



TO: Interested Parties
FROM: Fair Fight
RE: BATTLEGROUND DEMOCRACY TIP MEMO:
Mass Voter Challenges by Anti-Democratic Conspiracy Peddlers Suppress
Voters and Burden Election Workers Across the U.S.

In the lead up to the 2024 election, right-wing anti-voter extremists have attempted to silence and intimidate voters and overwhelm election workers in a large-scale and strategic effort to sow doubt about the electoral process. From Georgia to Michigan, anti-democratic organizations and conspiracy peddlers are challenging the eligibility of large swaths of voters in a coordinated attack on American democracy and the freedom to vote.

MASS VOTER CHALLENGES IN GEORGIA

In Georgia, Governor Brian Kemp's extreme anti-voter law, SB 202, codified that a single Georgian can challenge an unlimited number of registered voters in their county. Since SB 202 was signed into law, anti-voter conspiracy theorists — the majority of whom are white, far-right activists motivated by false allegations of voter fraud in the 2020 election — have **leveraged this legislation to question the eligibility of nearly 100,000 (or 1 in every 70) Georgia voters**, disproportionately targeting counties with the most Black and brown voters. For instance:

- In 2022, 6.2% of voters on a challenged list filed in Forsyth County were Black voters, whereas only 3.52% of registered voters in Forsyth are Black.
- And in Cobb last year, multiple challenges were filed against Black voters whose registrations were missing apartment numbers; almost 50,000 voters in Georgia are registered without an apartment number.

While the overwhelming majority of these challenges were dismissed due to bad evidence, the harmful impacts are clear: burdening election administration and election workers, silencing voters who stand in the way of GOP electoral victories, and coercing voters to refrain from participating in future elections. According to Fair Fight's internal research, the majority of challenges have been filed in the Democratic-leaning metro Atlanta counties of Gwinnett, Forsyth, Fulton, Cobb, and DeKalb.

Because of the sheer number of these challenges, as well as new requirements in SB 202 requiring counties to hold expedited hearings for some challenges within 10 days of notifying challenged voters, already-stretched county elections offices are forced to deal with significant additional administrative burdens that impede the critical work of running elections — all while Republican leaders in the state restrict funding for county elections offices and make it a felony for county workers to accept private funding for election administration costs.



BATTLEGROUND DEMOCRACY

By emboldening these anti-voter conspiracy theorists to challenge an unlimited number of voters, Republican leaders in Georgia are making elections more complicated without adequately equipping counties to handle the increased burden on election workers. This comes as election workers and administrators are already facing unprecedented scrutiny, threats, and hostility from the far-right.

MASS VOTER CHALLENGES ACROSS THE U.S.

Mass challenges by anti-democratic conspiracy peddlers are not confined to Georgia, but are instead a part of a coordinated, nationwide effort to make administering elections more difficult while intimidating and harassing voters the GOP deems undesirable.

- In **Michigan**, conspiracy-fueled extremists attempted to challenge 22,000 ballots at once from voters who had requested absentee ballots for the state's August primary.
- In **Texas**, 116 affidavits were filed challenging the eligibility of more than 6,000 voters in Harris County, which is home to Houston and is the state's largest county.

And like in Georgia, the vast majority of the challenges in these states have been rejected, in many cases because they were [“rife with bad information or based on flawed data analysis.”](#) This telegraphs a troubling plan to undermine the results of the 2024 election based on disinformation and more bad-faith attacks on voter eligibility. Across the country, conspiracy theorists are using momentum from the Big Lie to disenfranchise voters and trample election administration.

IMPACT ON THE 2024 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

The coordinated right-wing effort to intimidate voters and pull resources away from the aspects of election administration that could make voting more accessible is the logical result of years of anti-democratic conspiracy theories like the Big Lie aimed at undermining American elections. Right-wing extremists have weaponized mass challenges to intimidate voters by forcing them into a process to re-prove their eligibility and accusing them of malfeasance.

This widespread intimidation push harkens back to Jim Crow tactics leveraged against Black voters, seeking to coerce and silence Black voters by any tactic possible.

As we approach the 2024 Presidential election, mass voter challenges will continue to take their toll on voters and our electoral process. The goal has never been more clear: disenfranchise Black, brown and poor voters, undermine elections, and help elect Republican candidates.