

- Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Steil, and the distinguished members of the subcommittee. I appreciate you holding this member day hearing.
- I think every Member of Congress would agree that the processes put in place for the 2020 election sowed doubt into the minds of millions of Americans about the integrity of their vote.
- Under the pretext of responding to the COVID-19 pandemic—and in many cases at the last possible moment—governors, secretaries of state, state political parties, courts, and other actors went around the Constitutional authority of state legislatures to set the parameters for how the election would be administered within that state.
- This is contrary to the explicit language of the Constitution, and it led to widespread irregularities that undermined Americans' faith in our institutions.
- So how did Congressional Democrats respond? They doubled down on that usurpation of state power by re-introducing H.R. 1 and H.R. 4 from the last Congress.
- H.R. 1 nationalizes elections and centralizes election administration in Washington, DC—this is a direct violation of the Constitution. Again, Article 1, Section 4 gives *states* the primary role in determining their registration and voting practices.
- H.R. 1 would:
 - Provide no-excuse absentee voting with virtually no verification of the voter's identity;
 - Automatically give felons the right to vote;
 - Require increased disclosure requirements for only certain political donors, which likely violates the First Amendment and would chill the free speech of countless Americans;
 - Empower the IRS to launch politically-motivated investigations against conservative groups;
 - And, among many other things, make the pandemic-specific election reforms we saw last year permanent.
- All of these policies are terribly misguided, but perhaps the most egregious provisions in H.R. 1 are those which would provide taxpayer funding for political campaigns. The bill creates a 6 to 1 government match of any contributions valued at two-hundred dollars or less for congressional and presidential campaigns. So for every two-hundred dollar contribution, the federal government will provide up to *twelve-hundred dollars*.
- You heard that correctly. Democrats want to take your tax dollars and use that money to fund campaigns of candidates across the country, regardless of whether or not you would agree with them on the issues most important to you.
- The tax dollars of pro-life individuals could be sent to pro-abortion candidates. Pro-Second Amendment individuals would be funding the campaigns of gun control candidates, and the list goes on and on.
- On its own, H.R. 1 should send chills down the spine of every American who believes in the foundational structure of our election system, but that's not all Democrats are proposing to do.

- With H.R. 4, Democrats attempt to orchestrate yet another radical and unprecedented federal power grab over state-administered elections, this time under the guise of updating the Voting Rights Act.
- Upon its enactment in 1965, the VRA “employed extraordinary measures to address” pervasive state resistance to removing radically discriminatory barriers that prevented minorities from exercising their right to vote.
- In 2013, the U.S. Supreme Court’s *Shelby County v. Holder* decision recognized an obvious fact when examining the Voting Rights Act: things have changed dramatically since 1965. That should be celebrated. The Court reasoned that requiring states to preclear election law changes based on conduct a half century ago was an unconstitutional invasion on state sovereignty.
- Republicans are thrilled that the VRA worked—the truth is that more Americans from minority communities are voting now than ever before, and overall voter registration remains high.
- In fact, voter registration disparities between minority and non-minority voters in states like Texas, Florida, North Carolina, Mississippi, and my home state of Louisiana are below the national average and are actually lower than Democrat-run states like New York, California, and President Biden’s home state of Delaware.
- However, Democrats would have you think otherwise. They want to bring preclearance back through H.R. 4 and have states seek approval from Merrick Garland’s Justice Department before making any changes to election laws or redistricting. Again, this is a blatant federal power grab.
- Both H.R. 1 and H.R. 4 are contrary to the Founders’ intent, the plain text of the Constitution, and, if fully implemented, will further erode Americans’ faith and confidence in our institutions.
- The fabric of our Republic is becoming worn and frayed because of it, but I remain hopeful that the people of our country will see these political charades for what they really are and rise up to make their voices heard.
- I thank the Chair and Ranking Member for allowing me to testify this morning, and I yield back.