

TO: Sen. Mike Thompson and Members of the Interim Special Committee on Elections
RE: Written Testimony
FR: Connie Brown Collins
Voter Rights Network of Wyandotte County
DT: September 29, 2023

Dear Sen. Thompson and Interim Special Committee on Elections:

My name is Connie Brown Collins and I am a resident of Kansas City, KS in Wyandotte County. I am the founder/director of Voter Rights Network of Wyandotte County. Our organization works with organizations and individuals passionate about Wyandotte County and its voting and other human rights. Voting access and opportunities are of paramount importance to our members and our Wyandotte communities including mail in ballots, advance ballot drop boxes, three-day grace periods, instant registration, accommodations for people with disabilities, extended voting hours and days, multiple advance in-person locations and protection of our poll workers. We believe in facts and established research about voting and voting security, and reject conspiracy theories about voting fraud and integrity. The following are facts and information about voting fraud, integrity and security:

- **The 2020 election** was the most secure in American history. A report issued by former Pres. Trump's research team found that **"There is no evidence that any voting system deleted or lost votes, changed votes, or was in any way compromised."**

<https://www.cisa.gov/news-events/news/joint-statement-elections-infrastructure-government-coordinating-council-election>

- **Election denial** relies on core false narratives that recur and revolve around voting machines, mail voting, and voter fraud.

- **Three-day Grace Period**

- There is no evidence that voting by mail results in significant fraud.
- Delayed postal service delivery should not disenfranchise voters.
- Ensures that citizens with slower mail delivery, such as rural voters, get their votes counted. Also ensures that senior citizens and disabled individuals who must rely on others have adequate opportunity to return ballots.
- Kansas election officials have reported no potential fraud involving the grace period.

- **Voting Machines**

Conspiracy theories depict voting machines as vehicles for widespread voter fraud, which has been found to be untrue.

<https://www.npr.org/2022/09/08/1121682138/a-hacker-bought-a-voting-machine-on-ebay-michigan-officials-are-now-investigatin>

- Some examples:
 - In Maricopa County, Arizona, a printing issue affected a number of vote-counting machines for some time. The later-resolved technical glitch had interrupted operations at about one in four poll sites.
 - In April 2023, Fox News paid out \$787.5 million to voting machine manufacturer, Dominion to settle defamation lawsuit

<https://www.cnn.com/2023/04/18/media/fox-dominion-settlement/index.html>

- **Hand-count Movement**

- Rooted in conspiracy theories, but to address concerns, election officials should maintain voting equipment, keep its software up to date, and have strict security protocols both online and in the physical world.

- **Claims that mail voting and drop boxes are insecure are false**

- Mail ballots have been successfully used in the United States for over 150 years, and in that time, states have developed multiple layers of security to protect against fraud.

- Accusations of votes cast by non-citizens or with the names of dead people, and false claims of fraud in vote counting have been found to be baseless.
- **Signature Verification of Mail-in Ballots**
 - In the battleground state of Arizona in Maricopa County, a lawsuit which resulted in a court-ordered inspection of a random sample of 100 mail-in ballots, no one (including the expert hired in the lawsuit), found any evidence of fraudulent signatures or any reason not to count the mail-in ballots. The Elections Director confirmed that all 100 signatures matched the signatures on file in the county's voter registration records.
- **Question Unproven Claims to Protect Voter Roles**
 - Reject EagleAI: EagleAI is the latest effort by election deniers to use the upkeep of voter rolls as a vehicle to disenfranchise voters and spread disinformation. Some of the nation's preeminent election deniers have launched EagleAI NETWORK, a new project that could undermine voting rights and elections. Eagle AI uses large databases to **unnecessarily** challenge voter eligibility in an effort to overwhelm election officials and put forth mass challenges.
 - If EagleAI replaces existing election systems, it may be used to smear impartial election administration, disenfranchise voters, and set the stage for overturning unfavorable election results. It is being floated as a replacement for ERIC (Electronic Registration Information Center). It appears to be an effort to empower election-denying ideologues by replacing a reliable list maintenance system with a patchwork of sloppy mass challenges.
 - EagleAI:
 - Uses public data; not accurate enough to confidently match individuals.
 - Would transfer much of the responsibility for maintaining accurate voter rolls from professional officials to private activists
 - Will force resource-strapped local election boards to spend hundreds of precious hours investigating speculation.
 - EagleAI's backers also propose that local governments use it to resolve private challenges, which would lead to disastrous registration purges.
 - Conspiracy theorists create the facade of a problem and then demand that governments use their solution, ignoring (or maybe counting on) the side effects of disenfranchisement and intimidation.
 - EagleAI is another mechanism for drumming up bogus evidence that election deniers can use as "proof" for the lie that fraud mars our elections.
 - By taking EagleAI seriously, local officials could give it a veneer of legitimacy that helps disinformation gain traction in the future.
 - State officials should bar local officials from using EagleAI and states that have left ERIC should rejoin.
 - States should tighten private challenger laws to require one-by-one challenges based on personal knowledge and to penalize frivolous challenges.

The guides (below) offer a compendium of the falsehoods that have been circulating and attendant rebuttals to help negate the effects of the ongoing public conspiracy theories.

- <https://www.cisa.gov/rumor-vs-reality>
- <https://statesuniteddemocracy.org/resources/countering-lies-about-the-2020-presidential-election/>

Thank you for the opportunity to present facts and information about voting fraud, integrity and security. Respectfully submitted, *Connie Brown Collins* – Connie Brown Collins, Voter Rights Network of Wyandotte County