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# VOTER FRAUD NOT AS RARE AS LIGHTNING STRIKE

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## Voter Fraud Not as Rare as Lightning Strike

As it turns out, despite liberals' claims, it is [not more likely that a citizen will be struck by lightning than affected by voter fraud](#) (emphasis added):

*[President Obama] just doesn't think there is such a thing as election fraud. As he informed the assembled Floridians, "You are much likelier to get struck by lightning than to have somebody next to you commit voter fraud." . . .*

*It's a claim that was debunked more than four years ago, yet progressives keep trotting it out anyway. So, it's time to debunk it again, by turning to the National Weather Service and The Heritage Foundation's voter-fraud database, which contains hundreds of cases of election fraud, all of which have been proven in courts of law and resulted in criminal convictions or overturned elections.*

*In 2012, Florida suffered five fatalities from lightning strikes. But in the election that year, Jeffrey Garcia, chief of staff to then-Democratic representative Joe Garcia, ordered the congressman's political campaign to illegally request absentee ballots for 1,800 voters without their consent. Jeffrey Garcia pleaded guilty to orchestrating this massive fraud and was sentenced to 90 days' incarceration.*

*In that same year, Massachusetts . . . did not suffer a single lightning-related fatality, yet it did endure the criminal antics of Enrico "Jack" Villamaino, a Republican candidate for the state House of Representatives. Villamaino conspired with his future wife to alter the party registrations of 280 registered Democrats in the town of East Longmeadow, and then request absentee ballots in their names. His goal was to secure additional votes for himself in the Republican primary, at the cost of nearly 300 voters' right to participate in the Democratic primary.*

*In 2013, Texas suffered only two lightning fatalities. But it did see Weslaco city commissioner Guadalupe Rivera attempt to secure reelection through illegal means. Rivera initially beat his rival, Letty Lopez, by a scant 16 votes, but Lopez sued alleging fraud. A judge determined that at least 30 illegal ballots had been cast, enough to swing the election. A new election was ordered, and Lopez won. Rivera subsequently pleaded guilty, along with an accomplice, to the charge of "assisting" voters by filling out ballots on their behalf without consulting them, or in a manner contrary to their wishes — in other words, robbing citizens of their right to vote. . . .*

***Clearly, election fraud occurs — and with far greater frequency than Americans get hit by lightning. The stories above are just the tip of the iceberg. Most instances of fraud — whether they involve vote-buying rings or noncitizens casting ballots — go undetected because states lack the tools to track them, and many overworked prosecutors do not consider these cases a priority once an election is over.***

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