



# Hold Election Officials Accountable

## THE PROBLEM: UNELECTED BUREAUCRATS OPERATE BEHIND THE SCENES



In many states, unelected election officials **waived or relaxed absentee requirements**, citing COVID-19 as the cause.



Judges and election officials change election laws and rules **without the legislature weighing in**.



Election administrators **operate in gray areas of the law** to benefit preferred political parties.

## THE SOLUTION: ACCOUNTABILITY



States should **prioritize the legislature in the process**, shifting power away from unelected bureaucrats and into the hands of voters.



Enacting penalties—including removal from office—for shady administrators will heighten transparency and voter trust.



Protecting elections from bad actors **secures the vote, protects minority communities, and deters potential fraudsters**.



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## CASE STUDY: FLORIDA

 In Palm Beach, FL, the 2018 midterm election **shattered local residents' confidence** in the democratic process.



 Governor DeSantis **suspended Palm Beach County's Supervisor of Elections** after the embarrassing debacle.

 **Missed deadlines, allegations of ballot duplicating, and incomplete count reports** caught the attention of the former Florida Secretary of State, calling the administrator's time "combative incompetence."

## IT'S POPULAR

Voters support imposing minimum fines and penalties, including removal from their position, for election officials who knowingly disseminate false election information.



Voters are more likely to support requiring state legislative approval for changes to election rules when they know that it could help legislators prevent ballots from being mishandled or tampered with.

