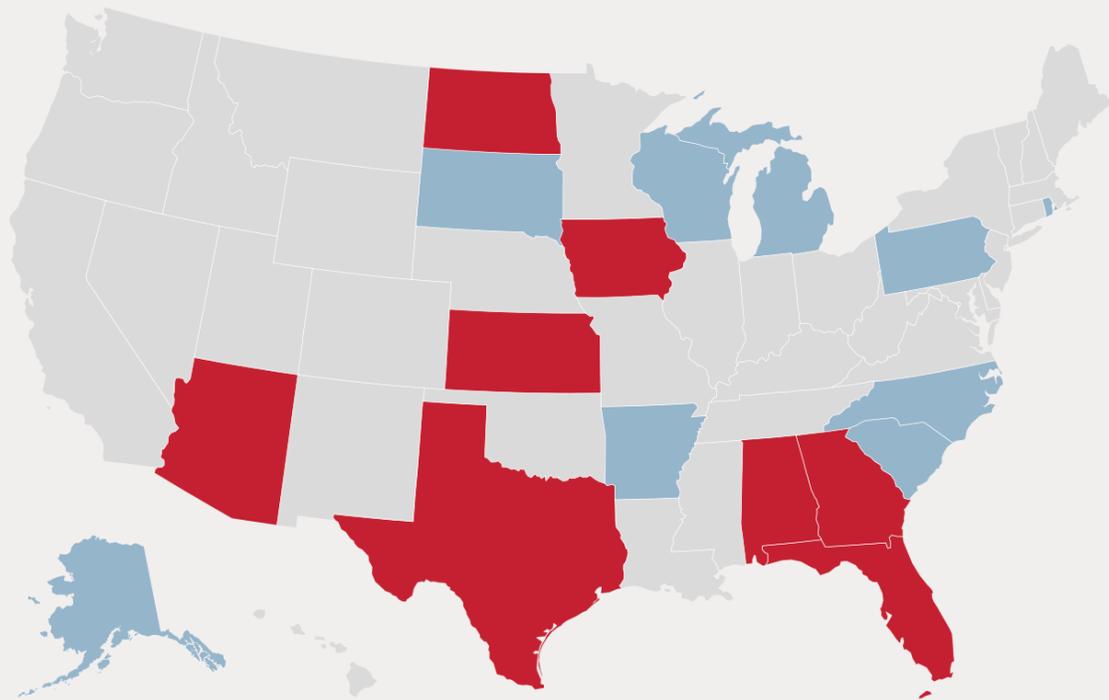


## CONTROLLING OFFICIALS AS ELECTION SABOTAGE:

### Partisan Power to Control or Punish Election Officials

States where legislators have passed or considered bills in 2021 that permit partisan punishment of election officials and increase the power of partisan poll watchers.

- Bill introduced in state legislature
- Bill passed by state legislature



Source: The Brennan Center for Justice

Legislators in [at least 17 states](#) introduced bills that increase partisan power to control or punish officials. Alabama, Arizona, Iowa and Texas considered bills aimed at coercing election officials through the threat of criminal and civil penalties. Florida, Georgia, and Texas introduced bills that would empower partisan poll watchers at the expense of election workers. These bills have the double-pronged effect of threatening election officials and increasing the risk of partisan sabotage of election outcomes. (See Appendix 1, exhibit 3.)

Election officials have reported many instances of partisan actors [attempting to interfere](#) with the conduct of the election and pressuring officials to favor candidates of a particular party. The most well-known and flagrant instance of this was when President Trump pressured Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger to “find 11,780 votes...because we won the state” in a [recorded phone call](#). Raffensperger refused to do this, and the legislature removed him as Chair of the State Board of Elections. In Nevada, the Republican Secretary of State was [censured by her own party](#) for telling the truth: that the 2020 election in Nevada was free and fair.