two states in particular.' Spicer said the investigation would look into 'bigger states,' adding that details would be released later this week." [Business Insider, [1/25/17](#)]

The Atlantic: “Spicer Is Saying That Trump Will Target Only States That Voted Democratic For His Investigation Of Fraud.” According to The Atlantic, “Spicer’s answer was stunning. ‘There’s a lot of states that we didn’t compete in where that’s not necessarily the case,’ he said. You look at California and New York, I’m not sure that those statements were—we didn’t look at those two states in particular . . . I think when you look at where a lot of places where a lot of these issues could have occurred in bigger states, that’s where I think we’re going to look.’ Here’s a shorter way to put that: Spicer is saying that Trump will target only states that voted Democratic for his investigation of fraud.” [Atlantic, [1/25/17](#)]

TRUMP BEGAN HIS RE-ELECTION CAMPAIGN THE DAY HE TOOK OFFICE

Trump Began His Re-Election Campaign The Day He Took Office. According to The New York Times, “Indeed, he seems to be at his happiest when reliving the campaign, which he effectively reproduces from time to time with raucous rallies of supporters cheering on his crusade against the Washington establishment. He formally launched his re-election campaign on the day he was sworn in.” [New York Times, [5/13/17](#)]

Trump Held His First Re-Election Campaign Rally 29 Days Into His Presidency. According to The Atlantic, “Donald Trump’s 2016 campaign was a work of virtuoso improvisation: Even though it seemed to be in permanent chaos, with frequent changes of leadership, perpetual gaffes, and a strategy devised on the fly, the Republican managed to defeat the elaborate, best-and-brightest, data-wonk team of Hillary Clinton. If the early indications hold, it doesn’t look like Trump is going to improvise so much again in 2020. In fact, he’s kicking the campaign off on Saturday, with a rally in Melbourne, Florida: We’ll do the math for you: That means Trump is hosting his first rally of the 2020 campaign just 29 days into his presidency.” [The Atlantic, [2/15/17](#)]

Trump Held Campaign-Style Events Between Election Day And Inauguration Day. According to The Atlantic, “The rally isn’t even the first step the president has taken toward a 2020 campaign. In the days between his election and his inaugural, Trump held a victory lap series of rallies, mimicking the format and even the stump speech (such as it was) that Trump used during the campaign. He also made great show of supposedly selecting, and then asking his lawyer to trademark, a slogan for the 2020 campaign while in the midst of an interview with The Washington Post’s Karen Tumulty. (‘Keep America Great,’ but then you knew that, right?) Trump even filed papers to run for reelection on Inauguration Day.” [The Atlantic, [2/15/17](#)]

The 2016 Election Outcome Likely Had More To Do With GOP Attempts At Voter Suppression Than With Widespread Voter Fraud

TRUMP WON THE SWING STATE OF WISCONSIN BY LESS THAN 23,000 VOTES WHILE APPROXIMATELY 200,000 WISCONSINISERS WERE KEPT FROM VOTING

2016: In Wisconsin, Which Trump Won By Less Than 23,000 Votes, The State Voter-ID Law Reduced Turnout By 200,000 Votes. According to The Nation, “According to federal court records, 300,000 registered voters, 9 percent of the electorate, lacked strict forms of voter ID in Wisconsin. A new study by Priorities USA, shared exclusively with The Nation, shows that strict voter-ID laws, in Wisconsin and other states, led to a significant reduction in voter turnout in 2016, with a disproportionate impact on African-American and Democratic-leaning voters. Wisconsin’s voter-ID law reduced turnout by 200,000 votes, According to The new analysis. Donald Trump won the state by only 22,748 votes.” [The Nation, [5/9/17](#)]

- **If Turnout In Wisconsin Had Mirrored That In States With No Change To Voter Identification, An Estimated 200,000+ Additional Voters Would Have Participated.** According to The Nation, “The study compared turnout in states that adopted strict voter-ID laws between 2012 and 2016, like Wisconsin, to states that did not. [¶]While states with no change to voter identification laws witnessed an average increased turnout of +1.3% from 2012 to 2016, Wisconsin’s turnout (where voter ID laws changed to strict) dropped by -3.3%. If turnout had instead increased by the national no-change average, we estimate that over 200,000 more voters would have voted in Wisconsin in 2016.[¶]” [The Nation, [5/9/17](#)]
- **Wisconsin’s Lost Turnout Was Estimated To Have Particularly Hurt Hillary Clinton’s Campaign. Because Lost Voters Were Disproportionately Democratic-Voting And African-American.** According to The Nation, “This reduction in turnout particularly hurt Hillary Clinton’s campaign. [¶]The lost voters skewed more African-American and more Democrat. For example, Wisconsin’s 2016 electorate was 6.1% more Republican, and 5.7% less Democrat, than the group of ‘lost voters’. Furthermore, the WI electorate was 3.7% more White and 3.8% less African American than the group of ‘lost voters.’ This analysis suggests that the 200,000 lost voters would have both been more racially diverse and have voted more Democratic.[¶]” [The Nation, [5/9/17](#)]