

REPUBLICAN NATIONAL LAWYERS ASSOCIATION



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Dear Chairman Schumer and Ranking Member Roberts:

The Republican National Lawyers Association urges you to oppose the nomination of Myrna Perez to the U.S. Election Assistance Commission ("EAC"). We take this action not because we are Republicans and she is a Democrat - indeed, we are not opposing the nomination of Thomas Hicks - but because her views are so far outside the mainstream as to be objectionable to reasonable people on the right and the left and because she has demonstrated a willingness to manufacture facts to support her views when the real facts do not do so.

An example of Ms. Perez's views being far out of the mainstream are on the issue of list maintenance or, as she prefers to call it, "list purging." President Obama recently appointed a bipartisan commission on election administration co-chaired by his own former White House Counsel and campaign lawyer Bob Bauer. The Bauer-led commission came out in support of list maintenance and updating. In the past, Perez has called related efforts to remove non-citizens from the voter rolls "fear-mongering."ⁱ Further she engaged in her own fear-mongering on the topic when she stated that "purging happens all across the country, probably every day."ⁱⁱ It is clear that, if appointed to the EAC as a commissioner; she will greatly exaggerate every alleged problem with maintaining accurate voter rolls and fight against the spirit if not the letter of the bipartisan commission's recommendations.

Her comments about accurate voting rolls are not the only time that Ms. Perez has taken a position outside a bipartisan commission's recommendations and resorted to fear tactics in support of her position. The Carter-Baker Commission on Federal Election Reform recommended photo voter IDs. While some on the left disagree with this, Mr. Perez took her opposition to the extreme implying that all who favor voter ID are racist. As she said discussing voter ID: "We cannot afford to turn back the clock to an era when politically motivated laws prevented African-Americans, Latinos and others from exercising their constitutional right to vote."ⁱⁱⁱ Does she really think people such as former Democrat President Jimmy Carter, who grew up in the segregated South and has worked tirelessly to fight racism, would back anything that would "turn back the clock" in that way?

While reasonable people can disagree on issues regarding elections likely to be in front of the EAC, what is most troubling is that Ms. Perez seemingly makes up

numbers and facts to support her view. On the issue of voter ID, she cited a hyperbolic 11% of the nationwide voting-age population as not possessing the IDs required by voter ID laws^{iv} and contended that 605,000^v Texas voters would be disenfranchised by that state's voter ID law. The first number is, quite simply, unsupportable^{vi}, and the second was proven laughably wrong in the 2013 election.^{vii} But this is typical of Perez who once spoke of how an election call center that she was helping to run “spoke to *thousands* of voters . . . at risk of disenfranchisement” on one day.^{viii} The problem is that the center only received 800 calls that day.^{ix}

Given Ms. Perez's controversial views and willingness to bend the facts to suit her views, her nomination to the EAC should be opposed.

Sincerely,



Craig Burkhardt
President

ⁱ <http://votingrights.news21.com/article/registration/>

ⁱⁱ <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tUIXpA49v1c>

ⁱⁱⁱ <http://news.medill.northwestern.edu/chicago/news.aspx?id=204707> 4/25/2012

^{iv} <http://www.nationofchange.org/civil-rights-advocates-meet-la-discuss-voter-suppression-laws-1327766705>

^v <http://lubbockonline.com/local-news/2012-03-12/two-sides-deeply-split-over-states-voter-id-law#.UvLAfPldV8E>

^{vi} <http://www.heritage.org/research/reports/2012/07/lessons-from-the-voter-id-experience-in-kansas>

^{vii} <http://www.houstonchronicle.com/news/politics/houston/article/Texas-new-voter-ID-law-appeared-to-go-smoothly-4958966.php>

^{viii} http://www.lafayette-online.com/community/2008/05/indiana-voter-id-law-significant-issue-scattered-problems-reported#.UvK_4fldV8E

^{ix} http://www.lafayette-online.com/community/2008/05/indiana-voter-id-law-significant-issue-scattered-problems-reported#.UvK_4fldV8E