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When the U.S. House in March 2019 passed far-reaching ethics legislation to expand voter registration, a date that presidential candidates release their tax returns, end partisan gerrymandering, and address all-dollar donations to candidates, New Jersey Rep. Jeff Van Drew cosponsored the bill and voted yes.

"This reform bill will leap out of Washington, restore our democracy, and promote bipartisanship," Van Drew said at the time. "We need to restore our democracy to a government of the people, by the people, and for the people."

When the House passed a near-identical bill last month after the first one failed in the Senate, Van Drew voted no.

"We were warned for years about the rise of socialism," Van Drew said on the House floor. "Here it is served on a platter, using your money to pay for politicians' salaries."

"This bill puts Washington, D.C., in charge of our states' elections and how those elections are run."

The bill hadn't changed Van Drew's views of it, along with his party affiliation. He was a cosponsor when he was a Democrat, and vehemently opposed it after switching parties to become a Republican.

Van Drew, who represents New Jersey's congressional district, also reversed course on legislation to expand background checks for gun purchases, to allow doctors to raise in the courtroom legally, and to ban discrimination against LGBTQ Americans.

These were among the top legislative priorities of the newly elected House Democratic majority in 2019, and Van Drew opposed every one.

"There is a difference between bills that you vote on and bills that you cosponsor," said John Froojia, executive director of the William H. Hughes Center for Public Policy at Stony Brook University.

"Sometimes you have to take one for the team and vote for a bill that you may not completely agree with."

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Even this year, Va Drew was one of only three Republicans Smith and Fitzpatrick were the others to co-sponsor legislative equal pay for women. In 2019, Va Drew co-sponsored the bill as a Democrat and Smith was the only GOP lawmaker whose name was on the legislative .

But his South Jersey district was one of only two in the state where Trump received more than 50% of the vote Smith's was the other . That helped him repeal a well-financed hedge from educator Andy Kennedy of the iconic Democratic political family one of the nation's hottest congressionals.

After the election, Va Drew joined failed efforts by a majority of House Republicans and supported Trump's bogus claims of voter fraud by asking the U.S. Supreme Court to throw out millions of votes and overturn the presidential election. TOP VTS: 8 P B T H F : 0 1 1 5 B 5 y, ped F F V F . . . 5 F F : 1 F B % A T T %

