



## Election Officials Face Threats of Undue Criminal Penalties/Fines

No updates required since Jun1, 2026

### Background

Despite the challenges of the COVID pandemic, the 2020 election was conducted safely and securely, and also saw record turnout—thanks in large part to the work of nonpartisan election officials. Despite this success, some state legislatures enacted new harsh criminal penalties that threaten election officials with felony charges and heavy fines for minor technical infractions—increasing the potential for targeted intimidation and partisan abuse of election officials.

### Scoring

- State has enacted law(s) imposing criminal penalties to intimidate election officials, -1 point
- State has no applicable law, 0 points

### Summary Table

Category	Number	List
State has no applicable law	40 states & D.C.	Alabama Alaska Arkansas California Colorado Connecticut Delaware D.C. Hawaii Idaho Illinois Indiana Kentucky Louisiana Maine Maryland Massachusetts Michigan Minnesota Mississippi Nebraska Nevada New Jersey New Mexico North Carolina North Dakota Ohio Oregon Pennsylvania



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		Rhode Island South Dakota Tennessee Utah Vermont Virginia Washington West Virginia Wisconsin Wyoming
<b>State has enacted law(s) to impose criminal penalties to intimidate election officials</b>	10 states	Arizona Florida Georgia Iowa Kansas Kentucky Montana Oklahoma South Carolina Texas



## State-by-State Sources and More Detail

### Alabama (0)

- State has no applicable law.

### Alaska (0)

- State has no applicable law.

### Arizona (-1)

- State enacted [HB 2794](#) in 2021, which makes it a felony offense for election officials to change any election related deadlines.

### Arkansas (0)

- State has no applicable law.

### California (0)

- State has no applicable law.

### Colorado (0)

- State has no applicable law.

### Connecticut (0)

- State has no applicable law.

### Delaware (0)

- State has no applicable law.

### D.C. (0)

- State has no applicable law.

### Florida (-1)

- State enacted SB 90 in 2021.

### Georgia (-1)

- State enacted SB 202 in 2021.

### Hawaii (0)

- State has no applicable law.

### Idaho (0)

- State has no applicable law.



Illinois (0)

- State has no applicable law.

Indiana (0)

- State has no applicable law.

Iowa (-1)

- State enacted [SB 413](#) in 2021, which makes it a felony offense for election officials to fail to perform their duties, along with imposing fines for technical infractions.

Kansas (-1)

- State enacted [HB 2183](#) in 2021, which makes it a felony offense to accept outside funding for election administration.

Kentucky (-1)

- State enacted criminal penalties in 2022.

Louisiana (0)

- State has no applicable law.

Maine (0)

- State has no applicable law.

Maryland (0)

- State has no applicable law.

Massachusetts (0)

- State has no applicable law.

Michigan (0)

- State has no applicable law.

Minnesota (0)

- State has no applicable law.

Mississippi (0)

- State has no applicable law.

Missouri (0)

- State has no applicable law.



Montana (-1)

- State enacted criminal penalties in 2023.

Nebraska (0)

- State has no applicable law.

Nevada (0)

- State has no applicable law.

New Hampshire (0)

- State has no applicable law.

New Jersey (0)

- State has no applicable law.

New Mexico (0)

- State has no applicable law.

New York (0)

- State has no applicable law.

North Carolina (0)

- State has no applicable law.

North Dakota (0)

- State has no applicable law.

Ohio (0)

- State has no applicable law.

Oklahoma (-1)

- State enacted HB 2682 in 2023.

Oregon (0)

- State has no applicable law.

Pennsylvania (0)

- State has no applicable law.



Rhode Island (0)

- State has no applicable law.

South Carolina (-1)

- State enacted criminal penalties in 2022.

South Dakota (0)

- State has no applicable law.

Tennessee (0)

- State has no applicable law.

Texas (-1)

- State enacted [SB 1](#) in 2021, which makes it a felony offense to send an unsolicited vote by mail application or ballot.

Utah (0)

- State has no applicable law.

Vermont (0)

- State has no applicable law.

Virginia (0)

- State has no applicable law.

Washington (0)

- State has no applicable law.

West Virginia (0)

- State has no applicable law.

Wisconsin (0)

- State has no applicable law.

Wyoming (0)

- State has no applicable law.