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## LEGISLATIVE ACTION ALERT

# ARE YOU SURE THE VOTE YOU CAST IS BEING COUNTED?

**Newsweek**

## Mitch McConnell Received Donations from Voting Machine Lobbyists Before Blocking Election Security Bills

By Nicole Goodkind Newsweek© July 27, 2019

According to a report in Newsweek© concerning voting machines, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell squashed two bills intended to ensure voting security on Thursday, just one day after former special counsel Robert Mueller warned that Russians were attempting to sabotage the 2020 presidential elections "as we sit here." McConnell said he wouldn't allow a vote on the bills because they were "so partisan," but, as previously reported, earlier this year McConnell received a slew of donations from four of the top voting machine lobbyists in the country.

The plans would likely burden the two largest electronic voting machine vendors in the United States, Election Systems & Software and Dominion Voting Systems, with new regulations and financial burdens. Together, the companies make up about 80 percent of all voting machines used in the country and both have far-reaching lobbying arms in Washington D.C. Many of those lobbyists have contributed to the McConnell campaign, reported [Sludge](#) last month, an investigative outlet that focuses on money in politics.

"It's not surprising to me that Mitch McConnell is receiving these campaign contributions," the Brennan Center for Justice's Lawrence Norden [told Sludge](#) last month. "He seems single-handedly to be standing in the way of

anything passing in Congress around election security, and that includes things that the vendors might want, like money for the states to replace antiquated equipment." McConnell's actions seemed even more out of balance with his party, as the Senate Intelligence Committee—led by Republicans—released a report later on Thursday claiming Russians have targeted voting systems in all 50 states in 2016.

In 2018, there were 14 states that used electronic voting systems in 2018 with no paper trail, that means that if votes were inaccurately tallied or machines malfunctioned, there would be no way to investigate or recover those votes. Voting machine companies are not currently subject to any federally-mandated security standards.

*Morning Joe's* Joe Scarborough slammed McConnell for blocking the votes Friday morning.

"He is aiding and abetting [Russian President] Vladimir Putin's ongoing attempts to subvert American democracy, according to the Republican FBI, CIA, DNI, intel committee," he said. "All Republicans are all saying Russia is subverting American democracy and Moscow Mitch won't even let the Senate take a vote on it. That is un-American."

Read entire article at: <https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/politics/mitch-mcconnell-received-donations-from-voting-machine-lobbyists-before-blocking-election-security-bills/ar-AAEUGcx?ocid=spartanntp>