

## ***Voting 2020: Iran may be behind 'Proud Boy' emails; early voters could outpace Election Day ballots***

*John Bacon - USA TODAY*

*US. authorities are blaming Iranian hackers for threatening emails claiming to be linked to the far-right, authoritarian group Proud Boys that were sent to voters in Florida, Pennsylvania and other states.*

*The emails threatened to "come after" voters who didn't vote for President Donald Trump. Director of National Intelligence John Ratcliffe said late Wednesday that voter registration information had been obtained by Iran and by Russia in an attempt to undermine confidence in the 2020 election.*

*Also Wednesday, the Supreme Court blocked a trial judge's ruling that would have allowed Alabama counties to offer curbside voting, in which a voter completes a ballot and gives it to a poll worker who inserts it into a tabulation machine.*

*The system, allowed in some states, accommodates voters with disabilities and those at high-risk from COVID-19. (For the latest news on the coronavirus pandemic, you can follow our Thursday updates.)*



*Provided by USA TODAY DNI John Ratcliffe warns of election interference by Iran and Russia, urges caution*

***Some context:*** *Many court battles over state voting rules continue across the nation. The pandemic has prompted a record number of Americans to vote by mail and created concerns thousands of ballots could be rejected for a variety of technical reasons. An anxious country may have to wait weeks for election results.*

***More news to keep in mind:*** *We're less than two weeks until Election Day. USA TODAY is keeping track of what's happening as voters around the country cast ballots. Keep refreshing this page for updates.*

*An era of polarized politics and a losing party's refusal to acquiesce, although legally meaningless, could lead to civil unrest.*

*Voter turnout for this election could reach the highest rate in more than a century as early voting smashes records.*

*A global election monitoring group, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, will be deployed across the U.S. for this election.*

***If you want to go in-depth:*** *Over the summer, Americans gathered in momentous numbers to protest racial injustice amid the COVID-19 pandemic that disproportionately affected Black people. Some protesters say the movement shows the importance of voting. Others say voting access has been a cudgel of their oppression. [Read more.](#)*

***Voters have already been casting ballots:*** *Numbers compiled by [@electproject](#) show at least 44 million have voted. In other numbers, [the Guardian reports](#) that more than 17% of registered voters in swing states have had their mail-in ballots accepted. USA TODAY's politics team has the latest [updates from the campaign trail here.](#)*

***Advocacy group:*** *Trumpers intimidated New Mexico voters in some areas New Mexico Common Cause says caravans of flag-waving supporters of President Donald Trump appeared to obstruct and intimidate voters at two polling sites in predominantly Latino neighborhoods in the Albuquerque area last weekend.*

*Executive Director Heather Ferguson said the incidents took place on the first day of balloting at voter convenience centers in the South Valley and western reaches of Albuquerque on Central Avenue. Ferguson estimated that dozens of potential voters in each location left without voting immediately as a result of the incidents before authorities interceded.*

*"Voters felt like they had to run the gauntlet trying to get to the polling station," Ferguson said. "Many of them saw what was going on and just turned their vehicles around and left."*

### ***Iran, Russia obtained voter registration information***

*Iran and Russia obtained U.S. voter registration information in an attempt to [undermine confidence in the 2020 election](#), Director of National Intelligence John Ratcliffe said.*

*Ratcliffe said Iran sought to sow unrest in the U.S. in an attempt to damage the candidacy of President Donald Trump. He also said that Russia has obtained voter information just as the Kremlin had done in when it interfered in the 2016 election.*

*"These actions are desperate attempts by desperate adversaries," Ratcliffe said. "We will not tolerate foreign interference in our election."*

### ***Early ballots will outnumber Election Day votes***

*For the first time in election history, more people [are expected to vote early than on Election Day](#). With less than two weeks until the election, voter turnout nationally is already nearing 30% of the overall 138.8 million people who voted four years ago.*

*If voters on Election Day turn out as expected, the U.S. could have the highest percentage of eligible voters actually vote since 1908, according to Michael McDonald, associate professor of political science at the University of Florida, who manages the United States Elections Project.*

*Several states changed laws from four years ago to either offer or expand early voting, and more people are taking advantage of it, particularly voting by mail, amid the [coronavirus pandemic](#).*

*States have also gotten better at reporting their daily vote tallies.*

*Joey Garrison*