

# Members of the Presidential Advisory Commission on Election Integrity

Party of commission members

■ Democratic ■ Republican



**Mike Pence**  
*Chair*  
US Vice President



**Kris Kobach**  
*Vice-Chair*  
Kansas  
Secretary of State



**Ken Blackwell**  
Former Ohio  
Secretary of State



**Connie Lawson**  
Indiana  
Secretary of State



**Matthew Dunlap**  
Maine  
Secretary of State



**Bill Gardner**  
New Hampshire  
Secretary of State



**Christy McCormick**  
Commissioner  
EAC



**Hans von Spakovsky**  
Sr. Legal Fellow  
Heritage



**David Dunn**  
Former State Rep.  
Arkansas



**Mark Rhodes**  
County Clerk  
Wood County, WV

Sources: Christopher Ingraham, "Here are the first 10 members of Trump's voting commission," The Washington Post, July 6, 2017.

# Heads of the Presidential Advisory Commission on Election Integrity



**Mike Pence, Chair**  
US Vice President

**Sept.-Oct. 2016:** supported an investigation by Indiana police and Secretary of State Connie Lawson into alleged voter registration fraud; no evidence of fraudulent ballots surfaced, but Pence awarded Lawson the state's highest civilian honor

**Nov. 2016:** supported a new voter restriction that allows additional, party-nominated election officers to demand voters provide proof of identification; this made Indiana one of 14 states to enact new restrictive voting laws in 2016



**Kris Kobach, Vice-Chair**  
Kansas, Secretary of State

**2005-present:** has promoted the Interstate Crosscheck System, an alleged anti-fraud program; however, independent studies suggest that over 99% of cases flagged by the system have nothing to do with voter fraud, and that the system would result in 200 deletions of legitimate voter registrations for each case of double-voting it prevented

**2013:** introduced a law requiring Kansans to provide proof of citizenship to register to vote

**2017:** involved in lawsuits against his 2011 proof-of-citizenship law; ordered by a judge to produce previously withheld documents pertaining to amendments of the National Voter Registration Act

**Jul. 2017:** Kobach stated in a TV interview that it is impossible to know whether Hillary Clinton won the popular vote

# Republican members of the Presidential Advisory Commission on Election Integrity



**Ken Blackwell**  
Former Ohio Secretary of State

**2004:** directed county boards to accept voter-registration forms on paper “not less than 80-pound text weight,” causing confused election officials to disqualify forms that weren’t thick enough; also directed county officials to issue provisional ballots only to voters in the correct polling location, despite federal law protecting the right to said ballots regardless of polling location

**2017:** claimed that the number of illegal voter registrations filed for the 2016 election “may well reach into the millions”



**Connie Lawson**  
Indiana, Secretary of State

**2014:** co-authored a strict Indiana state law requiring photo IDs from residents in order to vote

**2016:** accused “nefarious actors” in a voter registration organization of widespread voter fraud; the investigation shut down the registration drive and prevented the registration of an estimated 10,000 voters, but ultimately revealed no evidence of fraudulent ballots



**Christy McCormick**  
Commissioner, EAC

**2016:** Was involved in a lawsuit over the EAC’s authority to add state proof-of-citizenship laws to the federal voter registration forms, which civil liberties’ groups argued was illegal



**Hans von Spakovsky**  
Sr. Legal Fellow, Heritage

**2005:** published a law review article under the pseudonym “Publius” that endorsed voter photo I.D.s, prompting accusations of partisan bias in his 2002-2005 role at the Justice Department

**2008:** congressional Democrats blocked Spakovsky’s nomination to the FEC, citing a history of voter rights suppression

**1999-present:** has gained national attention for claiming that voter fraud is widespread, citing a small number of reports dating as far back as 1982; these reports have been discredited

Sources: Christopher Ingraham, “Here are the first 10 members of Trump’s voting commission,” The Washington Post, July 6, 2017; Spencer Woodman, “The GOP’s Next Target: Get-out-the-Vote Operations?,” New Republic, Sept. 30, 2016; “Indiana official clarifies voter registration fraud probe, says election ‘not rigged,’” Chicago Tribune, Oct. 20, 2016; Richard L. Hasen, “Trump’s Voter Fraud Endgame,” Slate, Jun. 30, 2017; Richard L. Hansen, “The Fraudulent Fraud Squad,” Slate, May 18, 2007; Dan Eggen, “Officials Article on Voting Law Spurs Outcry,” Washington Post, Apr. 13, 2006; Darrel Rowland, “Capitol Insider: Ken Blackwell not only member of Trump voting-fraud panel who’s seen controversy,” The Columbus Dispatch, May 14, 2017; “This anti-voter-fraud program gets it wrong over 99 percent of time. The GOP wants to take it nationwide,” Washington Post, July 20, 2017; Catherine Candisky, “Blackwell ends paper chase,” The Columbus Dispatch, Sept. 24, 2004; Sabrina Eaton, “Ken Blackwell defends his work on Trump’s Election Integrity Commission, past work in Ohio,” Cleveland.com, Jul. 21, 2017; Christopher Ingraham, “Here are the first 10 members of Trump’s voting commission,” Washington post, July 6, 2017; Jane Mayer, “The Voter-Fraud Myth,” The New Yorker, Oct-Nov., 2012

# Democratic members of the Presidential Advisory Commission on Election Integrity



**Matthew Dunlap**  
Maine, Secretary of State

**2016:** challenged Governor LePage's (R) claims of rampant voting fraud among college students in Maine, calling such claims "a phantom menace" and unsubstantiated by evidence

**Jun. 2017:** defended his decision to join the commission, saying that joining would leave him "in a better posture to debunk [the voter fraud claims] than I would be if I refused to serve"

**Aug. 2017:** refused for the second time to provide the election fraud commission with Maine voters' personal information



**Bill Gardner**  
New Hampshire, Secretary of State

**2014:** supported an early version of Senate Bill 3 (see below)

**2017:** disagreed with Trump's claim of widespread voting fraud

**Mar. 2017:** defended a controversial, Republican-led voting reform bill (SB 3), calling it a "balancing act of security versus ease"; the bill stipulates that if a voter doesn't provide proof of in-state residence within 10 or 30 days of registering, he/she could be investigated by officials or fined up to \$5,000. Civil liberty groups claim the bill intimidates and effectively criminalizes legal voters



**David Dunn**  
Former State Rep., Arkansas

**Jun. 2017:** reported that he didn't believe millions of people voted illegally in 2016; however, he also told interviewers that "[he doesn't] know why [being on the commission] has fallen on [his] shoulders"

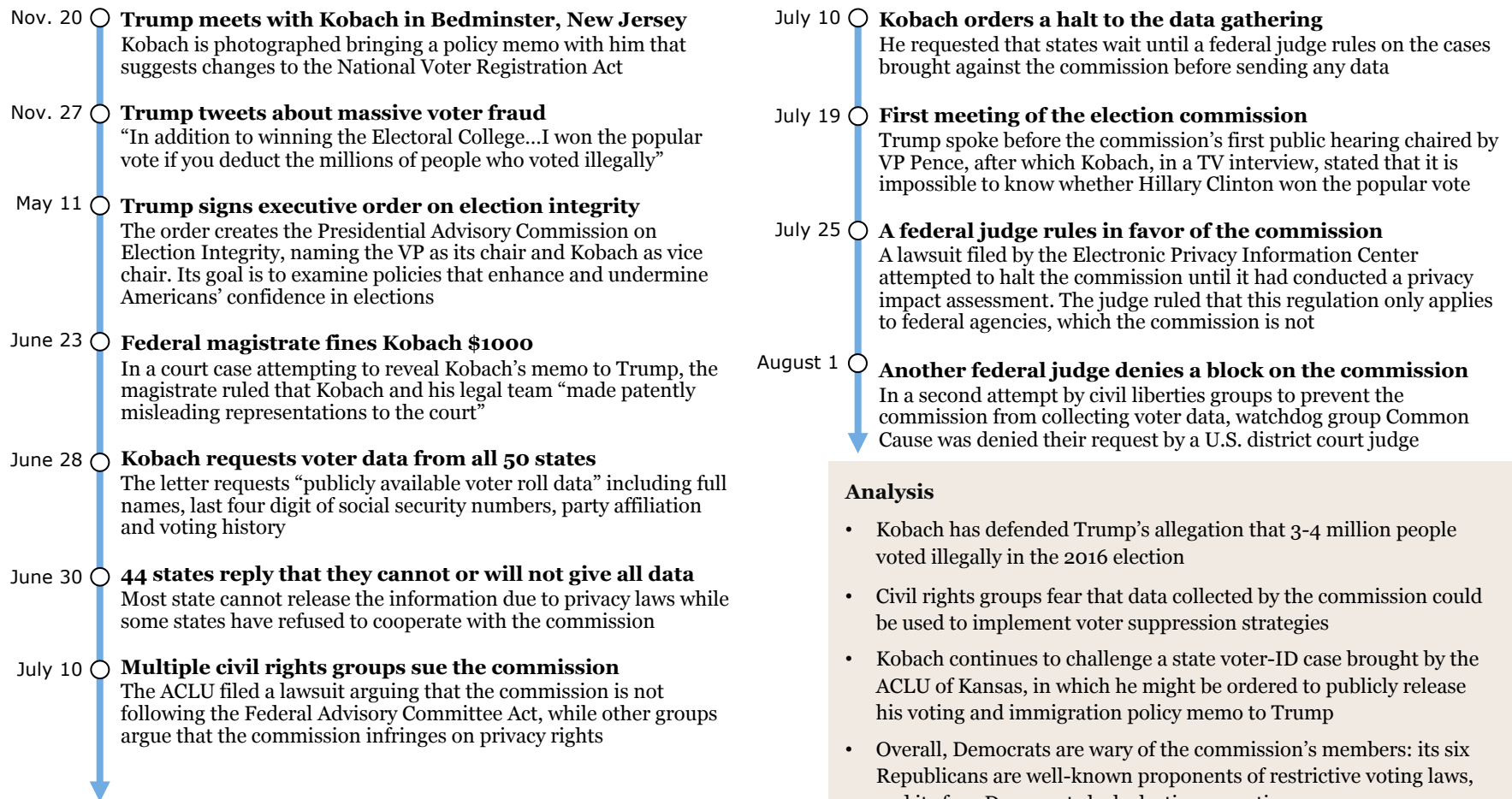


**Mark Rhodes**  
County Clerk, Wood County, WV

**Feb. 2017:** suggested he was open to an investigation into Trump's claims that thousands of out-of-state citizens voted in New Hampshire

**Jun. 2017:** reported that he doesn't believe that Trump's claim of widespread voter fraud is backed by evidence, but reported that Democrats also cry voter fraud after they lose elections

# A federal judge has ruled in favor of the commission, but other lawsuits remain



## Analysis

- Kobach has defended Trump’s allegation that 3-4 million people voted illegally in the 2016 election
- Civil rights groups fear that data collected by the commission could be used to implement voter suppression strategies
- Kobach continues to challenge a state voter-ID case brought by the ACLU of Kansas, in which he might be ordered to publicly release his voting and immigration policy memo to Trump
- Overall, Democrats are wary of the commission’s members: its six Republicans are well-known proponents of restrictive voting laws, and its four Democrats lack election expertise

Sources: WhiteHouse.gov; Twitter.com; Scott Neuman, “ACLU Files Suit Against White House Election Fraud Commission,” NPR, July 10, 2017; Matthew Haag, “Judge Clears Way for Trump’s Voter Fraud Panel to Collect Data,” NY Times, July 24, 2017; Meghan Keneally, “How your state responded to Trump’s voter data request,” ABC News, Jul. 7, 2017; Josh Gerstein, “Another judge denies block on Trump voter fraud commission,” Politico, Aug. 1, 2017;

