# Voting Laws See Significant Changes Nationwide Ahead of 2024 Elections



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Voters across the United States will encounter new voting restrictions this year compared to the last presidential election, according to an analysis by the Brennan Center for Justice. Since 2020, 28 states have enacted laws that make it more challenging to vote, impacting various stages of the electoral process, including registration, mail voting, and voter ID requirements.

Notable among these states are Alabama and Idaho, which have imposed criminal penalties for certain absentee voting assistance practices, termed as "ballot harvesting" by critics. Alabama's recent law, signed by Governor Kay Ivey, criminalizes the act of returning an absentee ballot application for someone else and receiving payment for distributing or collecting absentee ballot applications. This law faces opposition from voting and civil rights groups, who argue it hinders those who assist elderly and incapacitated voters.

In North Carolina, a new rule mandates that mail-in ballots be received by 7:30 p.m. on Election Day, eliminating a previous three-day grace period. During the 2022 midterms, over 8,600 absentee ballots were accepted within this period.

Legislation addressing artificial intelligence has also emerged, with at least 39 states introducing bills to regulate deepfake content in elections, and nine states enacting laws requiring disclosures on manipulated messages.

Conversely, some states have expanded access to voting. Kentucky now allows mail ballots to be sent to various addresses under certain conditions, benefiting groups like college students. Nebraska has restored voting rights for ex-felons post-sentence, excluding a prior two-year waiting period.

Efforts to encourage mail voting have surfaced within the Republican Party, despite prior skepticism and allegations of fraud surrounding mail ballots by former President Donald Trump. With the potential for narrow election margins, GOP strategists stress the importance of embracing all legal voting methods. High-profile Republican figures, including Trump's daughter-in-law Lara Trump, advocate for utilizing mail voting and other methods to ensure turnout.