

FACT SHEET: Florida Republicans Handed Trump the Voter Rolls Without a Fight, Then Passed a Law to Kick Registered Voters Off the Rolls

Florida Republicans have spent seven years eroding the electorate and making it harder to vote. When Floridians restored voting rights to 1.4 million people with felony convictions, the GOP state legislature made them pay every fine and fee first. When Black voters used drop boxes, the state confined them to office hours under guard, and a federal judge found the law was aimed at them. When 20 people the state itself had registered cast ballots, the new election police arrested them — on camera. When registration drives signed up 60,000 Floridians in one cycle, the state fined them out of existence. And after citizens put abortion rights on the ballot, the Republican-controlled legislature made sure no petition drive could get that far again. To make matters worse, the Florida GOP's nominees for governor and U.S. Senate are election deniers, and its nominee for attorney general helped build the machinery.

Ahead of the midterm elections this year, Florida Republicans went even further. After Trump's Justice Department demanded states' voter files, Florida Republicans didn't hesitate to hand over its complete list of 13.5 million voters, including driver's license and partial Social Security numbers. A federal judge recently ruled the whole scheme illegal, but Florida's attorney general spent the summer in court keeping the database behind it running. In April, Governor Ron DeSantis signed a law that, starting January 1, will force new voters to produce a passport or birth certificate and let the state flag already-registered voters as suspected noncitizens, who then have 30 days to prove their citizenship or be removed from the rolls. **Here's the record.**

FLORIDA REPUBLICANS HAVE SPENT SEVEN YEARS SHRINKING THE ELECTORATE

2019: Florida Republicans Gutted the Amendment Nearly 65 Percent of Voters Had Just Passed. Months after Floridians passed a ballot measure [restoring](#) voting rights to as many as 1.4 million people with felony convictions, the GOP-controlled state legislature [passed](#) a bill [requiring](#) every fine, fee and restitution order to be paid first, with no state system for telling anyone what they owed. A University of Florida analysis [found](#) more than 774,000 Floridians owed something.

2021: Florida Republicans Restricted Drop Boxes and Water in Line, and a Trial Judge Found It Was Aimed at Black Voters. In April 2021, Florida's GOP Governor Ron DeSantis [signed](#) an anti-voter bill at a [closed event](#), broadcast only on Fox News, [confining](#) drop boxes to early-voting hours under staff supervision, forcing voters to re-request mail ballots every cycle, and barring anyone but election staff from handing out food or water within 150 feet of a polling place.

2022–2023: Florida Republicans Created an Election Police Force, Arrested 20 People the State Had Let Register, and Erased a Black Congressional District. In

April 2022, Gov. DeSantis signed a law [building](#) the [Office of Election Crimes and Security](#) inside the Department of State. Its first arrests, [announced](#) in August 2022, were 20 people who had registered and been sent voter cards by election officials. Trial judges began [throwing out](#) cases within months because the statewide prosecutor had [no jurisdiction](#), but the GOP legislature [rewrote](#) the jurisdiction law in a February 2023 special session to keep the prosecutions alive. That spring, Gov. DeSantis [vetoed](#) the GOP legislature's congressional map and [forced](#) through his own, dismantling a Jacksonville-anchored district that had sent a Black Representative to Congress since 1993.

2023: Florida Republicans Quit the Multistate System That Cleaned Voter Rolls and Fined Voter Registration Drives Out of the State. In March 2023, Florida [withdrew](#) from the multistate ERIC cooperative two months after its own election crimes office [credited](#) ERIC with catching nearly 1,200 apparent double voters. Around the same time, Florida Republicans also passed a bill raising the annual fine ceiling on community registration groups to [\\$250,000](#) and cutting the deadline to turn in forms from 14 days to 10. Leon County's elections supervisor [testified](#) to a “dramatic decrease” in registrations; by one [count](#), about 60,000 Floridians registered through such groups in 2020 compared to roughly 7,100 by August 2024.

2024: Florida Republicans Sent State Police to Voters' Doors Over a Ballot Petition. After Floridians put an abortion rights initiative on the ballot in 2024, state law enforcement officers working with the election crimes office [visited](#) signers at their homes to question whether their signatures were real. The Department of State [said](#) the office had opened more than 40 investigations of paid circulators, and [pointed](#) to 14,000 petitions, out of roughly 37,000 those circulators had submitted, that county supervisors had already rejected as invalid, from a drive that qualified for the ballot anyway.

- **2025: Florida Republicans Made It Nearly Impossible for Citizens to Put Anything on the Ballot Again.** Six months after the abortion amendment vote, Gov. DeSantis [signed](#) a bill making it significantly harder to advance ballot initiatives in the state. The law [barred](#) noncitizens, nonresidents and people with felony convictions whose rights had not been restored from gathering petition signatures, established fines of \$50,000 for each ineligible circulator against ballot initiative campaigns, [cut](#) the deadline to deliver a signed petition from 30 days to 10, and made it a felony for an unregistered volunteer to hold more than 25 signed petitions.

FLORIDA REPUBLICANS HANDED TRUMP 13 MILLION VOTERS' RECORDS, AND A JUDGE HAS NOW RULED THE SCHEME ILLEGAL

Florida Promised DOJ the Full Voter File Before It Ever Had to Ask Twice. The Justice Department requested Florida's unredacted statewide voter list in August 2025. The Florida Department of State [wrote back](#) in December that it was first running the rolls through the federal SAVE citizenship database and would deliver the list by mid-January, becoming one of only a handful of states that [sent](#) a complete file, including driver's license numbers and partial Social Security numbers, to Trump's DOJ [without a fight](#). On October 9, a federal judge

[ruled](#) that the Trump DOJ's program of collecting state voter files, running them through SAVE and pressing states to purge the voters it flagged was authorized by no law the department cited, and that the department had downplayed evidence the database wrongly flags naturalized citizens.

Florida Republicans Went Looking for Noncitizens, Found 198, and Announced 20 Arrests Six Weeks Before the Election. Florida was one of the first states to [spearhead](#) a [deal](#) for bulk access to the federal SAVE database in November 2025, and the state's election crimes office [reported](#) just 198 "likely noncitizens" who registered or voted in 2025, among [more than](#) 13 million registered voters. In September 2026, 40 days before the midterm, DeSantis and the attorney general [announced](#) 20 felony arrests, 16 of them noncitizens, from a [two-month](#) operation, 12 of them people already in custody, and the statewide prosecutor promised "many more arrests."

DeSantis Signed a Law That Sends the State Through Its Own Rolls Looking for Citizens to Challenge. In April, Gov. DeSantis [signed](#) a law requiring anyone registering or updating a registration to prove citizenship with a passport, birth certificate, naturalization certificate or citizenship-marked driver's license. He also [ended](#) the use of student IDs at the polls and directed the state to comb its own rolls for voters "potentially ineligible based on their legal status regarding United States citizenship," each of whom gets 30 days to prove citizenship or be removed. The provisions [take](#) effect on January 1, and the groups suing to block it [argue](#) that naturalized citizens, about [93,240](#) of them in Florida in fiscal 2024 alone, are the voters whose records will fail the match.

FLORIDA ELECTION DENIERS ARE ON THE BALLOT

GOP Governor Pick Rep. Byron Donalds Voted to Throw Out Two States' Electors Hours After the Capitol Was Cleared. Rep. Donalds [announced](#) on December 31, 2020, three days before he was sworn in, that he could not "in good faith vote to support the certification of the Electoral College results," a [pledge](#) he repeated on social media. Donalds then [voted](#) to reject [Arizona's](#) electors on January 6 and [Pennsylvania's](#) electors on January 7, saying the rioters "will [not alter](#) my decision to object to the Electoral College certification." He [won](#) the Republican nomination for governor in August with Trump's [endorsement](#).

GOP Senator Ashley Moody Signed On to Overturn Four States' Elections the Day After One of Her Own Top Lawyers Called the Suit "Batshit Insane." As attorney general, Moody [joined](#) the 17-state brief urging the Supreme Court to take up Texas's suit to throw out the 2020 election results in Georgia, Pennsylvania, Michigan and Wisconsin, which the Court [denied](#) two days later. She signed on, [declaring](#) that "the integrity and resolution of the 2020 election is of [paramount](#) importance." Records later [showed](#) her senior deputy solicitor general had called the suit "batshit insane" in an internal email the day before she signed.

Florida GOP Attorney General James Uthmeier Went Back to Court to Keep a Citizenship Database a Judge Had Just Ruled Unlawful. Uthmeier [served](#) as DeSantis's chief of staff when the election police force and the registration fines [became](#) law, and as the

[appointed](#) attorney general he [named](#) the man who had [managed](#) that police force as statewide prosecutor. He [stood](#) beside DeSantis for September's 20-arrest announcement.

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Try And Stop Us is an organization fighting to defend elections in 2026 and beyond. As Donald Trump and his allies work to rig the game and sow distrust in our elections because they can't win a fair fight, Try And Stop Us moves quickly to amplify the work of organizers and local leaders — helping their voices reach further, faster, as one unified story. For more information, please reach out to info@tryandstopus.org.