Yes there will be mail-in voting cheating. It won't matter as long as Trump voters go to the polls.

Dave in FL September 8, 2020

1) Mail in voting vs. Absentee voting – There is a pretty big distinction between them, and most people get confused or think they are the same thing. Mail-in voting is a system where all votes in a state are submitted through the mail (something OM is familiar with). There are no polling places, everyone mails in their ballots using different systems. In Oregon there are special mail boxes. Absentee voting is an alternative to in-person and early voting that is subordinate to both, this is a key factor when considering how much potential there is for fraud.

2) Who has Mail-in voting? – Only 5 states use mail-in voting; Oregon, Washington, Colorado, Hawaii, and Utah. Of those 5 states, 4 of them are solid blue and expect to go to Biden. The other, Utah, has no chance of voting for anyone other than Trump. In 2016 he took over 50% of the vote with McMullin on the ballot. So we can start with a given that states with mail-in voting won't have an effect.

3) Are other states going to use mail-in? – No. You can't change the rules for an election this close to an election. As much as Murphy may want to declare the NJ will use mail-in voting, it is impossible to produce the necessary ballots and infrastructure to make it viable. The states that tried it for primaries were left in shambles. If you screw up an election in your state you run a real risk of not having your votes certified, and therefore you get no Electoral College votes at all. With blue states being the ones making all the noise, they will in the end hold a normal election. They don't want to risk Biden losing EC votes.

4) Absentee ballot cheating – Yes this can be done and has been done. But it is a lot harder than you would expect. First of all you have to get access to a ballot, and those are by law sent only to registered voters. Most importantly, the ballots received MUST be from a registered voter. The ballots are numbered and checked against the voter rolls. Any mismatch is discarded. There are also additional voter verification controls in place, such as signature matching. Most importantly, absentee ballots are AUTOMATICALLY DISCARDED if the registered voter votes in person or in early voting. Here is a quote from the New York election web page.

Mail Time Considerations When Returning an Absentee Ballot

When mailing your completed ballot, the USPS recommends that voters allow enough time for ballots to be returned to the Board, which is **generally seven days ahead of the general election**. New York State requires your ballot to be both postmarked by November 3, 2020 and received by our Board by November 10, 2020. Voters who mail in their ballots on Election Day must be aware of the posted collection times on collection boxes and at the Postal Service's retail facilities, and that ballots entered after the last posted collection time will not be postmarked until the following business day.

You Can Still Vote in Person if You Request an Absentee Ballot

Even if you request or cast and return an absentee ballot, you may still go to the polls and vote in person. The Election Law recognizes that plans change. The Board of Elections is required to check the poll book before canvassing any absentee ballot. If the voter comes to the poll site, on Election Day or during early voting and votes in person, the absentee ballot is set aside and not counted.

5) How can absentee voting cheating occur? – There are a couple ways to do it. If you have access to an original ballot, you can get your hands on the ballot of the voter either by convincing them you will mail it for them, or a postal worker giving it to you. You then have to open two envelopes (steaming them), replace the ballot with a new one, and reseal the envelope so it doesn't look tampered with. Another thing that can be done is to have postal workers discard ballots from heavily Republican neighborhoods. In any case, all of the valid methods are time consuming, meaning that it takes too long to modify more than a few thousand votes. Is it enough to swing a close election? Absolutely, but at best you can affect maybe 10,000 votes out of 5-10 million cast. And then you also have target of opportunity problems. Most of the cheating is going to happen in precincts that are already voting heavily for Biden. What can't happen is having some Dem operative print a million ballots and sign Mickey Mouse on all of them. This fails because ballot production is audited, and ballot submission must come from voters who are on the rolls. Oh, and don't forget that tampering with the mail and voting is a felony and real people are serving real jail time for it right now. It would take a lot of Trump hate to risk your postal worker's pension for Biden.

6) Won't they just keep going until they manufacture enough votes? – No. There are hard dates in play. Each state is different. For example in Florida all Absentee ballots must be received by 11/3. New York it is 11/10. Votes received after that are discarded. Also, as mentioned above, if a voter votes in person, the vote is also discarded (and it isn't illegal to send in a ballot, then go vote). There are also certification deadlines at play. The latest deadlines are 12/8 and if a vote in a state is not certified by that date, then the state loses their Electoral Votes. Since we are universally talking about cheating in favor of Biden, that means he is the one risking loss of votes. The key states in this election will be PA (11/11), MI (11/23), WI (12/1), and MN (11/24). Of those PA is probably the most important, since without Florida, Biden has no path to victory if he loses PA. So by 11/11/2020 PA has to certify its election or those 20 EVs fall on the ground.

7) What about the millions of ballots already sent out? – What about them? Both campaigns are telling their supporters to get absentee ballots. I've gotten three texts from the Trump campaign this week with a link to request one in Florida. They only count if they are sent in. And fraud only counts if they are altered or discarded. Most importantly, they make no difference what-so-ever if the voter shows up and votes in person. That completely negates any attempt at fraud.

So the bottom line is this. The Dems will try to steal as many votes as they can through fraud. But they can't affect the election if Trump voters turn out and vote. The only path to victory for Biden is for Trump voters to stay home, since I have yet to hear a compelling reason why any 2016 Trump voter will vote for Biden this time.