



August 14, 2017

# ACRU Election Integrity Bulletin

## FEDERAL

### ACRU Asks Supreme Court to Uphold Strong Voter Roll List Maintenance in States

The Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals was wrong to strike down Ohio's voter roll cleanup policy, a brief filed at the U.S. Supreme Court by the American Civil Rights Union argues.

<http://www.votingintegrityinstitute.org/husted-v-a-philip-randolph-institute/>

### DOJ Reverses Obama-Era Decision, Supports Ohio Policies to Clean Up Voter Rolls

The U.S. Department of Justice has reversed an Obama-era decision that attempted to curtail the Ohio government's efforts to clean up voting rolls. Justice Department lawyers under the Trump administration determined that the National Voter Registration Act does not prohibit rules such as those used in Ohio to remove thousands of inactive voters from the state's voting rolls, the *Washington Times* reported.

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2017/aug/8/justice-dept-supports-ohios-rules-purging-its-vote/>

### DOJ: Stolen Identification Docs Sold to Illegal Aliens and Used in Voter

Six people have been charged in Boston federal court for the buying and selling of false identification documents. The documents were subsequently used in some cases to allow for fraudulent voter registration.

<http://freebeacon.com/issues/doj-stolen-identification-docs-sold-to-illegal-aliens-and-used-in-voter-fraud/>

### Ghost Voters: 3.5 Million More People Are on U.S. Election Rolls than Are Eligible to Vote

Some 3.5 million more people are registered to vote in the U.S. than are alive among America's adult citizens. Such staggering inaccuracy is an engraved invitation to voter fraud. Judicial Watch's state-by-state results yielded 462 counties where the registration rate exceeded 100 percent. There were 3,551,760 more people registered to vote than adult U.S. citizens who inhabit these counties.

<http://www.nationalreview.com/article/450413/election-fraud-registered-voters-outnumber-eligible-voters-462-counties>

### Some Maryland Cities Think It's Okay to Let Illegal Immigrants Vote

College Park, Md., has proposed giving illegal immigrants the right to vote in municipal elections. A recently drafted charter resolution would, if approved, remove U.S. citizenship as a requirement for voting in local elections. College Park would be the largest municipality in Maryland to adopt such a law; ten other towns and cities in Prince George and Montgomery Counties already allow illegal aliens to vote in local elections. *The Baltimore Sun* reports that the trend is picking up steam.

<http://www.nationalreview.com/corner/450417/maryland-illegal-immigration-and-voting>

## **National Review: Initiated under Obama, a Plan for Cleaning Voter Rolls Is Now ‘Radical’**

The Department of Justice is supporting Ohio in its attempts to keep its voter rolls accurate and up to date. Federal law requires states to do so under the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA). Over at the *Washington Post*, Sari Horwitz highlights the supposedly “radical change in philosophy from the previous Justice Department.” But look at the history of federal enforcement of the NVRA: It was under Obama that the Justice Department changed its position on the law, something you would never know from reading the *Post* story.

<http://www.nationalreview.com/article/450439/voter-fraud-prevention-registered-voters-duplicate-voters-purge-rolls-obama-justice-department>

## **Rasmussen: Most Still See Voter Fraud as Serious Problem**

A new *Rasmussen Reports* national telephone and online survey finds that 54% of Likely U.S. Voters say voter fraud is at least a somewhat serious problem in America today, with 27% who say it’s a Very Serious problem.

[http://m.rasmussenreports.com/public\\_content/politics/general\\_politics/august\\_2017/most\\_still\\_see\\_voter\\_fraud\\_as\\_serious\\_problem](http://m.rasmussenreports.com/public_content/politics/general_politics/august_2017/most_still_see_voter_fraud_as_serious_problem)

## **College Student Gets 100 days in Slammer for Registering Dead Voters for Dems**

A Virginia college student was sentenced to 100 days incarceration for submitting fraudulent voter registration forms listing the names of dead people and other faulty information for a political organization connected to the Democratic Party. Andrew J. Spieles, 21, was sentenced in federal court for knowingly transferring false Virginia voter registration forms during the 2016 election, according to the Justice Department.

<http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2017/08/10/college-student-gets-100-days-in-slammer-for-registering-dead-voters-for-dems.amp.html>

## **LEGISLATION**

### **Texas Governor Abbott Signs Bill Tackling Mail-in Ballot Fraud**

Gov. Greg Abbott has signed into law a bill that will increase penalties for people who commit election crimes related to mail-in ballots. “It is a primary function of government to protect citizens’ right to vote, and I will not allow the integrity of the ballot box to be compromised in Texas,” Abbott said in a written statement Friday afternoon. “As attorney general, I prosecuted countless cases of mail-in ballot fraud, and yet this problem continues to persist.” <https://www.dallasnews.com/news/politics/2017/08/11/bill-tackling-mail-ballot-fraud-headed-governors-desk>

## **REDISTRICTING**

### **ACRU Files Brief with the Supreme Court in Partisan Gerrymandering Case**

A federal court in Wisconsin, in striking down a state redistricting plan, upset the existing constitutional balance between the federal government and the states, the ACRU argued in a brief submitted in *Gill v. Whitford* on August 4 to the U.S. Supreme Court. <http://www.votingintegrityinstitute.org/gill-v-whitford/>

### **Dem Redistricting Group Clocks \$10.8 Million in First 6 Months**

The National Democratic Redistricting Committee, the group backed by former President Barack Obama and chaired by former Attorney General Eric Holder to make Democrats competitive in redistricting fights, will finish July reporting \$10.8 million. That money is split between its various entities: a federal PAC, plus 501c3 and 501c4 entities that house much of its structural work. Democrats are hoping that the group will be able to coordinate efforts between activists and interest groups in prioritized state legislative and governor’s races for the next round of redistricting

after the 2020 census, as well as being the home of legal challenges on the state level and at the Supreme Court.

<http://www.politico.com/story/2017/07/31/democratic-redistricting-fundraising-obama-241154>

## **North Carolina Redistricting Criteria Call for Partisan Maps, No Consideration of Race**

Map makers can use election data to achieve political goals as they redraw North Carolina's legislative districts, but they're forbidden from considering voters' race under criteria approved by the House and Senate committees overseeing the process. North Carolina must comply with parts of the federal Voting Rights Act, which is meant to protect minority voters' ability to elect candidates of their choice. It is unclear how new maps will satisfy this point. When asked, Republican leaders repeatedly quoted from a court opinion that not only declared race was the predominant factor in drawing the old maps, but said GOP legislators failed to produce evidence showing they needed to rely on racial data to satisfy VRA requirements.

<http://www.wral.com/redistricting-criteria-call-for-partisan-maps-no-consideration-of-race/16871238/>