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Voting
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Institute

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ACRU Election Integrity Bulletin

FEDERAL

NBC's Hit Piece on Christian Adams, ACRU

“By the time Obama's second term was underway, Adams was acting as a self-appointed watchdog of the nation's elections. Working with the nonprofit American Civil Rights Union, Adams filed his first voter roll maintenance lawsuits in the spring of 2013. He and his colleagues targeted counties they say have bloated rolls, demanding more aggressive voter roll purging. After Adams and his colleagues at the ACRU filed at least nine suits calling for more aggressive purges, some — mostly in smaller counties in Texas and Mississippi — have been settled with consent decrees, in which counties agree to purge their rolls more frequently. While some counties simply agreed to basic voter roll maintenance, others accepted far more aggressive methods. Voting rights advocates fear that counties carrying out aggressive purges under legal duress will push officials to purge eligible voters.”

<https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/donald-trump/vote-fraud-crusader-j-christian-adams-sparks-outrage-n796026>

Ohio Wants to Clean Up Its Voter Rolls. Why Are Democrats So Up in Arms?

Obama couldn't possibly have foreseen the 2016 election of President Donald Trump, but seldom has an election been more consequential. That elections have consequences was further underscored when Trump rightly reversed course on a misinterpretation of a 1993 law by the previous administration. That law, the National Voter Registration Act, reformed the nation's

voter registration process. Having reversed course, the Justice Department is now siding with Ohio in its legitimate efforts to clean up its voter rolls. That would not have happened under President Hillary Clinton, so elections do in fact have consequences.

<http://dailysignal.com/2017/08/24/ohio-wants-to-clean-up-its-voter-rolls-why-are-democrats-so-up-in-arms/>

George Soros Floods Local DA Races with \$1.7M in Philadelphia

George Soros gave nearly \$1.7 million to a political action committee run by his longtime treasurer to aid a Democrat who is running for the district attorney position in Philadelphia, Pa., the latest in a series of such expenditures. Soros has funded a number of district attorney races throughout the United States in recent years via political action committees that tend to shut down after each election. For example, Soros has pushed millions into district attorney races in Florida, Illinois, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, and New Mexico. Soros also single-handedly funded a super PAC in Ohio last year that supported Democratic prosecutors in the state. The committee refunded Soros the remaining money after the election and then shut down.

<http://freebeacon.com/issues/george-soros-floods-local-da-races-1-7m-philadelphia/>

Trump's Voter Fraud Commission to Meet in New Hampshire in September

The Presidential Advisory Commission on Election Integrity, led by Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach and Vice President Mike Pence, will meet at Saint Anselm College in Manchester, N.H., on Sept. 12 at 10

a.m., according to a notice in the *Federal Register*. This will be its second meeting.

<http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/trumps-voter-fraud-commission-to-meet-in-new-hampshire-in-september/article/2632530>

Gardner Invites Schumer to Voter Commission Meeting

New Hampshire Secretary of State Bill Gardner has invited Senate Minority Leader Charles E. Schumer of New York to address President Trump's Advisory Commission on Election Integrity when it meets in New Hampshire next month. The invitation comes days after Schumer, in a national opinion column, called on Trump to disband the commission, saying it was critical in the wake of the racist march on Charlottesville that turned deadly.

<http://www.unionleader.com/politics/Gardner-invites-chief-panel-critic-to-voter-commission-meeting-in-NH-08272017>

STATES

Perjury Penalties Are 'Voter Intimidation,' Obama Judge Rules in Texas Voter ID Case

The six-year saga surrounding Texas' voter ID law added a new chapter when a federal judge again ruled the law discriminatory against minorities. U.S. District Judge Nelva Gonzales Ramos blocked Texas' photo ID law on the grounds that recent reforms providing for those without acceptable documents still do not erase concerns that it discriminates against some voters. Judge Ramos showed particular concern with the perjury provision. The ruling notes that the safety net "trades one obstacle to voting with another—replacing the lack of qualified photo ID with an overreaching affidavit threatening severe penalties for perjury." The court reckoned that building deterrents into the procedure "appear[ed] to be efforts at voter intimidation."

<http://www.breitbart.com/texas/2017/08/24/perjury-penalties-voter-intimidation-obama-judge-rules-texas-voter-id-case/>

Texas to Appeal Voter ID Ruling

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton filed a request with the U.S. District Court in Corpus Christi to stay its permanent injunction against the state's voter ID law, and notified the court that Texas will appeal its decision to the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

<https://empowertexans.com/under-the-dome/texas-appeal-voter-id-ruling/>

Experts: Ruling against Texas Voter ID Headed for Likely Reversal

Hans von Spakovsky, manager of the Election Law Reform Initiative at The Heritage Foundation, predicted the New Orleans-based 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals would reverse the ruling by Obama appointee Nelva Gonzales Ramos. Von Spakovsky said Texas modeled its revised law after the federal Help America Vote Act, enacted following the disputed election of 2000. He suggested that if the Texas statute is unconstitutional, the federal law must be as well.

<https://www.lifezette.com/polizette/experts-obama-judge-ruling-voter-id-headed-reversal/>

Indiana Voter Purge Lawsuit Is Puzzling

An Indiana law, written as an accommodation for a multi-state program that identifies people who change their residence to another state, came under a puzzling legal assault from the Brennan Center for Justice at New York University School of Law. Even though the Interstate Voter Registration Crosscheck system applies to people who have moved away and are no longer eligible to cast a ballot in their previous state, the lawsuit claims Indiana election administration officials cannot purge former residents from voter registration lists without violating the National Voter Registration Act which instructs states to maintain "current" lists, Edward Zuckerman, of *Talk Media News* reports.

<http://www.wbiw.com/state/archive/2017/08/indiana-voter-purge-lawsuit-is-puzzling.php>

Democrats Sue over NH Election Reform

The state Democratic Party and the League of Women Voters have filed separate lawsuits in Hillsborough

County Superior Court to block the election reform law that was passed this spring by a Republican legislative majority and signed into law by Republican Gov. Chris Sununu. The complaint argues that the law, known as Senate Bill 3, violates the state and federal constitutions by unlawfully burdening the fundamental right to vote and denying certain citizens equal protection under the law. The law's supporters described the lawsuit as politically motivated and unlikely to succeed. "This is nothing more than political theatrics," said Sununu. "We are confident the law will be upheld."

<http://www.unionleader.com/state-government/democrats-sue-to-block-nh-crackdown-on-voter-fraud-20170823>

HOMELAND SECURITY

State Election Officials Still in the Dark on Russian Hacking

The federal government has not notified state election officials if their voting systems were targeted by suspected Russian hackers during the 2016 presidential campaign, and the information will likely never be made public, a top state election chief told *Reuters*. The lack of information-sharing on the election breaches reflects the difficulty that state and federal officials have had in working together to protect U.S. voting from cyber threats. All U.S. elections are run by state and local governments, which have varying degrees of technical competence. DHS told Congress in June that 21 states were targeted during the 2016 presidential race, and that while a small number were breached, there was no evidence any votes were manipulated.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-cyber-election-idUSKCN1B5145>

REDISTRICTING

Texas AG Paxton Asks U.S. Supreme Court to Stay Order to Redraw Congressional Map

Attorney General Ken Paxton asked the U.S. Supreme Court to stay a lower court ruling invalidating two of Texas' 36 Congressional districts (27 and 35). Last week's ruling by a three-judge panel of the U.S. District Court in San Antonio prevents Texas from using the same court-adopted maps in 2018 that it has used in each of the last three election cycles. "The maps are lawful and constitutional, and a stay is vital to avoiding unnecessary election confusion while the Supreme Court reviews this case," Attorney General Paxton said. "It is astonishing that the lower court ignored that the maps are the very same ones that the court itself adopted in 2012, and the Obama-era Department of Justice did not bring any claims against the maps. We are confident that the Supreme Court will allow Texas to continue to use the maps used in the last three election cycles."

<https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/news/releases/ag-paxton-asks-u.s.-supreme-court-to-stay-order-to-redraw-texas-congression>

National Review: Define 'Gerrymander' Precisely: The Supreme Court Tackles the Impossible

The Supreme Court should make clear that there is no constitutional mandate for electoral "efficiency" or proportionality of results. Indeed, it may be time for the Court to declare that, at least as long as traditional redistricting principles are respected, claims of political gerrymandering are non-justiciable.

<http://www.nationalreview.com/article/450676/gerrymandering-supreme-court-will-rule-wisconsin-case>