

The following questions are answered by Jay DeLancy, Executive Director of Voter Integrity Project of NC

1. Why Florida? Why not Virginia or New York?

A- A lot of NC residents also live in Virginia or NY, but Florida's voting records are almost as publicly accessible as ours (NC) and this makes verification possible. Some states make it difficult.

2. How many states make their voting records not available to the public?

A-Without checking each one of them individually, we presume that all states make the voter records available at one cost or another. Otherwise, political parties would have sued for access to these public records. The problem is that some states impose high costs for their records and this hyper secrecy only serves to prevent public scrutiny. It is sorely out of touch with the times and we hope all states will be shamed into providing the voter records free of charge from their FTP websites, as is currently the case in North Carolina.

3. Isn't privacy a valid concern in states' that make voting records harder to obtain?

A-Voting records are public records. Political parties and other activist groups will always find a way to access them. While the files are free for our entire state (NC), some California counties have been charging up to \$600 for their rolls, making it too costly for average citizens to learn who is actually voting in their elections and this trend is alarming. If only political activists can afford the information, the system is deliberately thwarting transparency and it prevents accountability within the electoral system.

4. How did you find the dual Florida-NC voters?

A-We filtered the Florida rolls for voters listing an alternate address in NC and then checked their voting records in both states to find 33 with exact matches who we believed might have voted in the November 2012 elections.

5-Why is NC only prosecuting five of them?

A-Both states (Florida Secretary of State and NC Board of Elections) cooperated in investigating and found some of our suspects to be identity mismatches (same name, but a Jr or Sr) and others to have been credited with voting when they turned out to be a clerical error at the precinct level, so we are glad they were able to refer five over for prosecution.

6-This is only five voters, so why is that such a big deal?

A-We honestly view this as the tip of the iceberg. These are only the people who actually informed the other state that they had a dual residence. There are probably tens of thousands who registered in another state without revealing their previous (or concurrent) address. Many of them are either retirees or college students in the case of Florida and NC, but other states have similar challenges but different circumstances.

7-What solution are you advocating to address this problem?

A-In a word, transparency. We're told that Kansas Secretary of State, Kris Kobach has initiated a multi-state data base where any state that provides their own state's election records can match their registrations against the other states to detect dual voting. We hope that our research will help every state's Election Director to feel some public pressure to join that data consortium so we can eliminate this type of electoral corruption.

8-How would Voter ID have prevented this type of election fraud?

A-Vote fraud deniers will be quick to that claim that voter ID would not have prevented this crime, but we hope the public will take a deep breath before agreeing with that empty claim. We believe that when voters cannot lie about their identity, they think twice before committing any sort of electoral crime. Voter ID would also have prevented some of the clerical errors that were discovered by state officials during the course of their investigation.

The following question was answered by John Pizzo, Director of Research for VIP-NC and a retired Quality Engineer who specialized in Six Sigma analysis during his career.

9-Does it bother you that you did all of this research and only found five people who will be prosecuted?

A- Absolutely not! Through this research, we were able to find more than 300 other voters who were registered in both NC and Florida and this alone should send alarm bells. The cloud of secrecy that has covered election laws in North Carolina and beyond convinces us that lack of access to the data is the only reason we could not locate more dual voters.

11-Are you saying that election boards are hiding information from the public?

A-In the balance between the public's right to know and the citizen's expectation of privacy lays the crux of the problem. Beyond that, the challenge is for states to be less passive and more pro-active in their analysis of data. If they really wanted to, they could easily spot all sorts of corrupt election practices just by careful data analysis.

12-Why do you think you have found the tip of the iceberg?

A-It is important to recognize that in checking the Florida records, we were only able to check a sub-set of the entire voter roll; namely, those people who "volunteered" a secondary, out-of-state address when registering to vote in Florida. Such individuals represent only a small percentage of ALL Florida voters, so it is a logical conclusion that our research findings seriously UNDER-estimate the number of Florida voters who voted both in both North Carolina and Florida during the November, 2012 general election. Since we only looked at Florida, it also logical to conclude that some additional people living in the remaining 48 states also committed the same type of election crime.

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