

## **Credible Elections are Essential**

### **Credibility in Elections needs to be the goal**

Tom Currie, Natick RTC Chair, 6/24/2026

An intellectual exercise in the “Musings from the Chair” series

*The “Musings from the Chair” series are essays by the Chair of the Natick Republican Town Committee. The essays are intended to be intellectual exercises on various topics. Use them to provoke your personal analysis. Often they will utilize unusual approaches to the issue. Use the techniques to give you additional analysis tools. There is no expectation that you will agree or disagree with the views in the essays. The essays are solely the musings of the chair and do not represent endorsed opinions of the Natick RTC, State GOP or National GOP.*

There is a lot of talk about election fraud, election integrity, election processes that differ in various places in the country.

For the last three decades the party that lost the presidency has complained that the other side cheated.

There are all sorts of arguments about elections, election processes, and election fraud and cheating.

If we implement voting rules to target credibility, then every voter will trust the result, even if they do not like it.

The 2020 presidential election is called “free and fair” by one side and fraudulent by the other. At best, both sides need to call it “controversial.” The 2020 election was in no way a credible election for reasons that have been well documented by credible sources.

We just watched the LA mayoral primary election bounce the clear second place candidate to third place with a statistically impossible post election day ballot drop. This is well documented, look at the ratios of mail in votes received before election day and after. They shift dramatically to the third place candidate, providing the miracle she needed. It is not statistically credible that the stats would shift so dramatically in one day. This is a discussion for another day, but the mayoral primary was in no way credible.

Recently, the Republican Party has been pushing election integrity policies. Refer to the Election Integrity Network. There are some very good policies.

However, the focus on election integrity misses the point. Yes, we need elections with properly counted votes, solid voter roles, knowing that only valid citizen voters cast ballots. These are important, but there is a much stronger thing to emphasize.

Credible elections.

If elections are credible, then people who have very different political leanings can all have confidence that the election selected the correct winner based on voter’s choices.

Note that the argument “that problem does not occur often enough to make a difference” is not relevant to credibility. Remove the problem and we can never complain about it, regardless if it was a big issue or small issue.

When you read this, look for how each item impacts credibility, not how each possible infraction might realistically impact an election.

### **Long early voting reduces credibility for several reasons**

- early voters miss out on information that comes out during the early voting weeks.
- long voting windows allow more time for villains to gather fraudulent ballots

### **Ballots boxes around the city reduce credibility**

- they are often unsecured and can be stuffed with fraudulent ballots
- LA has had several ballot boxes burned, thus disenfranchising many voters.

The solution to these is easy, put ballot boxes only in the Town Hall, police stations or other secure locations.

### **Voter rolls need to be audited regularly to ensure there are no ineligible voters**

- remove the deceased
- ensure only verified citizens are put on the voter roll
- remove voters who move out of the precinct (need a grace period and accommodations for college students, military, ex pats)
- remove voters who register in another city.
- remove noncitizens from the voter roll

Clean voter rolls helps ensure that all ballots that are counted are ballots from valid voters Regularly audits and cleaned voter rolls remove the arguments that our voter rolls are full of ineligible voters.

### **Streamline how people register to vote. Repeal motor voter and other voter registration simplifications.**

- Mass voters can register to vote via the Town Clerks office (the best way), the secretary of state's web site, the Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV).
  - having multiple avenues to register to vote causes confusion for both the voter and the Town Clerk's office
  - Voters want to register to vote once, and not be changed.
  - The RMV changes your voter registration every time you interact with the the RMV. So the Town Clerk is spammed with redundant “changes” of voter status. Like changing Tom from Republican to Republican at the same address. No change needed, but the clerk gets the notification anyway.
  - The Secretary of State's (SOS) website sends a notification of registration change that is easily missed into the sea of RMV voter “updates.” I have seen a deliberate voter party change made by the voter via the SOS's website get lost by our Town Clerk's office. This was due to the RMV's spam.
- Just give people two ways to register, via the Town Clerk and the SOS's website to simplify the process and reduce voter roll errors.

### **Verifying citizenship when registering to vote is critical for voter roll credibility.**

- today, one only needs to claim they are a citizen.
- we've seen many reports of noncitizens having registered and voted because all they needed to do was check a box claiming to be a citizen. A simple ID Check at voter registration would solve this credibility problem.

### **Voter ID is critical to ensure only registered voters actually cast a ballot.**

- today, voters walk in and state their name and address
- this can be easily be memorized by someone else and an illegal vote cast
- this has been witnessed in Natick (very rarely), a suburban town in eastern MA with a very solid election system.
- even if it's rare, it's a point of argument in current election discussions.
- all voters already have ID, driver's license, passport, State ID. Even the elderly have their expired driver's license or passport.
- no journalist has ever identified a single US citizen who cannot get ID to vote.

Verifying voter identity is a simple way to improve credibility by ensuring only registered voters cast a ballot

### **Accept votes up to the close of polls on election night. Reject all late ballots**

- ballots that drift in after election day look shady, even if they are legitimate.
- a credible election has clear boundaries when ballots are accepted and a clear close of the window of acceptance.
- accepting ballots after close of polls reduces credibility because results are known on election night and the "new votes" needed to help a candidate win is now known.
- it's not relevant to say this does not happen or is rare, it's a credibility issue.
- also we saw likely ballot stuffing after election day happen in LA in 2026.

### **Count the votes on election night at the precinct voting location**

- a voting system that optically reads ballots as they are cast provides a report of vote counts minutes after the polls close. This is a system where hand marked paper ballots are inserted into a scanner by the voter.
- mail in and early votes can be scanned in by poll workers during election day
- precincts can report votes within an hour after the polls close
- note: write in votes are a manual process and take longer.
- any vote count after midnight of election day has zero credibility. It implies a sloppy election system.
- California counts votes at a central location. This reduces credibility entirely to zero. No one knows where ballots came from when a precinct brings votes to the counting location. It also causes one facility to count millions of votes from dozens or hundreds of locations thus delaying the results announcement by days or weeks.

### **Make electronic voting machines (tablets with voting apps) illegal, use hand marked paper ballots only.**

- voting machines with electronic tallies cannot be recounted vote by vote. Paper ballots can be rescanned.
- voting machines are not less expensive than optical scanners
- voting machines do not speed up the vote count. Paper ballot precincts often get their results released as quickly or quicker than voting machine precincts.
- voting machines rely on software. Software has bugs. Software can have subroutines that complicate the algorithms (hiding cheating methods is possible). Software is not open source, so it cannot be independently audited. I personally have written enough software to know these issues are real and cannot be denied. The outcome is any vote that goes into software without a paper ballot cannot be audited or recounted. Only the output of the software can be recounted. This breaks the chain of custody of the ballots.
- voting machines have been credibly accused of changing votes or flashing confusing votes when hitting "commit my vote" (for whatever the button says). So many voters leave the vote asking "was my vote for that candidate actually counted or was it switched to the other guy? This points to reduced credibility of voting machines.

### **Reduce or eliminate voting form outside the USA**

- every foreign sourced vote needs to be fully validated to be a valid voter in that precinct
- only paper ballots should be accepted from foreign voters, no website or emailed votes.
- military do need to vote no matter where they are in the world. They might need an app to facilitate a clean vote. This can be tightly controlled and limited to military personnel and their immediate family.
- end the electronic voting by those in foreign places for voters who will not be soon returning to the precinct. Meaning, if you move out of the country on a permanent basis, you give up your right to vote. Note the credibility angle, we can no longer claim that foreign noncitizens are casting invalid votes. This was a large claim in the 2020 Presidential election which reduced credibility in that election.

### **Ranked Choice voting is always election rigging and should be illegal**

- see my rant on RCV
- voters can never say “this candidate won because”
  - this is because the math is hidden and too complex
  - voters cannot audit the results at home
- if a party runs more candidates, they have ways to bump out the rival party
- RCV only works if all candidates have some reason for the voter to vote for them. i.e. some candidates are at worst “somewhat acceptable” and no candidate is “entirely unacceptable.” This is rarely true.

### **Make “all party” primaries illegal**

- these subvert the two party system
- a party running multiple candidates can rig the system to cause to from one party to run in the general election
- minority parties may never get a candidate on the ballot.
- this primary type reduces credibility because it makes it harder for parties to run in the general election.

The credibility angle of RCV and all party primaries is to make sure election methods can be understood by the voters. Both methods only reduce credibility, even if they are somehow proven to work well, they will never be credible.

### **Very weak arguments**

- people of color cannot get ID - I do not know anyone who knows a POC that could not get ID.
- old people have trouble getting valid ID. This is a real issue, but states provide IDs that are not driver's licenses. Expired passports are valid ID, they are just not valid for international travel. States could easily make a recently expired driver's license valid ID. Also churches would all have ministries to help old folks get valid ID. So this real issue is easily solved.
- voting machines and apps are trustworthy. See the list of issues above. Software is not trustworthy, it breaks the chain of custody.
- voters need weeks of early voting. I never heard a reason why voters need more than 1 week of early voting. Absentee voting can be used by business travelers. Very few people work 7 days without access to a ballot drop box or early voting station at the town hall.
- Poll workers need weeks to count votes. Florida counts million of votes in a few hours. If they can do it, every state can do it.

**What ifs**

If the 2026 LA mayor primary was clean, it certainly did not look like it was clean. Implement credible election practices and remove the complaints and suspicion.

What if the last 8 presidential elections had credible election processes in place? How many news articles would never have been written? How many politician's complaints would not have been made?

**If we implement voting rules to target credibility, then every voter will trust the result, even if they do not like it.**