

By: David Sheffet

# Ballot Harvesting



# Definition

- Ballot harvesting or collecting is the gathering and submitting of completed absentee or mail-in voter ballots by third-party individuals, volunteers or workers, rather than submission by the voters themselves directly to ballot collection sites

# Controversy

- Proponents of ballot collection promote it as enfranchising those who live in remote areas or lack ready access to transportation, are incapacitated or in hospital or jail
- Critics of ballot collection highlight the possibility of increasing the potential for vote misappropriation or fraud. These critics sometimes use the term ballot harvesting to refer to the practice

# Abuse

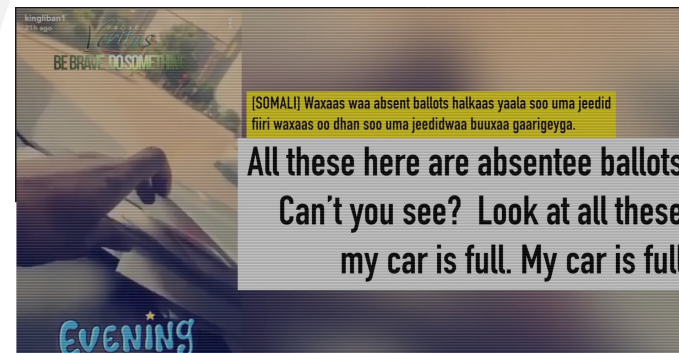
- Republican ballot harvesting in North Carolina's 9th congressional district election in 2018 resulted in an investigation by the North Carolina State Board of Elections and a subsequent special election
- Ballot racketeering operation for GOP House candidate Mauro E. Garza run by Raquel Rodriguez
- Ballot harvesting scheme here involving clan and political allies and associates of Rep. Ilhan Omar (D.-Minn.)

## Ballot security a concern long before disputed North Carolina House race

DECEMBER 15, 2018 / 2:07 PM / AP



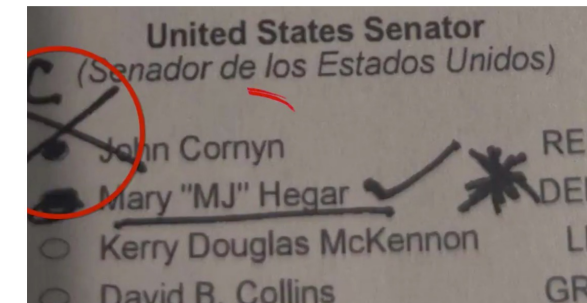
NORTH CAROLINA'S 9TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT



## Undercover Tape Appears to Show Ballot Harvesting Operation in San Antonio

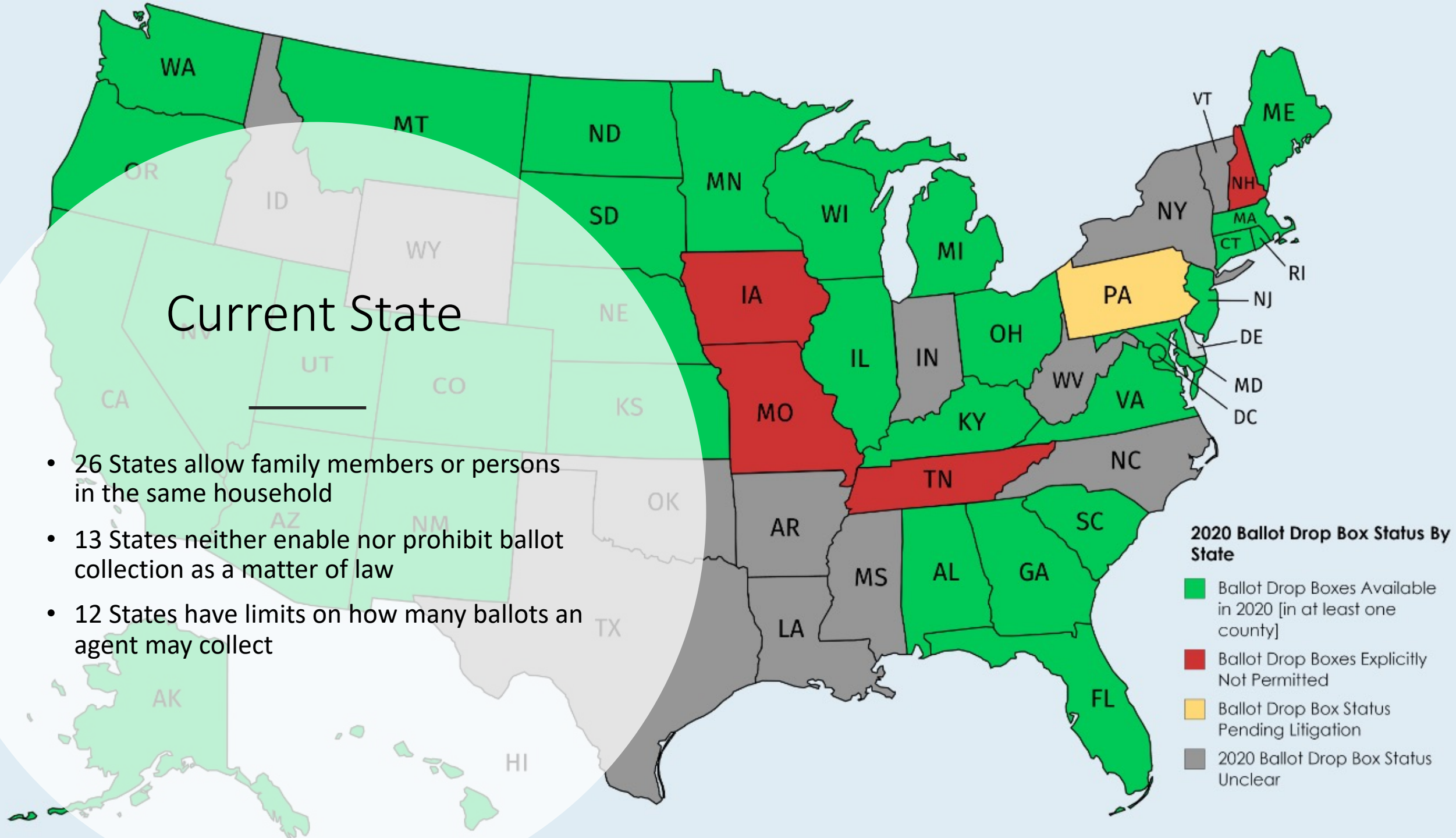
*"What's shown in the video is shocking and should alarm all Texans who care about election integrity." - Attorney General Ken Paxton*

By Brandon Walters | October 27, 2020



## Current State

- 26 States allow family members or persons in the same household
- 13 States neither enable nor prohibit ballot collection as a matter of law
- 12 States have limits on how many ballots an agent may collect



107,000

- This is the number of votes that determined the 2016 election
- This matters because a ballot harvester claims they can bring at least 7,000 voters to the polls

This means there is the potential that **15** people could change a nation election

# Reps. Tulsi Gabbard and Rodney Davis Introduce Bill to Ban Vote Harvesting & Protect Mail-In Ballots from Third-Party Predators

September 17, 2020 | Press Release

Washington, DC—Today, Reps. Tulsi Gabbard (HI-02) and Rodney Davis (IL-13) introduced [H.R.8285](#), the Election Fraud Prevention Act, a bipartisan bill that aims to improve the integrity of the mail-in ballot process.

Activism

“Allowing any individual, including political operatives, to pick up multiple voters’ ballots and deliver them to a polling location undermines the integrity of our elections. We’ve seen ballot harvesting widely used in states like California and a recent court case in North Carolina outlined the clear opportunities for fraud and coercion with the ballot harvesting process. This bipartisan bill will encourage states to ban this process that is ripe for fraud and is a major threat to the integrity of our elections”

# Work Cited

---

- <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/ballot-harvesting-collection-absentee-voting-explained-rules/>
- <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/ballot-security-a-concern-long-before-disputed-north-carolina-house-race/>
- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ballot\\_collection](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ballot_collection)
- <https://www.projectveritas.com/news/ilhan-omar-connected-cash-for-ballots-voter-fraud-scheme-corrupts-elections/>
- <https://texasscorecard.com/state/undercover-tape-appears-to-show-ballot-harvesting-operation-in-san-antonio/>
- <https://gabbard.house.gov/news/press-releases/rep-tulsi-gabbard-and-rodney-davis-introduce-bill-ban-vote-harvesting-protect>
- <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/8285>



# Questions

