



The American
Civil
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Union



Voting
Integrity
Institute

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ACRU Election Integrity Bulletin

LEAD STORY

Securing the Vote: How Efforts to Prevent Fraud, and Voting Rights, Collide

Part 2 of a 3-part series in the *Christian Science Monitor*—A federal judge in Miami is currently examining whether Brenda Snipes, Broward County’s supervisor of elections, is adequately maintaining the registration list in her county. A lawsuit filed by a conservative election integrity group, the American Civil Rights Union (ACRU), charges that Dr. Snipes has embraced a lenient approach to list maintenance that violates guidelines set in federal law. In its litigation in Broward County, lawyers for the ACRU are hoping that a pending ruling by the federal judge in their case will help establish an enforceable national standard for voter roll maintenance. In a five-day trial last summer, ACRU lawyers charged that the county’s voter list maintenance procedures were ineffective or nonexistent. They say they are not trying to get eligible voters kicked off the rolls. Their goal is not disenfranchisement but reasonable enforcement, they say.

<https://www.csmonitor.com/USA/Politics/2017/11/08/Securing-the-vote-How-efforts-to-prevent-fraud-and-voting-rights-collide>

FEDERAL

Supreme Court Postpones Hearing in Case that Could Have Significant Implications for Voter Fraud

The U.S. Supreme Court postponed a hearing originally scheduled for last Wednesday on a potential landmark case regarding Ohio’s policy of purging its voter

registration rolls of people no longer living in the state—and people no longer living, period. An adverse ruling would have a national impact on election integrity, said Ohio Secretary of State Jon Husted. “The consequences nationally are that it will make it harder for states to properly maintain their voter rolls,” Husted told *The Daily Signal*. “Since I became secretary of state, we’ve removed 600,000 deceased voters from the rolls, 1.7 million duplicate registrations, we’ve cross-checked with other states to make sure that people don’t vote more than once. “So, everything we are trying to do to clean up the voter rolls would be harmed, based on a negative outcome of this case.”

<http://dailysignal.com/2017/11/08/supreme-court-postpones-hearing-in-case-with-significant-implications-for-voter-fraud/>

PILF intervenes in Indiana Voting Case Involving Use of Crosscheck Program to Clean Up Voter Rolls

The Public Interest Legal Foundation (PILF) filed a motion to intervene in defense of Indiana’s participation in the Interstate Voter Registration Crosscheck program designed to remove outdated and relocated voter records. PILF argues that the plaintiff’s misleading claims are wrong that the State hastily removes voters after individuals with matching names and birthdates are found registered in other states.

<https://publicinterestlegal.org/blog/pilf-intervention-defends-indianas-use-voter-roll-crosscheck/>

(more)

STATES**Minnesota: Mayoral Candidate 'Involved' in Vote Fraud Investigation, Police Say**

City police said they received a report of alleged voter fraud involving St. Paul City Council member Dai Thao, who lost his bid for mayor last Tuesday. The case was forwarded to the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office for investigation to avoid any conflicts of interest.

<http://www.startribune.com/st-paul-mayoral-candidate-dai-thao-involved-in-voter-fraud-investigation-police-say/456228783/>

Missouri: Man Accused of Voting in Two Counties

A man is facing charges after prosecutors said he voted in two separate counties in two elections. Lee Arthur Orr, 68, is charged with a class one election offense. According to court documents, Orr registered to vote in Wyandotte County in 2011 and later registered in Jackson County, as well. On Nov. 4, 2014, Orr allegedly cast votes in both counties. He's also accused of casting an early voter ballot in Wyandotte County on Nov. 5, 2016 and then later voting at a Jackson County polling location on Nov. 8, 2016.

<http://www.kshb.com/news/local-news/man-accused-of-voting-in-both-wyandotte-jackson-county-elections>

New Hampshire: Editorial: Right Man for the Job: Fitch Investigates Vote Fraud

Enforcing New Hampshire's election laws is as important as passing new ones. For years, New Hampshire has let cases of voter fraud go unanswered. The state's weak residency requirements essentially let out-of-state voters pick up New Hampshire ballots on the honor system. State officials claimed they lacked the resources to follow up on voter fraud allegations. In this year's budget, Gov. Chris Sununu and the Legislature dedicated half a million dollars for election law enforcement. Secretary of State Bill Gardner has brought on veteran attorney Orville "Bud" Fitch to head up that effort. He is the right choice to track down the 900 questionable ballots cast in the 2016 election from addresses that are no longer valid. Some of these first-time voters may have moved. Others may never have

lived here. Hundreds more may have voted in more than one district. Fitch will do the legwork to determine if voters who registered at the polls without ID were actually eligible to vote. He would then refer cases of suspected voter fraud to the AG's office for prosecution.

<http://www.unionleader.com/article/20171109/OPINION01/171109274>

Pennsylvania: Fraud Charges Filed over Contested North Philly Election

Four election staff members who oversaw the heavily contested special election in the 197th District are now named in criminal allegations of voter fraud. Wallace Hill, 60, Calvin Mattox, 52, Thurman George, 57, and Dolores Shaw, 61, are Democrats who oversaw the voting at Esperanza Health Center at Kensington and Allegheny avenues during the March 21 special election for the 197th District's state representative—an election in which no Democrat was on the ballot.

<https://www.metro.us/news/local-news/philadelphia/fraud-charges-filed-over-contested-north-philly-election#.WgN18hb8BJo.twitter>

REDISTRICTING**Commentary: How Dems May Use Election Wins to Re-draw Voting Districts**

Although the next redistricting process will not occur for another four years, what happened in elections throughout the country this week will have a significant impact. The governors, state legislators, mayors, and city council members elected this year will play a major role in drawing district lines—and thus setting the course for American democracy.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-douglas-redistricting-commentary/commentary-how-dems-may-use-election-wins-to-re-draw-voter-districts-idUSKBN1D82ZC>

(more)

Justices Order Pennsylvania Redistricting Lawsuit to Proceed

A state-level challenge to how congressional districts were drawn by Republicans six years ago will proceed on a compressed schedule, a closely divided Pennsylvania Supreme Court ruled on Thursday. The Supreme Court's 4-3 decision overturned a lower court judge's ruling last month that had put the dispute on hold. The order said the case "involves issues of immediate public importance" and gave Commonwealth Court only until Dec. 31 to issue findings of fact and legal conclusions. Senate President Pro Tempore Joe Scarnati and House Speaker Mike Turzai, the top-ranking Republicans in the Legislature, sought the delay, arguing that a pending U.S. Supreme Court case should be resolved first. "Although disappointed by today's decision, the plaintiffs have not prevailed on anything but the right to be heard," said Drew Crompton, a veteran Senate lawyer who is Scarnati's chief aide. "Sen. Scarnati will defend the constitutional 2011 maps in Commonwealth Court and federal court over the next months. I continue to be stunned by the judiciary speed in light of the fact that it took six years for the plaintiffs to file these suits."

<https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/pennsylvania/articles/2017-11-09/justices-order-pennsylvania-redistricting-lawsuit-to-proceed>

North Carolina: Senate Gears Up on Judicial Redistricting

Experts raised questions last Wednesday about the constitutionality not only of proposed new judicial districts in North Carolina, but the state's current ones as well. Years of inattention, preceded by decades of political tinkering, left the districts that North Carolina uses to elect judges with unbalanced populations in faster-growing urban areas. That opens them to constitutional attack, a pair of attorneys with a long history in state government told state senators gathered to discuss controversial judicial reforms.

<http://www.wral.com/nc-senate-gears-up-on-judicial-redistricting/17100863/>