**Office of Congressman Raul Ruiz, M.D.**

# THE VOTE WITHOUT FEAR ACT

## VOTER INTIMIDATION

The right to vote is the most sacred national right Americans have, and citizens should be able to cast their vote without being worried about their physical safety.[1]

During the 2020 general election, there were numerous accounts of individuals possessing firearms at federal election sites with the apparent purpose of intimidation.

According to the Washington Post, at least fourteen states reported incidents of voter intimidation during the early voting period



Outside of the Maricopa County Recorder's Office, Friday, Nov. 6, 2020, in Phoenix. (AP Photo/Ross D. Franklin)

leading up to the 2020 elections.[2] In addition, the presence of armed individuals at ballot counting locations following November 3rd has been well documented and represents a disturbing trend in the administration of our free and fair electoral system.

## THE VOTE WITHOUT FEAR ACT

The Vote Without Fear Act would prohibit the possession of a firearm within 100 yards of a federal election site. A federal election site is defined as both a polling location and a location where ballots are being counted.

The legislation includes common-sense exemptions for on-duty law enforcement officers or hired security guards at federal election sites. The legislation also includes protections for lawfully owned firearms legally located in vehicles or houses within 100 yards of a federal election site.

## ENDORSEMENTS

Anti-Defamation League * Brady United * Coalition to Stop Gun Violence * Everytown for Gun Safety * Giffords * Guns Down America * NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice * Newtown Action Alliance * States United to Prevent Gun Violence * Stop Handgun Violence

With questions about the Vote Without Fear Act, or to be added as a cosponsor, please contact Austin.Yager@mail.house.gov

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[1] https://www.charlotteobserver.com/news/state/north-carolina/article246933672.html
[2] https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/voter-intimidation-allegations/2020/10/20/6722d0ae-123e-11eb-82af-864652063d61_story.html