



Election Officials Face Threats of Undue Criminal Penalties/Fines

No updates required since December 22, 2023

Background

Despite the challenges of the COVID pandemic, the 2020 election was conducted safely and securely, and also saw record turnout—thanks in large part to the work of nonpartisan election officials. Despite this success, in 2021 some state legislatures enacted new harsh criminal penalties that threaten election officials with felony charges and heavy fines for minor technical infractions—increasing the potential for targeted intimidation and partisan abuse of election officials.

Scoring

- State has enacted law(s) imposing criminal penalties to intimidate election officials, -1 point
- State has no applicable law, 0 points

Summary Table

Category	Number	List
State has no applicable law	46 states & D.C.	Alabama Alaska Arkansas California Colorado Connecticut Delaware D.C. Florida Georgia Hawaii Idaho Illinois Indiana Kentucky Louisiana Maine Maryland Massachusetts Michigan Minnesota Mississippi Montana Nebraska Nevada New Jersey New Mexico North Carolina North Dakota



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		Ohio Oklahoma Oregon Pennsylvania Rhode Island South Carolina South Dakota Tennessee Utah Vermont Virginia Washington West Virginia Wisconsin Wyoming
State has enacted law(s) to impose criminal penalties to intimidate election officials	4 states	Arizona Iowa Kansas Texas



State-by-State Sources and More Detail

Alabama (0)

- State has no applicable law.

Alaska (0)

- State has no applicable law.

Arizona (-1)

- State enacted [HB 2794](#) in 2021, which makes it a felony offense for election officials to change any election related deadlines.

Arkansas (0)

- State has no applicable law.

California (0)

- State has no applicable law.

Colorado (0)

- State has no applicable law.

Connecticut (0)

- State has no applicable law.

Delaware (0)

- State has no applicable law.

D.C. (0)

- State has no applicable law.

Florida (0)

- State has no applicable law.

Georgia (0)

- State has no applicable law.

Hawaii (0)

- State has no applicable law.

Idaho (0)

- State has no applicable law.



Illinois (0)

- State has no applicable law.

Indiana (0)

- State has no applicable law.

Iowa (-1)

- State enacted [SB 413](#) in 2021, which makes it a felony offense for election officials to fail to perform their duties, along with imposing fines for technical infractions.

Kansas (-1)

- State enacted [HB 2183](#) in 2021, which makes it a felony offense to accept outside funding for election administration.

Kentucky (0)

- State has no applicable law.

Louisiana (0)

- State has no applicable law.

Maine (0)

- State has no applicable law.

Maryland (0)

- State has no applicable law.

Massachusetts (0)

- State has no applicable law.

Michigan (0)

- State has no applicable law.

Minnesota (0)

- State has no applicable law.

Mississippi (0)

- State has no applicable law.

Missouri (0)

- State has no applicable law.



Montana (0)

- State has no applicable law.

Nebraska (0)

- State has no applicable law.

Nevada (0)

- State has no applicable law.

New Hampshire (0)

- State has no applicable law.

New Jersey (0)

- State has no applicable law.

New Mexico (0)

- State has no applicable law.

New York (0)

- State has no applicable law.

North Carolina (0)

- State has no applicable law.

North Dakota (0)

- State has no applicable law.

Ohio (0)

- State has no applicable law.

Oklahoma (0)

- State has no applicable law.

Oregon (0)

- State has no applicable law.

Pennsylvania (0)

- State has no applicable law.



Rhode Island (0)

- State has no applicable law.

South Carolina (0)

- State has no applicable law.

South Dakota (0)

- State has no applicable law.

Tennessee (0)

- State has no applicable law.

Texas (-1)

- State enacted [SB 1](#) in 2021, which makes it a felony offense to send an unsolicited vote by mail application or ballot.

Utah (0)

- State has no applicable law.

Vermont (0)

- State has no applicable law.

Virginia (0)

- State has no applicable law.

Washington (0)

- State has no applicable law.

West Virginia (0)

- State has no applicable law.

Wisconsin (0)

- State has no applicable law.

Wyoming (0)

- State has no applicable law.