

News Item

Republicans Seek Pennsylvania Voters' Personal Information in 2020 Review | The New York Times

By Nick Corasaniti September 17, 2021

But election experts still expressed worries about the amount of personal information being requested and the security risks, both to voters and to the electoral process, that could come with such a transfer of information. Such risks have grown increasingly common in partisan election reviews around the country.

"That's a really bad idea to have private information floating around in a Senate caucus," said Marian K. Schneider, an elections lawyer for the A.C.L.U. of Pennsylvania. "And it's really not clear how the data is going to be used, who's going to be looking at it, who can have access, how it's going to be secured. And it's unclear to me why they even need the personally identifying information."

Republicans in several states have pursued similar reviews — misleadingly labeled "audits" to suggest an authoritative nonpartisan investigation — in the name of protecting "election integrity." The reviews have often centered on baseless claims and debunked conspiracy theories about the presidential contest, spurred in part by the falsehoods promoted by former President Donald J. Trump and his allies.

President Biden won Pennsylvania by more than 80,000 votes, and the results have been reaffirmed by the state's Department of State.

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