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Voter fraud claims are often based on flawed analysis

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The facts show that voter fraud exists but on a small scale, too small to affect the vast majority of elections.

The allegation that millions of people voted fraudulently is simply fake news.

The primary evidence given to support suspicions of massive voter fraud is based on a report based on data from the Cooperative Congressional Election Study managed by Harvard University and MIT.

Academics from Old Dominion University estimated that 6.4 percent of non-citizens voted in 2008 and 2.2 percent of non-citizens voted in 2010.

An excellent analysis by factcheck.org reveals that the estimates are spurious.

Managers of the database stated they found “no instances of voting among people stating consistently they are non-citizens.”

The allegation that non-citizens voted, said the managers of the study, amounted to “a dangerous, stray false-fact.”

A 2015 report from the conservative Heritage Foundation documented fewer than 12 cases of noncitizens convicted of registering or actually voting since 2000.

A Loyola Law professor found 31 incidents from 2000 to 2014.

In fact, voter impersonation, which has led to so many state voter ID laws, is the least common type of fraud.

An independent investigation is needed to clear the air once and for all.

White House tweets

The Washington Post's fact checker reports that in the first 50 days of President Donald Trump's term there have been 219 false or misleading claims with 49 earning four-Pinocchio ratings.

One example: Trump claimed that 122 prisoners were released from Guantanamo and returned to the battlefield. Actually, eight former Gitmo detainees were confirmed on the battlefield.

Facts on illegal immigrants

Few issues produce more heat and less light than illegal immigration. Here are some facts from the Migration Policy Institute, reported in The New York Times.

- About 60 percent of the illegals have been here at least a decade.
- The number of people convicted of illegal entry has declined by more than 25 percent in the last five years.
- Most of the illegals came here on temporary visitor permits and then stayed.
- Less than 3 percent of the illegals have committed felonies compared to 6 percent of the overall population.

too many motorcycle deaths

The Sunshine State leads the nation in motorcycle fatalities.

Motorcycle crash fatalities rose 30 percent in Florida from 2014 to 2015, according to the National Highway Safety Traffic Administration.

You're 27 times more likely to die in a motorcycle crash than in an automobile crash.

While most motoryclists claim to wear helmets, visual surveys taken by the AAA show a much lower usage rate.

Two-thirds of motoryclists in Florida think they should be required to wear helmets, according to a AAA survey.

AAA recommends that motorcyclists turn on headlights at dusk or dark, wear bright clothing, have reflective strips, stay out of car blind spots and drive defensively.

Also almost half of the motorcyclists who died in single-vehicle crashes in 2014 were impaired from alcohol.

Of course, auto drivers need to do their share by not driving distracted, leave room and be careful during left turns.

Poor roads, bridges

The nation's infrastructure is in poor shape, reports the American Society of Civil Engineers.

In a report issued every four years, the nation gets an overall D+ grade.

Transit gets the worst grade of D while rail gets a B largely because of private investment by the railroads themselves.

Government, however, is failing the people. Given the water supply crisis in Flint, Mich., and the Oroville Dam crisis in Northern California, this shouldn't be big news.

"You should be worried," said Norma Jean Mattei, president of the civil engineering society.

The civil engineers call for increased spending, of course, and this should not be a partisan issue.

The national economy and quality of life are improved by wise infrastructure spending.

Beyond roads and bridges, an improved electric grid would pay off by moving cheaper power to population centers.

nothing has truly changed in Cuba

The facts continue to show that former President Barack Obama's move to restore diplomatic relations with Cuba has done almost nothing to change conditions for the people who live under the murderous Castro regime.

"Cuba is the same totalitarian helhole that it has been for the past 58 years," wrote Mary Anastasia O'Grady in The Wall Street Journal.

O'Grady noted that Hamell Santiago Mas Hernandez, an Afro-Cuban dissident, recently died in one of Cuba's brutal prisons.

Apparently, Cuba's much-hyped health care system doesn't work that well for imprisoned dissidents.

O'Grady wrote that Hernandez was in a dungeon "not fit for animals."

Human freedom index

The U.S. ranks No. 23 in a Human Freedom Index co-published by the libertarian Cato Institute.

The index includes 79 indicators of personal and academic freedom.

"Countries in the top quartile enjoy a significantly higher per capita income," the report stated.

In nearly every case, there is a correlation between freedom and democracy.

The top three nations are:

- Hong Kong.
- Switzerland.

- New Zealand.

Why isn't the U.S. in the top group?

It's because the U.S. has low scores in these two categories:

- Freedom of foreign movement.
- Movement of capital and people.