



BRILLIANT MINDS COLLECTIVE

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Brilliant Minds Collective: What is Voter Intimidation and How to Report It

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New York, NY – On the eve of the 2022 mid-term elections, the Brilliant Minds Collective wants to share with you important information regarding voter intimidation.

What is Voter Intimidation?

Voter intimidation is illegal behavior where someone attempts to pressure you to either vote for a particular candidate during an election or not vote at all. According to 18 U.S.C. § 594 - U.S. Code, voter intimidation occurs when someone “intimidates, threatens, coerces, or attempts to intimidate, threaten, or coerce, any other person for the purpose of interfering with the right of such other person to vote or to vote as he may choose, or of causing such other person to vote for, or not to vote for, any candidate for the office...”

What are some examples?

- Obstructing polling places
- Using threatening language in or near a polling place
- Harassing people who are in line to vote
- Questioning voters or hindering them in anyway
- Inquiring about political views, citizenship status, or criminal history
- Deploying bogus or deceptive signage
- Disseminating misinformation about what is necessary to vote and the process.

What should you do if you experience voter intimidation or see it taking place?



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The first thing you should do is contact a poll worker. Make sure you describe the behavior you experienced or witnessed. You can reach out to the Elections Commissioner and your state's Board of Elections. You should also report the situation using the Election Protection Hotline: 1-866-OUR-VOTE (or 1-888-VE-Y-VOTA if you speak Spanish).