

# INSIGHTS

## The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

"Ask yourself one question: 'Is it right?' Then do what you believe is best for your town, your state and your country." — James M. Cox, founder, Cox Enterprises

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# Technology may solve election disputes

Procedures used in aviation security can also apply to voting.

Sheldon Jacobson

Republican state legislatures have been making news of late by passing more stringent voting regulations, while their Democrat counterparts have been passing more relaxed regulations. Is it possible that the solution to their "election security" differences could lie in the way society has longed airport security over the past 20 years?

When we hear the term election security, we think of foreign operatives undermining the integrity of our elections by infiltrating voting infrastructures and databases, which may facilitate long lines at polls that discourage people from voting, yet, domestic activities to undermine voting rights can achieve a more objective with far less effort.

The foundation of voting rights is ensuring that eligible voters can cast their ballot and have them counted. The corollary to this is that ineligible voters not have their votes counted. Several states have proposed either more restrictive or more expansive voting laws in anticipation of a close 2022 midterm election. This demonstrates the influence politicians seek to have on election outcomes, threatening the security of elections in more subtle, but similarly substantive ways.

As a rule, Republican-backed laws seek to make voter registration and ballot casting more stringent, while Democrats-backed laws seek to make voter registration and ballot casting more accessible. This means that Republican-backed laws guard against voter fraud like ballot box stuffing, such



Aviation security procedures provide the answer to how we can secure our elections by using the same type of risk-based strategy as TSA PreCheck, the author writes. FILE

as ineligible voters casting ballots, eligible voters casting several ballots, or votes cast in the name of eligible voter by other people. Democrat-backed laws guard against voter suppression, such as eligible voters not being able to vote by either not gaining access to a ballot or having their votes disqualified.

No matter what side of the aisle one sits, eligible voters have a constitutional right to vote and have their vote counted. The matter up for debate is how to achieve this. Aviation security procedures provide the answer.

The role of aviation security is to protect the nation's air system from egregious infiltration by bad actors. Given that millions of people travel each day by air in the U.S., the challenge is to make it possible for these people to pass through airport security checkpoints with a minimal amount of inconvenience and delay, while preventing the small number of

bad actors from gaining access to the air system by passing through these same airport checkpoints undetected.

As was learned after 9/11, treating every passenger as a bad actor is time consuming, expensive and inappropriate. The TSA responded to this observation by introducing TSA PreCheck, a risk-based strategy for partitioning all travelers into two groups: those vetted for expedited screening and those who have not. The former group sails through security checkpoints with minimal physical screening, since they have voluntarily provided background information to support the need for less-intrusive physical screening at airports. The latter group are still permitted to fly, but are subjected to enhanced screening, since less information is available about them.

Elections can be made more secure using this same type of risk-based strategy.

Voters who preregister, providing their place of residence and other voting eligibility information that can be verified in person or using technology, are similar to PreCheck vetted passengers. Fortunately, they represent the majority of voters and ballots cast.

Those who have not preregistered should be given the same opportunity to vote, provided their eligibility can be verified and their voting ballot can be validated. This is a more time-consuming process, but a necessary one to preserve the integrity and security of elections. As such, the results of elections may not be available immediately after the polls close, particularly in races that are sufficiently close that the vote differential for preregistered voters is less than the total number of votes cast by those not preregistered.

Many of the new restrictive voting laws focus on issues surrounding mail-in ballots and

voter identification, while the more expansive voting laws make it easier to vote earlier by mail or through drop-boxes. They represent window dressing on the fringes of secure elections, serving political interests rather than preserving the integrity of the election process.

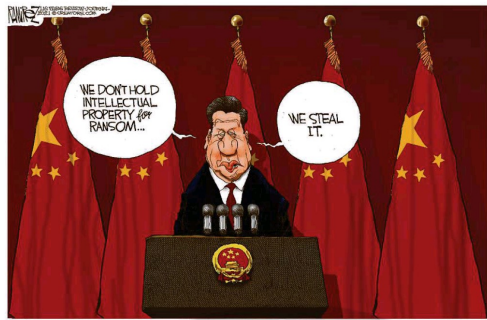
Making elections more secure means verifying the eligibility of every voter and validating every vote cast. The question is how to perform such verifications and validations. A PreCheck-like program for elections can achieve such objectives.

Sheldon H. Jacobson, Ph.D., is a founder professor of computer science at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He applies his expertise in data-driven risk-based assessment to evaluate and inform public policy. His research on risk-based security provided the foundational concepts that led to TSA PreCheck.

## Mike Luckovich



## From the right



MICHAEL RAMIREZ / CREATORS SYNDICATE

## READERS WRITE

### To fight poverty, we must amend taxes, entitlements

Mr. Pawlick's answer to the poverty problem is the standard one that has not worked: Spend more money on it. Instead, perhaps we would be better off doing two things ("Some Americans seem to like poverty," Opinion, July 23).

First, recognizing the current entitlements and tax system encourage low-income people not to make more money, because they come out behind due to loss of entitlements and refundable tax credits by making more. Second, amending the entitlements and tax systems to discourage planned single parenthood. As things now stand, single parents get much more benefits than traditional married couples. It's got to stop.

Otherwise, the never-ending pattern of parents teaching their kids how to maximize their system benefits while not getting ahead will continue, along with the crime and poverty that come with it. The recent expansion of the refundable child credit, regardless of marital status, was a huge step in the wrong direction.

ALLEN BUCKLEY, ATLANTA

### GOP wants to distract us from real Jan. 6 rioters

When you think that Republican Trumpsters have hit rock bottom, they find a way to go lower.

This time they may have actually found the bottom. Insurrectionist used violence to try to stop the election process mandated by the U.S. Constitution. Republicans want to distract us from those who violently attacked our government and those who incited them.

They say that the blame goes to the police for not being well enough prepared for the insurrection.

This is like saying that you should blame me for not having better locks rather than blaming the burglar. Shame on them! They have violated their oaths to protect and defend the Constitution of the United States.

LARRY AUERBACH, ATLANTA

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