

The threat to vote by mail isn't fraud. It's disinformation and sabotage | CNET

By Alfred Ng

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Millions of Americans have voted by mail securely for more than 150 years, with fraud historically being so rare that election officials wouldn't even consider it significant enough to be a rounding error. But with the coronavirus pandemic pushing a record number of absentee ballot requests, President Donald Trump and his administration has attacked the time-tested system, claiming that it will lead to a chaotic Election Day outcome.

The truth is, fraud associated with mail-in ballots is exceedingly rare, and when it does happen, it's miniscule enough that it wouldn't affect the outcome, election officials and experts said, noting there are several safeguards in place.

That truth gets distorted thanks to social networks. A Wall Street Journal report found over 100 claims from Trump, via Twitter, attacking mail-in voting, a majority of which are factually inaccurate.

The attacks on mail-in ballots, particularly when a pandemic threatens the health of voters and election volunteers, have frustrated experts, who point out that many of the scenarios raised by the Trump administration would be impossible to carry out.

[...]

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