



# BALLOT HARVESTING:

## Democrats' New Vote-Rig Scheme

"Election night was painful for California Republicans, but it was nothing compared to the slow torture we've endured ever since. For ... agonizing weeks, Republicans have watched registrars update their tallies with late absentee and provisional ballots. From Orange County to the Bay Area, it's the same story playing out with different candidates: Democrats flipping seats with late ballots ... What is unusual is the scale of the carnage." - Shawn Steel, California committeeman for the RNC and former California GOP chair, *The Orange County Register*, 12/1/18

The state where Ronaldus Magnus won two terms as governor is not just a Democrat hellhole nowadays. Its election system has devolved into a one-party banana republic, complete with rampant election rigging, vote fraud, and ballot-stuffing. But make no mistake: the insidious tactics Democrats are trying out on the left coast will soon migrate across the fruited plain. If Republicans don't attack the left's new "ballot-harvesting" ploy with everything they have, guess what's coming to a precinct near you:

### WHAT HAPPENED

#### Pre-Election

- "When planning for the November 2018 election, California's Democrats ... were bent on eliminating every Republican congressman they possibly could, and they did pretty well [only 7 GOP con-

PHOTO ABOVE: On September 29, 2016, Gov. Jerry Brown signed AB 1921, written by Assemblywoman Lorena Gonzalez (D, San Diego), allowing "any person to return a vote-by-mail ballot."

gressmen remain out of 14} ... The way they did this was to pass laws designed to rig the system. Three laws in particular combined to stack the deck against Republicans. First came the Motor Voter law ... Second, the state legislature authorized counties ... to send absentee ballots to voters even if they had not requested those ballots. Third, the rules governing ballot custody were changed so that anyone could turn in absentee ballots ... According to a Republican campaign worker who operated in ... Orange County ... for a week prior to November 6, the Democrats had over 1,000 people on the ground, going door to door, collecting ballots ... [from] registered Democrats ... For each congressional district in play, the cost-per-thousand full-time paid vote harvesters was approximately \$125,000 per day. The Democrats spent tens of millions." — American Greatness, 12/4/18

- "I came here to pick up your ballot... we're offering this new service for only people who are supporting the Democratic Party ... where we pick up your ballot and show you how to do it if you don't know." — "Lulu," Democrat ballot harvester in Santa Clarita, caught on video, YouTube, 10/16/18
- "[DREAMer] Gabriela Cruz, who was brought to the U.S. illegally when she was one, couldn't vote, but in the final hours before the Nov. 6 election, she was making one last run to get people to the polls ... [S]he found Ronald Silva, 41, smoking a cigarette ... behind a group home ... [S]he reminded him he had a right that she as an immigrant without citizenship didn't have ... Half an hour later, she was helping Silva [with ballot] ... he said. 'I was going to leave [my ballot] in my drawer.'" — *The Los Angeles Times*, 1/1/19
- "[O]nly a fool would think [Ms. Cruz] didn't tell the indifferent [Silva] who to vote for, effectively voting by proxy. Which ... amounts to foreign nationals voting, without any fear of prosecution ... Today, noncitizens vote by getting hold of indifferent Americans and filling in the ballots by proxy, no fingerprints visible." — American Thinker, 1/2/19
- "California's 2015 'Motor Voter' law empowered the Department of Motor Vehicles automatically to register as voters those who get driver's licenses. Secretary of State Alex Padilla claimed that protocols and 'firewalls' would keep ineligible voters from voting, but there was room for reasonable doubt. After the 2016 election, Padilla refused to release any information to a federal probe of voter fraud ... by March 2018, the DMV had issued licenses to more than one million illegals and from April to August registered 182,000 'new voters.' Padilla isn't saying how many illegals actually voted or how many illegal ballots were among those 'harvested' to flip close races for Democrats." — "Crock the Vote: Grand Theft Election in California," FrontPage, 12/4/18
- In addition to ballot harvesting and Motor Voter, dubious tactics California enacted in the last two years to guarantee Democrat wins: noncitizen voting in San Francisco and elsewhere; "taxpayer-funded voter registration drives in county jails to register a record number of inmates"; a downgrade of numerous felonies to misdemeanors to skirt rules that disallow convicted criminals on parole to vote; an adoption of same-day voter registration, or "conditional voting." — Shawn Steel, in *The Washington Times*, 11/27/18

#### Post-Election

- "In California, voting doesn't stop on Election Day. Absentee ballots need only be postmarked by Election Day, with ballots counted that arrive up to three days late. If ballots are sent to the wrong county, the ballot is valid for an additional four days." — *The Washington Times*, 11/27/18

- “Young Kim was poised to become the first Korean-American woman elected to Congress. Her 14-point lead [on election night] evaporate[d].” — Shawn Steel, *The Washington Times*, 11/27/18
- “In Orange County, Republican Rep. Mimi Walters of Irvine saw her 6,074-vote lead over Democrat Katie Porter turn into an 11,866-vote deficit.” — *The San Francisco Chronicle*, 11/30/18
- “In Orange County alone, where every House seat went Democratic, ‘the number of Election Day vote-by-mail dropoffs was unprecedented — over 250,000,’ Fred Whitaker, chairman of the county Republican Party, said in a note to supporters. ‘This is a direct result of ballot harvesting allowed under California law for the first time. That directly caused the switch from being ahead on election night to losing two weeks later.’” — *The San Francisco Chronicle*, 11/30/18
- “In California, 40 percent of the votes were tabulated after election night. Who were these 40 percent? Why is it they were overwhelmingly supporting Democrats?” — American Greatness, 12/4/18
- “This process of vote-harvesting swept across California, funded by well-heeled public sector unions (which collect dues in excess of \$800 million per year in California), and by leftist billionaires such as California’s own Tom Steyer.” — American Greatness, 12/4/18
- “For weeks, Republicans seized on [Rep. David Valadao’s] survival as a rare glimmer of good news from Election Day. But as election officials counted mail-in votes over the following weeks, Mr. Cox [erased] Mr. Valadao’s lead.” — “David Valadao Concedes House Race in Another Setback for California Republicans,” *The New York Times*, 12/6/18

#### Flips

- “An analysis of data from eight states ... found the Latino vote grew by an estimated 96 percent from 2014 to 2018 ... [and] helped move 20 House districts held by Republicans to Democratic control in California, Arizona, Nevada, Texas, New Mexico, Florida, New Jersey, and New York ... [The] increase in Latino voter turnout contributed to flipping six GOP-held congressional seats in California — four in the once conservative bastion of Orange County and two in the Central Valley that have long eluded Democrats.” — *The Los Angeles Times*, 1/1/19
- “[C]alifornia’s famed ballot-harvesters, who flipped places such as Orange County blue in the last midterm ... did it by ‘helping’ voters fill out, and turn in, and continue to turn in, ballots from otherwise uncommitted voters until they got the result they wanted.” — American Thinker, 1/2/19
- “In eight states, the Hispanic vote doubled in four years? ... Let’s be clear. The Democratic Party employed the manpower of hundreds, perhaps thousands, of foreigners living in the United States to affect the outcome of an election ... Further, there were no controls on the actions of those involved with ballot harvesting ... in how they handle ballots ... In most states, laws require political activity at polling places to be a certain distance from ... voting to limit undue political pressure. But in ballot harvesting, there is no such thing. Quite the opposite, with people hunting down registered voters who had not voted ... [to turn] out Democrat votes by people too indifferent to ... vote until someone knocks on their door and essentially does it for them.” — Rod Thomson, host of Tampa Bay Business, 1/7/19

#### HOW IT HAPPENED

*The Catalyst: AB 1921*

- “In [September] 2016, Gov. Jerry Brown signed into law [Assembly

Bill 4 921,] a change to Section 3017 of the Election Code that allows *any person* [as opposed to those living in the voter’s household] to collect a mail-in ballot from [unlimited numbers of] voters ... ‘After marking the ballot, the vote-by-mail voter shall do any of the following: (1) return the ballot by mail or in person to the elections official from whom it came, (2) return the ballot in person to a member of a precinct board at a polling place within the jurisdiction, or (3) return the ballot to the elections official from whom it came at a vote-by-mail ballot drop-off location ... However, a vote-by-mail voter who is unable to return the ballot *may designate any person* to return the ballot...’ new wording of California election code allowing ballot harvesting, *The San Diego Union-Tribune*, 12/10/18

#### They Were Warned

- “AB 1921 would allow anybody to walk into an elections office and hand over truckloads of vote-by-mail envelopes with ballots inside, no questions asked, no verified records kept. It amounts to an open invitation to large-scale vote buying, voter coercion, ‘granny farming,’ and automated forgery.” — Counted As Cast, watchdog group, after the passage of AB 1921
- “Many organizations have digital copies of millions of signatures ... It’s not hard to create copies of vbM [vote-by-mail] envelopes and ballots ... All you need is to vote in place of people who don’t vote. That’s not hard to find out, because whether or not you voted is a public record. Just comb through the records to find the people who are registered, but don’t vote. Get out the vote [GOTV] campaigns ... find out, legally, who has not voted by, say 5 p.m. on Election Day, so that the campaign can call ... the person ... [and if] they are not going to vote, you’ve got their signature, and everything else you need. Just vote in place of the nonvoters. Truckloads of them.” — Counted As Cast
- “The voter has to sign the outside of the envelope ... That doesn’t prevent the harvester from telling the voter which candidate to vote for or even lying about what the issues on the ballot are. Harvesters can be compensated — by campaigns, even.” — Red State, 10/16/18

#### GOP Fail

- “... Republicans could have taken advantage of these same corrupt laws to harvest votes from registered Republicans. But not only did the Republicans rely primarily on a vastly outnumbered [handfi.il](http://handfi.il) of unpaid volunteers, they didn’t even bother to provide their volunteer canvassers with up-to-date data...” — American Greatness, 12/4/18
- “Why did the GOP permit this? Why did the GOP not have poll watchers at EVERY polling station in California on Election Day? Why are there no lawsuits? Why has there been no demand for a Department of Justice civil rights investigation into California’s many elections issues? Where is the CAGOP?” — Katy Grimes, investigative reporter, Canada Free Press, 12/8/18
- “[W]hile Democrats are reveling in the California Blue Tsunami, Republicans throughout California ... are asking ‘What Happened?’ Yet nary a word since Election Day from California’s Republican Party Chairman Jim Brulte ... on the staggering Republican losses.” — Canada Free Press, 12/8/18
- “In November, Blood-Orange County seemed to turn blue, but the denizens still are blood-orange. Alas, Republicans were caught flat-footed ... They blew it on immigration, DACA, and the wall. They fell on a sword for reducing Form 1040 deductions for property taxes and home-mortgage interest. And the same hapless state GOP ... went AWOL when the Democrats of California changed balloting rules so that votes could be delivered by Harvest Moonbeam volun-



teers, opening the door to other forms of election fraud.” — *The American Spectator*, 12/14/18

#### Left-Narrative: Trump's Fault

- “Laboring against a strong tide of disdain, and even disgust, for President Donald Trump, Republicans lost their grip on the wealthy enclaves along the coast in northern Orange County that comprise the district held by 15-term Rep. Dana Rohrabacher. They lost by a much larger margin along the coast farther south in the district of retiring Rep. Darrell Issa, which includes the San Clemente home where Richard Nixon holed up to write his memoirs after resigning from the White House.” — CNN, 11/16/18
- “Instead of investigating, the state’s slavishly pro-Democrat establishment media pins the results on anti-Trump backlash.” — FrontPage, 12/4/18
- “Democrat Secretary of State Alex Padilla mocked Republican concerns, telling Politico: ‘What they call strange and bizarre, we call democracy.’ But it is democracy as practiced almost nowhere else in the world — except for one-party banana republics in failed third-world states, where the sight of ruling party apparatchiks dropping off bundles of ballots is not unusual.” — *Albuquerque Journal*, 12/30/18



soldiers', augmented with limitless funds from globalist left-wing billionaires, Republicans will be wiped out forever. The massacre will not spare countless battleground congressional districts currently held by Republicans.” — American Greatness, 12/4/18

- “At least three distinct lands of fraud can occur when political operatives ‘assist’ in returning absentee ballots [i.e., ballot harvesting]. First, those collecting the ballots can intentionally discard (or conveniently lose or misplace) any ballots they suspect or know (perhaps even by opening the ballot envelopes) have been cast in favor of the ‘wrong’ candidate(s). Second, those collecting the ballots can open the ballot envelopes and change or alter whatever votes the voter originally recorded. Third, those collecting the ballots can collect unvoted ballots (or partially voted ballots) and complete the ballots themselves.” — Steven F. Huefner, law professor, Ohio State website, 12/9/18
- “Imagine ... the ‘possibilities’ if you’re a Dem. What happens if, for example, [a ballot harvester’s] ... house visit has a ‘Make America Great Again’ flag planted in the front yard? Could [the operative] go there, pretend to be a Republican, then toss the completed ballot in the trash on the way to Ben & Jerry’s? Of course she could, and the likelihood of getting caught would be next to zero. Could she then go to someone’s home who had no intention of voting, then ‘convince’ them to vote Democrat and give their ballot to her or else their next Social Security check won’t be coming? Again, yes she could.” — Townhall, 12/3/18

• “[T]he Democrats set themselves up for ... allegations [of fraud] when they passed what really is an overly permissive ballot collection law. It was written without sufficient safeguards, and suspicions of abuse were inevitable. But... [ballot harvesting] *does* open the door to coercion and fraud and should be fixed or repealed before the next election ... The potential for misuse first became apparent in a special election in Los Angeles last year between two Democrats for an open seat in the state Assembly. In the final weeks of the race, complaints surfaced about aggressive campaign workers pressuring voters to hand over ballots on behalf of [the candidate] who ultimately won the race ... Doesn’t it also encourage ballot collectors to gather the ballots and

then ‘lose’ them — oops! — on the way to the dropoff? Isn’t there the possibility that they might pay voters to hand over their unfilled mail ballots?” — *The Los Angeles Times* editorial, in a rare media rebuke of California’s ballot harvesting scheme, 12/7/18

As we all know, Democrats cheat to win. It’s what they do. Still, what is the remedy when a state authorizes cheating by law? The Republicans’ only option is to declare legal war.

And there is some good news on that front: In 2016, Arizona made vote-harvesting a felony, with penalties, according to *The Arizona Capitol Times*, of up to a year in prison and a \$150,000 fine. Although the full circuit court has just announced a review, a three-judge panel at the Ninth Circuit (of all places) has upheld Arizona’s anti-harvesting law — twice.

The California ballot-harvesting debacle *must* have energetic challenges from California Republicans and others, with the ultimate goal of a Supreme Court slapdown. The fate of our Republic depends on it. ■

#### WHAT WILL HAPPEN: THE THREAT

- “This election, a 14-point lead wasn’t enough for a Republican victory [for candidates like Young Kim]. By 2020, a 20-point lead on Election Night won’t be safe.” — *The Washington Times*, 11/27/18
- “Come to California to see what’s going to roll out across America in time to guarantee a progressive landslide in 2020. It may be perfectly legal. But it’s so rigged it would make Boss Tweed blush.” — American Greatness, 12/4/18
- “The Democrats passed laws in California that allowed them to harvest hundreds of thousands, if not millions of votes from people who are the least engaged politically. They have built a system that harvests millions of votes from the most apathetic, most easily manipulated, low-information voters in the electorate. And that strategy, because it worked so well, is on its way to every state in America. Count on it happening fast — wherever Democrats control a state legislature, California’s new election rules will become law. In those states, using government union money and foot-