



BRADLEY IMPACT BRIEF

SUMMER 2020 ISSUE



BY THE NUMBERS

To date, states with a total of **196 electoral votes** have passed National Popular Vote (NPV) legislation.

This means NPV is

73%
of the way to nullifying the Electoral College without amending the Constitution.

Source: <https://saveourstates.com/about>

FROM THE DESK OF GABE CONGER

Dear Friends,

As I write to you, our communities and nation face a perfect storm of global pandemic, economic upheaval, and civil unrest. Uncertainty is adding fuel to an already highly-polarized and contentious election and creating new dangers for election integrity. Can we navigate these realities and move our nation forward in a better direction? Absolutely.

Today more than ever, our focus on Constitutional order and creating informed citizens will make a difference as our community supports nonprofits like Ballotpedia, Save Our States, Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty, and the Public Interest Legal Foundation doing vital, innovative work. In the pages that follow, we bring you the brightest thinking on many aspects of election integrity, from informing citizens to protecting the right to vote and preserving the Electoral College system. As a community of purpose, we are making informed decisions and multiplying the impact of our philanthropic investing.

I would like to personally invite you to the 10th Annual Bradley Impact Conference. Our theme this year is *2020 Vision: Philanthropy in Focus*. Please plan to join us on October 8th and 9th, either in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, or via a highly-engaging virtual experience. We will come together to discuss how we as a community can respond in these uncertain times and focus on opportunities for strategic philanthropy.

Our task is not a simple one. As Winston Churchill wrote, "It is always more easy to discover and proclaim general principles than to apply them." That is our mission. The application of our founding principles today. With strategic, coordinated philanthropy, we can do much more than weather this storm.

Sincerely,

Gabe Conger
President, Bradley Impact Fund

Though our Founding Fathers could not have imagined the realities of election integrity in the year 2020, the vision they had for voting in America remains as powerful and relevant as ever. As concerned donors, we actively participate in protecting and preserving these constitutional underpinnings of a strong republic by supporting projects like Ballotpedia and thought leaders such as Trent England who advance these priorities.



“Civil society to me means the ability of people who may disagree in a really wrenching, painful way to still be able to accept that there are facts that are true and that matter, and that there can be a common foundation and we can speak about it in a polite way with each other.”

— **LESLIE GRAVES**
FOUNDER AND PUBLISHER
Ballotpedia

Grant Recipient Spotlight:

BALLOTPEDIA

Ballotpedia’s mission is to “inform citizens about who’s on their ballot, when the elections are, why that election matters to them, to their children, to their school district, to their pocketbook and all the policies that come into play in a really dispassionate but clear way,” says Leslie Graves, founder and publisher of Ballotpedia. Ballotpedia connects people with politics by changing the way they access the information they need to be informed about federal, state, and local politics. Based in Middleton, Wisconsin, with staff writers across the nation, the project produces neutral, accurate, and verifiable information on government officials and the offices they hold, political issues and public policies, elections, candidates, and the influencers of politics.

One of Ballotpedia’s most innovative offerings is Sample Ballot Lookup, a free online tool for viewing the lists of candidates on local ballots. Ballotpedia includes comprehensive election information for the largest 100 cities by population, as well as all state legislative, statewide, and congressional races across the nation. Viewers can also subscribe to Ballotpedia’s daily, weekly, and monthly email newsletters on a variety of specialized topics at Ballotpedia.org. By making accurate election information easily available to all, Ballotpedia promotes free, fair elections at the federal, state and local levels and enables citizens to make informed voting choices.



The Future is Now



"The Electoral College forces candidates and parties to reach out to more Americans, and not to ignore the heartland of our country. It does this even though the Electoral College result almost always matches up with the popular vote result. In every election, it pushes candidates to build broader coalitions."

— **TRENT ENGLAND**
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Save Our States

Attorney and legal scholar Trent England is a Distinguished Fellow at the Oklahoma Council of Public Affairs and the founder and Executive Director of Save Our States, the one project dedicated to defending the Electoral College from the National Popular Vote (NPV) campaign, which would nullify the Electoral College without a constitutional amendment. Trent has testified at dozens of hearings and visited with legislators from Juneau to Augusta to Sacramento. Save Our States provides experts to meet with legislators, appear in the media, write articles, and speak to groups. His work has convinced many legislators to become defenders of the Electoral College.

Trent previously served as executive vice president of the Freedom Foundation, where he developed and directed the Foundation's constitutional studies programs and Citizen Action Network. He was also a legal policy analyst at The Heritage Foundation. He is the author of *Why We Must Defend the Electoral College*. Trent earned a J.D. from the George Mason University School of Law and a B.A. in government from Claremont McKenna College. Learn more about threats to the Electoral College and why it is central to a strong republic at saveourstates.com.





AN ALL-MAIL ELECTION WOULD BE DANGEROUS FOR DEMOCRACY

J. Christian Adams, President of the Public Interest Legal Foundation, and Hans A. von Spakovsky, Election Law Reform Initiative Manager and Senior Legal Fellow at The Heritage Foundation, spotlight the significant drawbacks in election integrity our nation will face if an all-mail balloting system replaces in-person voting as a response to COVID-19. This timely and insightful commentary appeared in Newsweek. Excerpted with permission.

Some Americans need absentee or mail ballots. The sick or physically disabled, for example. Or those who are overseas serving our country in the military or the diplomatic service. And others who, for quite legitimate reasons, won't be in town on Election Day.

But moving to all-mail elections would be dangerous. Ironically, it would likely disenfranchise many voters—the opposite outcome of what proponents of such a change desire.

Absentee ballots are the form of voting most vulnerable to being stolen, altered, or forced. In past elections, hundreds of thousands of ballots have been rejected for defects. Millions more have been undelivered, misdelivered, or reported missing.

Absentee ballots are cast outside the supervision of election officials and outside the presence of election observers. This destroys the important principle of transparency. It potentially intrudes on the secrecy of the ballot-casting process and subjects voters to intimidation and pressure in their homes.

Anyone who doubts the unscrupulous and fraudulent tactics used to gather absentee ballots should look at a case we were both involved in when we worked at the U.S. Department of Justice, *U.S. v. Ike Brown*. That case demonstrates how vote harvesters—campaign workers and political consultants—abuse the most vulnerable voters. The victims were, as is usually the

case, the poor and powerless. They were visited in their homes by politically connected vote harvesters. The vote harvesters voted the ballots—not the voters.

Vote-by-mail also has logistical problems. Our entire election system was designed for in-person voting. We do not have the administrative infrastructure to ensure a clean election based on current voter registration lists. There are serious problems with the accuracy of every single state's voter rolls, some far worse than others.

People are registered multiple times. In some states, the dead remain on the rolls as active registrants for years, sometimes decades. Voter rolls are missing basic information like apartment numbers, birthdates, and sometimes even full names. No reasonable person would think we should mail ballots automatically to everyone on these broken lists, which is what some are urging states to do.

This will lead to tens of thousands of ballots—a very valuable commodity—being sent out all over the country to erroneous registrations. Will these ballots get cast anyway by others? Will they be gathered up by vote harvesters so that they can be used to steal elections? That is not a risk we should take.

Read the entire article at

<https://www.heritage.org/election-integrity/commentary/all-mail-election-would-be-dangerous-democracy>



Grant Recipient Spotlight: ELECTION INTEGRITY

Public Interest Legal Foundation (PILF) is a public interest law firm dedicated entirely to election integrity. The Foundation exists to assist states and others to aid the cause of election integrity and fight against lawlessness in American elections. With support from the Bradley Impact Fund and other organizations, PILF recently unveiled a new national voter database aimed at spotlighting duplicate voter registration and other issues with states' voter rolls.

“In one instance, our database identified seven active registration voter forms from one person in Pennsylvania, and this is only one of thousands of examples of double or triple registration,” says Foundation President J. Christian Adams. “This matters greatly whenever governments start talking about using automatic vote-by-mail election systems this year in response to COVID. That would mean all these thousands of duplicate registrations would get multiple ballots. Our database found this, and we’ve brought action to fix this and similar problems.”

PILF monitors state election legislation and brings suit to hold states accountable to federal election law. This summer alone, PILF has filed more than a dozen amicus briefs to protect the integrity of the 2020 elections. With the database, the Foundation is able to provide real data regarding vulnerabilities in the election system in each state and fight to preserve the Constitutional framework of American elections.

PUBLIC INTEREST
— LEGAL FOUNDATION —



“Being part of the Bradley Impact Fund community and the learning experiences of the Bradley Impact Conference give me the knowledge and the courage to stand up for my belief in America’s founding principles and make a difference.”

— **PRUDY HARKER**
CFP, PRESIDENT OF
LIFECIRCLE®

DONOR STORY

PRUDY HARKER

IMPACT FUND MEMBER SINCE 2017

Prudy Harker was very glad to hear the Bradley Impact Conference will still take place this year, albeit with some modifications for safety due to the COVID-19 pandemic. An author and public speaker on financial planning and insurance practices, Prudy regularly attends the annual conference and always looks forward to the learning experience.

“It’s difficult to have the important conversations with others when I am uninformed,” says Prudy. “The whole learning experience of being part of the Bradley Impact Fund community, from the Impact Conference to smaller gatherings and the regular *Impact Briefs*, helps me build the understanding I need to stand up for the issues that I’m deeply committed to.”

Prudy is a certified financial planner and President of LifeCircle®, a financial, retirement and benefits planning firm that works with small business owners, professionals, and executives in the Midwest. She and her husband Charles work and live on the Wisconsin/Illinois border where they actively support the Beloit community. Prudy recently retired from the Blackhawk Bank Board of Directors where she was Audit Chair. She is a founder of the Stateline Community Foundation and continues to serve on the grants committee. A longtime member of the Beloit Health System Foundation, she serves on the finance and donor relations committees.

Prudy’s first career was in social work and administration, serving as a Rock County Juvenile Probation Officer and a School Social Worker in the Loves Park, Illinois School District. She holds a Master’s Degree in Social Work (MSSW) from the University of Wisconsin and a B.A. from Beloit College.

“I’m very excited for the conversations we will have at this year’s Impact Fund conference with thought leaders, nonprofit innovators, and our donor community,” says Prudy. “However, as a community of purpose, we must go beyond the comfort of like-minded people and engage with others who may not share our beliefs. The more we understand about the challenges facing our country today and the solutions, the more meaningful those discussions can be.”



10th Annual Bradley Impact Conference

2020 VISION:

PHILANTHROPY IN FOCUS

October 8 & 9, 2020 | Grand Geneva Resort, Lake Geneva, WI



What is our response to rebuilding our country post-pandemic? How can we as a community of purpose rebuild our society in the face of global pandemic, social unrest, and economic uncertainty?

Our theme for the 10th annual Bradley Impact Conference is *2020 Vision - Philanthropy in Focus*. Please join us for important discussions with public intellectuals, political leaders, policy experts, grass-roots advocates and committed donors. We will look deeply at our four areas of giving to identify strategic philanthropic opportunities to propel America forward and enable our community to stand firm with donor intent.

This year's conference will include both in-person and virtual learning and discussion opportunities. Please save the date on your calendar and watch for a formal invitation coming soon.



Insights from the Impact Fund

In this election year, it's easy to become distracted by all of the noise. We must not lose sight of the fact that while elections have consequences and matter greatly, political victories without a clear policy agenda severely limit the ability to govern effectively. The Founding Fathers put power in the hands of the people. As informed citizens, it is our job to support policies and ideas we believe align with the intent of our founding principles. By focusing on policy, we achieve a double win: creation of a clear plan for elected officials who believe in a strong, limited government and an alternative strategy for those not aligned with us to find new and better ways to help people help themselves.

Much like public policy, a well-considered donor intent can help you maintain focus and provide peace of mind knowing you are investing for optimal impact in restoring, strengthening, and protecting American values and ideals. With membership in the Bradley Impact Fund, you're closer to the nation's sharpest thinking and well-informed peers interested in engaging with you. Impact Fund resources can help you develop

**"THE POWERS NOT DELEGATED
TO THE UNITED STATES BY
THE CONSTITUTION, NOR
PROHIBITED BY IT TO THE STATES,
ARE RESERVED TO THE STATES
RESPECTIVELY, OR TO THE PEOPLE."**

**— ARTICLE X OF THE
THE BILL OF RIGHTS**

your philanthropy in a broader context, so you can confidently create your own giving strategy in the areas of Constitutional order, free markets, civil society, and informed citizens that matter the most to you.

These are uncertain times. If you'd like to discuss your donor intent, please get in touch. We welcome the opportunity to help protect the integrity of your philanthropy.

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