

Widespread voter fraud not an issue in NC: report

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Gov. Pat McCrory

RALEIGH, N.C. — Voter fraud is a minimal problem in North Carolina, accounting for less than 1 percent of the votes cast in the state last year, [according to a report by WCNC, citing the state Board of Elections.](http://www.wncn.com/story/22934120/widespread-voter-fraud-not-an-issue-in-nc-data-shows) (<http://www.wncn.com/story/22934120/widespread-voter-fraud-not-an-issue-in-nc-data-shows>)

The report stated that 121 alleged cases of voter fraud were referred to the appropriate district attorney's office out of the 6,947,317 ballots cast in the general and two primary elections in 2012.

This means that voter fraud accounted for 0.00174 percent of the ballots.

The state Board of Elections said the majority of voter fraud cases are deemed unfounded and never referred to the DA's office.

The report comes after the Republican-dominated legislature gave final approval of a controversial bill on Thursday that will cause widespread changes to the state's elections process.

The bill will require voters to present a government-issued photo identification at the polls, shorten the early voting period by a week, eliminate same-day voter registration, eliminate straight-party ticket voting and eliminate a program encouraging high school students to register to vote before turning 18.

House Speaker Thom Tillis (R-Mecklenburg) recognized that voter fraud is a small issue in North Carolina and said suppressing fraud is not the primary reason behind [House Bill 589](http://www.ncleg.net/Sessions/2013/Bills/House/PDF/H589v8.pdf) (<http://www.ncleg.net/Sessions/2013/Bills/House/PDF/H589v8.pdf>).

"We call this restoring confidence in elections," Tillis said, according to an interview with NBC News's Craig Melvin in March. "There is some voter fraud, but that's not the primary reason for doing this."

McCrory praised the bill [in a media conference Friday](http://www.wral.com/news/state/nccapitol/video/12706994/#/vid12706994) (<http://www.wral.com/news/state/nccapitol/video/12706994/#/vid12706994>), saying it will restore faith in elections by requiring voters to present government-issued identification at the polls.

But when an Associated Press reporter asked McCrory how the provision ending pre-registration by those

under 18 would help prevent voter fraud, McCrory said he had not seen that provision.

Read more: [WCNC \(http://www.wncn.com/story/22934120/widespread-voter-fraud-not-an-issue-in-nc-data-shows\)](http://www.wncn.com/story/22934120/widespread-voter-fraud-not-an-issue-in-nc-data-shows)

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