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‘Integrity’ Commission? Oh, Please

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Connecticut has certainly had its share of voting mishaps. Nearly all of those, however, were the result of boneheaded mistakes, such as running out of ballots on Election Day. Ineptitude isn’t a crime.

Yet President Donald Trump insists the nation’s election system is “rigged.” He’s made the laughable claim that millions of illegal voters cost him the popular vote. Talk about fake news: There’s not a shred of evidence backing him up.

It’s hard not to suspect that his Presidential Advisory Commission on Election Integrity is trying to deflect attention from a real concern: Russia’s meddling in the 2016 election to undermine Americans’ faith in elections and to damage Mr. Trump’s Democratic rival for the presidency, Hillary Clinton.

The commission seems to be trying to make the public think there is a problem where none exists. Its leaders’ goal might be to disenfranchise a lot of legal voters.

Connecticut is proud to be among the great majority of states — at least 44 so far — pushing back against the voter fraud commission’s unwarranted, over-the-line request for such things as the last four digits of voters’ Social Security numbers.

Ms. Merrill, a Democrat, had initially said the commission was welcome to Connecticut’s basic voter registration data, as is anyone who files a formal request and pays the \$300 fee. But she asked in return for the committee’s “memos, meeting minutes or additional information, as state officials have not been told precisely what the commission is looking for.”

She now sounds reluctant to cooperate at all, telling the commission that “fulfilling your request is not in the best interests of Connecticut residents.” Good for her.

She’s not alone. Mississippi’s Republican secretary of state, Delbert Hosemann, was far less polite, telling the commission to “go jump in the Gulf of Mexico.”

What a huge miscalculation by a group that is wasting taxpayer money and state officials’ time trying to find evidence of an imaginary crime.

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the State Denise Merrill is right to resist it. Connecticut has certainly had its share of voting mishaps. Nearly all of those, however, were the result of boneheaded mistakes, such as running out of ballots on Election Day. Ineptitude isn't a crime. Yet President Donald Trump insists the nation's election system is "rigged." He's made the laughable claim that millions of illegal voters cost him the popular vote. Talk about fake news: There's not a shred of evidence backing him up. It's hard not to suspect that his Presidential Advisory Commission on Election Integrity is trying to deflect attention from a real concern: Russia's meddling in the 2016 election to undermine Americans' faith in elections and to damage Mr. Trump's Democratic rival for the presidency, Hillary Clinton. The commission seems to be trying to make the public think there is a problem where none exists. Its leaders' goal might be to disenfranchise a lot of legal voters. Connecticut is proud to be among the great majority of states — at least 44 so far — pushing back against the voter fraud commission's unwarranted, over-the-line request for such things as the last four digits of voters' Social Security numbers. Ms. Merrill, a Democrat, had initially said the commission was welcome to Connecticut's basic voter registration data, as is anyone who files a formal request and pays the \$300 fee. But she asked in return for the committee's "memos, meeting minutes or additional information, as state officials have not been told precisely what the commission is looking for." She now sounds reluctant to cooperate at all, telling the commission that "fulfilling your request is not in the best interests of Connecticut residents." Good for her. She's not alone. Mississippi's Republican secretary of state, Delbert Hosemann, was far less polite, telling the commission to "go jump in the Gulf of Mexico." What a huge miscalculation by a group that is wasting taxpayer money and state officials' time trying to find evidence of an imaginary crime.