

Protect Vulnerable Voters

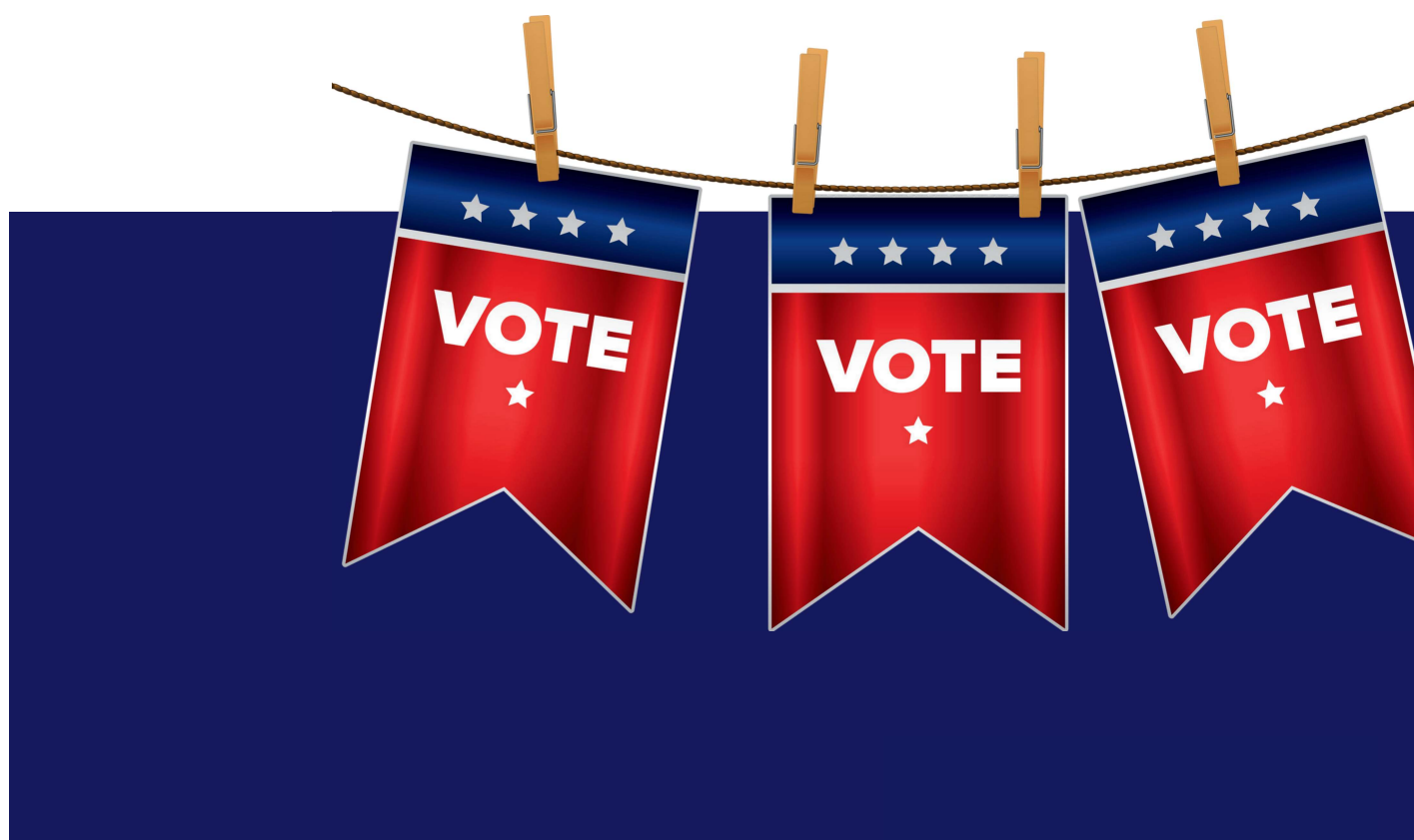
Residential Facility

& Group Home

Family Member &

Friend Training

Guide



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A project of the American Constitutional Rights Union



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The American Constitutional Rights Union is a 501c3 nonprofit organization. Nothing in this publication should be used for partisan activities or to assist the efforts of any political candidate. ACRU protects the rights of all Americans regardless of their political affiliation.

Introduction to Protecting Vulnerable Voters

The American Constitutional Rights Union (ACRU) began its nationwide efforts to protect vulnerable voters in 2020. ACRU's efforts, including its vote fraud hotline, revealed incidents showing that vote fraud against vulnerable people, especially the elderly, is a nationwide problem.

Vote fraud of any kind is a troubling attack on our representative form of government. But fraud committed against vulnerable populations is particularly despicable. The evidence of such abuse is mounting. In Michigan, a nursing home worker was jailed for vote fraud. A social worker was convicted on multiple counts of fraud in Texas. And in Wisconsin, nursing home voting fraud is so egregious that a county sheriff found evidence that led to the legislature appointing an Office of Special Counsel to investigate further. That investigation has indicated that vote fraud in Wisconsin nursing homes is widespread.

The information in this document is intended to help citizens make a difference within their own families and communities. It will take the sincere efforts of many Americans to protect vulnerable populations. Here you will find the tools to help you help them.



Lori Roman

President and CEO

American Constitutional Rights Union

Residential Constituencies



The American Constitutional Rights Union (ACRU) is dedicated to helping the millions of eligible voters who live in centralized housing situations and are ripe for vote suppression and/ or ballot harvesting. ACRU's Center for Vulnerable Voters identifies vulnerable voting constituencies and fights the efforts of those who seek to suppress or steal their votes. CVV is focused particularly on the rights of special needs, homeless and physically disabled Americans living in group homes, and elderly voters in both continuing care retirement communities and nursing home facilities.

The Problem



Nursing home residents are particularly susceptible to having their ballots tampered with and/or their actual voting preference suppressed.

The past two election cycles have produced mounting evidence that group home residents - particularly the cognitively impaired - are ripe for vote theft.



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A Legacy of Fighting for Justice

Attorney General Edwin Meese III served as a founding board member for the American Constitutional Rights Union and continues to serve on its Board of Directors.

“As Attorney General in the Reagan Administration, I committed myself to conserving and expanding freedom. It was my position that our Constitution, its text, and the original intention behind it, demanded nothing less. That’s why I’ve, again, taken up my sword in defense of our Constitution and am fighting a very real and present danger to our nation.

I serve on the board of an efficient and important organization, the American Constitutional Rights Union. I believe strongly that partnered with ACRU we have a real chance to preserve the freedoms and liberties we hold dear.”



Four Key Terms

Vote Suppression

A strategy used to influence the outcome of an election by discouraging and/or preventing specific groups of people from voting

Vote Coercion /Theft

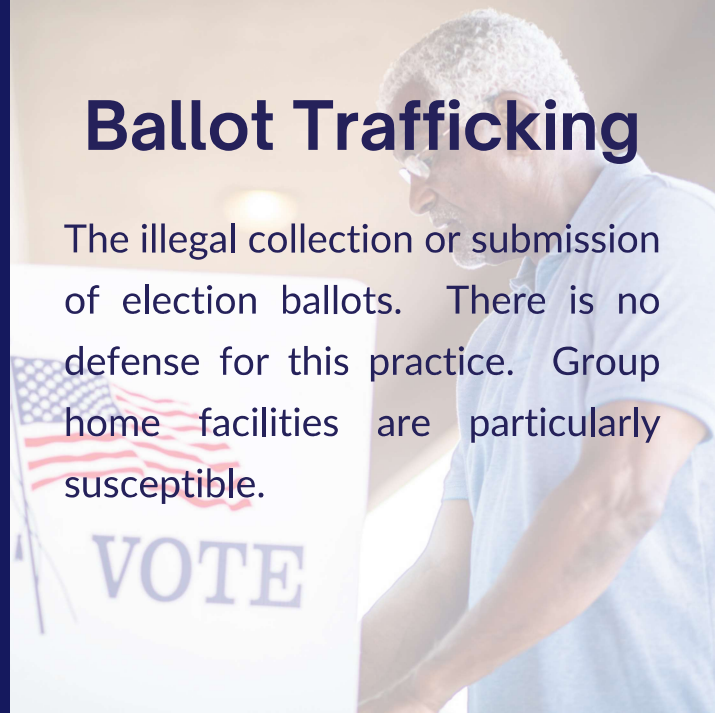
The use of intimidation or fear of reprisal to secure a vote for a specific candidate. In some cases the perpetrator simply completes the ballot without authorization.

Ballot Harvesting

A non secure method of collecting absentee voters' ballots during elections with the stated intent of dropping them off to election offices or polling places. Illegal in some states.

Ballot Trafficking

The illegal collection or submission of election ballots. There is no defense for this practice. Group home facilities are particularly susceptible.



Facility vulnerabilities



Lack of staff training.

Lack of management oversight & lack of involvement from visiting family and friends.

Un-monitored “assistance” with ballot requests and/or ballot submission creates opportunities for coercion

Direct vote theft by remitting ballots of those mentally incapable of conscientious voting.

A photograph of two women sitting at a table, smiling and talking. The woman on the left has curly hair and is wearing a blue shirt. The woman on the right has short blonde hair, wears glasses, and a light blue shirt. The background is slightly blurred, showing what appears to be a dining area with chairs.

Visiting is **important** Situational awareness is **critical**

When visiting family/friends at nursing homes or assisted living facilities, ask questions:

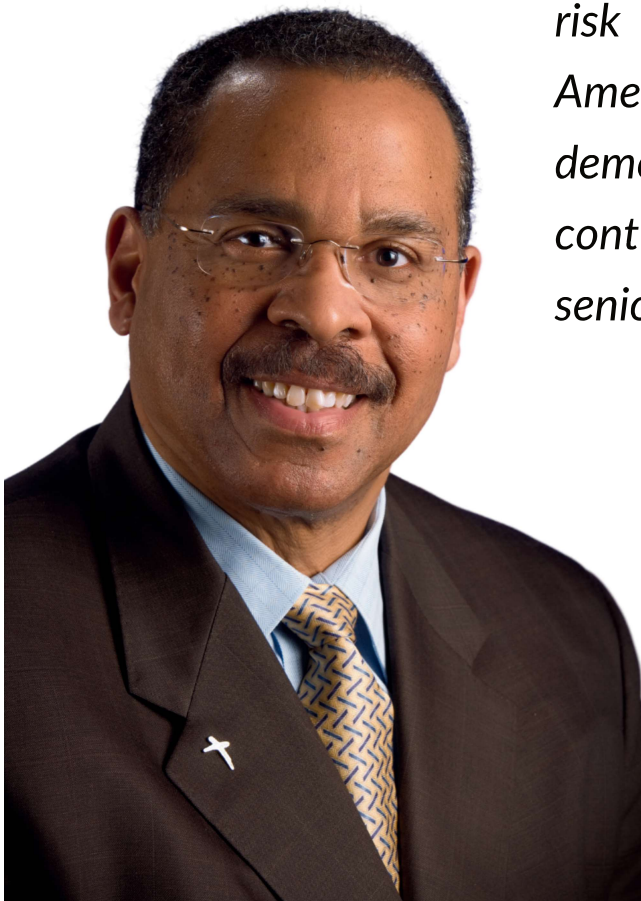
- Are they aware of political candidates?
- Has anyone spoken with them about voting?
- Have they requested a ballot?
- Has anyone tried to change voter registration or request an absentee ballot for your family member with advanced dementia or tried to make them “fill out a ballot.”
- Has anyone tried to coerce or bribe a family member to vote a certain way?
- Tell them about "Stranger Danger." They should not let strangers tamper with their ballots or impede their free choices. If someone tries to do this, they should tell a trusted family member.



Protecting the Vulnerable Voter

The Hon. J. Kenneth Blackwell, Former Secretary of State (OH), ACRU Action Board of Directors

"We celebrate our patriotic seniors and the invaluable contributions they have made to the financial strength and fundamental freedoms we enjoy as Americans. In turn, we must take every action to ensure the integrity and intent of our seniors' political choices at a time when they are at risk to be targets of vote fraud. Americans under 65 must demonstrate their gratitude for the continued guidance of our treasured seniors by protecting their votes."





What can friends and family members do?

Schedule time to speak with the director of your loved one's living facility. Politely ask the following questions:

- Are you training staff on the criminal penalties for vote fraud and the laws that they must follow to protect residents from suppression and fraud?**
- What are you doing to protect the residents from possible vote suppression and fraud?**
- What measures are taken to protect the chain of custody of absentee ballots?**
- What measures are being taken to protect absentee ballots from ballot harvesters / traffickers?**
- Is this nursing home designated as a polling location?**



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**Vote Fraud
Hotline**

888-820-VOTE

CenterForVulnerableVoters.org

What you can do in your community...



- **Write Letters to the Editor, social media posts and Op-Eds, raising awareness of vulnerable voters.**
- **Help educate friends with loved ones in residential facilities about ACRU's Voting Bill of Rights and the danger of suppression and fraud.**
- **If legal in your state, check the voting record of loved ones for whom you are a guardian to ensure vote fraud did not occur.**
- **Use [VoteRef.com](https://www.vote-ref.com) as a resource to determine if your loved one's vote has been stolen.**
- **Help ACRU secure speaking opportunities to educate citizens about vulnerable voting.**
- **Spread the word about ACRU's Vote Fraud Hotline.**

VOTING BILL OF RIGHTS

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We must do everything in our power to make sure the votes of our vulnerable citizens are protected and counted fairly. This Bill of Rights outlines what our seniors and group home residents can and should expect from our election systems – an environment that makes it easy to vote and hard to cheat.

I. THE RIGHT TO VOTE

The federal Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act of 1984 (VAEHA) is designed to assure the fundamental right to vote by directing polling locations to provide access for elderly and handicapped voters.

II. THE RIGHT TO REGISTER TO VOTE

You also have the right to register to vote if you have changed your place of residence. Registration requirements vary by state and are found by calling your state, county or city election office. You may find your state's requirements or directly register to vote at <https://www.eac.gov/voters/register-and-vote-in-your-state>. To avoid fraudulent system abuse, we recommend contacting your previous voting jurisdiction to ensure you are removed from their voter rolls.

III. THE RIGHT TO CHALLENGE VOTE FRAUD

After every recent election, there have been reports of people taking advantage of seniors to commit vote fraud by changing votes, inputting false choices and other crimes. Vote fraud is often committed face-to-face by people who approach you to “assist” with filling out your ballot or “delivering” your ballot to a polling location. You should only rely on trusted and known individuals to assist you with voting, and you have the right to refuse assistance from anyone you do not know or trust.

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IV. THE RIGHT TO REFUSE ASSISTANCE FROM UNKNOWN PERSONS

Many political operatives are active in neighborhoods or facilities with a large senior population and have been known to manipulate or change votes. Suppose a stranger approaches you with offers of voting assistance. In that case, you have a right to refuse such help and request that the operative or unknown person leave your property or residential unit.

V. THE RIGHT TO PRIVACY

If any person is assisting you at your private home or residential facility with filling in your mail-in, absentee or in-person ballot, your choice is yours alone. It should not reflect the political preferences of the person assisting. You have the right to confirm your vote or ask assistance from another trusted friend or relative to make sure your choice is clearly marked. Any person assisting you with transportation or accommodation at your home, residential facility or polling station has no right to ask you about your personal and private voting preferences or make a voting suggestion. Voting is confidential!

VI. THE RIGHT TO AN ABSENTEE OR MAIL BALLOT

Although procedures for voting by mail or absentee ballots vary by state, every state must provide senior citizens with an absentee or mail-in ballot when requested. You can find this information by calling your state or local election office or online at <https://www.usa.gov/election-office>.

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VII. THE RIGHT TO CONFIRMATION OF YOUR VOTE CHOICE

If you live in a senior residence, the option of staff or volunteers assisting you with filling out your absentee or mail-in ballot is determined by the laws in your state. If your state allows such help, you have the right to ensure that your ballot is handled confidentially, securely, and accurately--reflecting your vote choice.

VIII. THE RIGHT TO DEMAND THAT FACILITY STAFF ADHERE TO STATE AND FEDERAL LAWS

If you live in a group home you have a right to request that your facility provide staff training on adherence to state and federal election laws. In some states, facility staff and volunteers are not allowed to assist with filling out ballots. Staff cannot influence or comment on your choices, and they must maintain the confidentiality of your vote. If you suspect laws are being broken, you have the right to report the facility to local election officials and the Secretary of State or Attorney General offices in your state. You may also call the American You may also call the **American Constitutional Rights Union Voter Hotline at 888-820-VOTE .**

IX. THE RIGHT TO VOTING INFORMATION

The federal website www.USA.gov provides complete information about your polling station and requirements in its "Find My State or Local Election Office" tab. This information can be accessed directly here: <https://www.usa.gov/election-office>. The National Long-Term Care Ombudsman Resource Center can provide information and resources to you by calling 202.332.2275 or online at <https://ltcombudsman.org/issues/voting>.

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X. THE RIGHT TO APPLY FOR STATE PHOTO ID

Seniors who have given up a driving license have a right to receive a photo ID from their state. Presenting ID at polling stations helps to ensure no vote fraud will be committed in your name and affirms your right to vote in states requiring ID. Most states provide free photo ID to seniors; you or a trusted friend or relative can check with your state's motor vehicle department to determine procedures, required documentation and fees.

XI. THE RIGHT TO REQUEST ACCOMMODATION AT POLLING STATIONS

Federal law provides you with the right to ask your polling location for accommodation and alternate means of voting on election day if you have sensory or mobility issues. These accommodations include visual aids, telecommunication devices for the hearing impaired or wheelchair ramps, without a medical certificate being required.

XII. THE RIGHT TO MOVE TO HEAD OF THE LINE

If you are over 70 years old or physically disabled, federal law gives you the right to move to the front of the line at your polling location by making a request at check-in.

XIII. THE RIGHT TO VOTE EVEN IF YOUR POLLING LOCATION IS NOT ACCESSIBLE

Suppose your home polling location cannot provide adequate accommodation for your physical disability. In that case, that location must direct you to the nearest polling station that can accommodate your sensory or mobility restrictions or provide another means of voting for you on Election Day.

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XIV. THE RIGHT TO CURBSIDE VOTING

Many states and local election locations provide drive-up voting to accommodate people who wish to vote in person but have mobility challenges. In this case, a designated curbside official will show you their credential then provide you with a paper or electronic ballot. Please call ahead or check the website of your state or local election officials to find out if this service is available to you.

XV. THE RIGHT TO EARLY VOTING

With shorter lines and fewer crowds, early voting is often a good option for seniors. As of December 2019, thirty-eight states and the District of Columbia permit early voting. Check with your state or local election office to see if your voting jurisdiction allows early voting.

XVI. THE RIGHT TO REDRESS IF NOT ACCOMMODATED ON ELECTION DAY

If you believe your rights to the accommodation have been violated, you can report this to your local election official. Be sure to notify your election official with specific detail, including time and place, within 45 days of the election violation.

XVII. THE RIGHT TO REQUEST CANDIDATE VISITS AT YOUR SENIOR RESIDENCE

Many candidates visit senior residences before elections. You have the right to request your residence manager invite candidates of all parties to visit your residence, hear your concerns, and explain their policy positions.

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XVIII. THE RIGHT TO REQUEST ASSISTANCE

Many procedures and requirements for absentee or mail ballots and in-person voting accommodations can be found online on state and local voting information websites, as well as local political party pages. As not all seniors have easy access to the Internet, you have the right to ask for help from family members and friends or trusted residential staff. Learning about voting rights is a great civics lesson for young citizens.

XIX. THE RIGHT TO DEMAND YOUR VOTING RIGHTS

You've earned it! If you feel your rights are being violated on election day, speak up for those rights or ask for assistance from a relative or trusted friend to ensure you can trust the integrity of your voting choice and be provided full federally-protected sensory or physical accommodation.

XX. THE RIGHT TO MARK ELECTION DAY ON YOUR CALENDAR

If you prefer to vote absentee, we recommend requesting your ballot no later than two months before election day. Don't miss your chance to have your voice heard in the political process.

XXI. THE RIGHT TO TAKE PRIDE IN YOUR VOTE

America celebrates and treasures its senior voters who have left an indelible mark on our strength and patriotic culture. We thank you for your leadership and life-long demonstration of exemplary citizenship.



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