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# ACRU Election Integrity Bulletin

## LEAD STORY

### Pennsylvania Supreme Court Unveils New Redistricting Plan, Advantages Democrats

Republican lawmakers, who have fought the redistricting lawsuit all along, said they will likely sue to stop the plan created by the state Supreme Court. “Implementation of this map would create a constitutional crisis where the Pennsylvania Supreme Court is usurping the authority of the legislative and executive branches. We anticipate further action in federal court,” House Speaker Mike Turzai and Senate President Pro Tem Joe Scarnati said in a joint statement. “This entire exercise, while cloaked in ‘litigation,’ is and has been nothing more than the ultimate partisan gerrymander—one brought about by the Democrat governor acting in concert with liberal politically-connected litigants,” they said.

[http://www.meadvilletribune.com/news/pennsylvania-supreme-court-unveils-new-redistricting-plan/article\\_7fe6389c-15ca-11e8-8386-4b5c714dd4bd.html](http://www.meadvilletribune.com/news/pennsylvania-supreme-court-unveils-new-redistricting-plan/article_7fe6389c-15ca-11e8-8386-4b5c714dd4bd.html)

## FEDERAL

### Department of Homeland Security Pushes Back on *NBC*, ‘No Evidence’ Russians ‘Manipulated’ Elections

The Department of Homeland Security made the rare move Monday to officially discredit an *NBC News* report that claimed a top Trump official found that “Russians successfully penetrated the voter registration rolls of several U.S. states prior to the 2016 presidential election.” In a statement, DHS said

the “breaking news” report was not only wrong and hyped but is also being ripped by other media. In the report, *NBC* interviewed Jeanette Manfra, the head of cybersecurity at the Department of Homeland Security, who said, “We saw a targeting of 21 states and an exceptionally small number of them were actually successfully penetrated.” In the statement, Manfra said, “let me be clear: we have no evidence—old or new—that any votes in the 2016 elections were manipulated by Russian hackers.”

<http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/dhs-pushes-back-on-nbc-no-evidence-russians-manipulated-elections/article/2648823>

### Group with Ties to Obama, Clinton Calls to Restrict Overseas U.S. Military Voting

After years of accusing states of voter suppression, the Center for American Progress, citing election security, wants to make voting tougher for Americans serving overseas in the military. The left-wing public policy group issued a report Monday, “Election Security in All 50 States,” that called for stricter standards to prevent cybermeddling in elections by foreign governments, including banning military stationed abroad from submitting ballots via email or fax. One state that allows such vote casting is Colorado. The center called on the state to “prohibit voters stationed or living overseas from returning voted ballots electronically.”

<https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2018/feb/13/liberal-group-restrict-overseas-military-voting/>

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## California: AG Threatens to Sue If Trump Administration Places Citizenship Question on Census

California Attorney General Xavier Becerra is threatening to sue if the Trump administration includes a question regarding citizenship on the 2020 census.

<http://www.breitbart.com/california/2018/02/13/california-ag-threatens-sue-trump-administration-places-citizenship-question-census/>

## Kansas City Star: What to Wear at Polls? High Court Will Have a Say on That.

A “Make America Great Again” hat. A tea party T-shirt. A MoveOn.org button. Wear any one of those items to vote in Minnesota, and a poll worker will probably ask you to remove it or cover it up. Like a number of states, Minnesota bars voters from wearing political items to the polls to reduce the potential for confrontations or voter intimidation. But that could change. The Supreme Court on Feb. 28 will consider a challenge to the state’s law, in a case that could affect other states, too. Two voters who defied elections officials—one who wore a “Please I.D. Me” button and another who wore both a button and tea party T-shirt—were asked to cover up or remove the items. Both were ultimately allowed to vote wearing the apparel, though their names were taken down for potential prosecution. Andy Cilek, one of the voters confronted by poll workers, called the policy “absurd.”

<https://www.kansascity.com/news/nation-world/article200870624.html>

## Pennsylvania’s Districts Gerrymandered to Favor Democrats

About the Democratic gerrymander map: This map is drawn to maximize the number of districts that usually vote Democratic—seats where a Democrat has greater than a 5-in-6 chance of winning the election.

<https://projects.fivethirtyeight.com/redistricting-maps/pennsylvania/#Dem>

## STATES

### Arkansas: Local Arkansans Vote for 1st Time with New Voter ID Laws

Local Arkansans flocked to the polls for the first time under the state’s new voter ID laws Tuesday. The law states a photo ID is required, but registered voters without an ID are still able to vote. Some say voter ID laws create a barrier, but others like Bill Mcfetridge of Springdale agree with the new law. “I understand that they don’t want to have it tough to vote,” said Mcfetridge. “But I still think there should be some kind of an ID I mean you need an ID to do almost everything.”

<http://www.4029tv.com/article/local-arkansans-hit-polls-for-first-time-under-new-voter-id-laws/17806056>

### New Mexico: Local Officials Indicted for Voter Fraud

A grand jury indicted Laura Seeds, the wife of city councilor and mayoral candidate Robert Seeds, on 13 charges of voter fraud, including two counts of making false statements relative to the municipal election code, conspiracy to violate the municipal election code and 10 counts of unlawful possession of an absentee ballot in a municipal election.

[http://www.riograndesun.com/news/seeds-herrera-indicted-for-voter-fraud/article\\_245e76d4-1281-11e8-aa2e-f31b47fb60e7.html](http://www.riograndesun.com/news/seeds-herrera-indicted-for-voter-fraud/article_245e76d4-1281-11e8-aa2e-f31b47fb60e7.html)

### Texas: Suspicious Mail Ballots Trigger Midterm Voter Fraud Fears in Dallas County, Say Officials

With a primary election a few weeks away, Dallas County officials say they already received suspicious mail-in ballots, triggering election integrity vigilance in the wake of last year’s voter fraud scandal engulfing two city council races. It led to hundreds of sequestered ballots, one arrest, and a state law to squash such illegal activity.

<http://www.breitbart.com/texas/2018/02/15/suspicious-mail-ballots-trigger-midterm-voter-fraud-fears-dallas-county-say-officials/>

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## Texas: Court Hears Challenge of Texas' Judicial Elections System

A federal judge is hearing arguments on whether Texas' statewide elections to choose judges for its highest criminal and civil courts violate the Voting Rights Act by deliberately diluting Hispanic voting power. A coalition of Hispanic and civil rights advocates has sued and is seeking single-member districts for the Court of Criminal Appeals and Supreme Court. Similar systems are used by some city councils.

[https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/texas/articles/2018-02-12/court-hears-challenge-of-texas-judicial-elections-system?src=usn\\_tv](https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/texas/articles/2018-02-12/court-hears-challenge-of-texas-judicial-elections-system?src=usn_tv)

## Texas: Voter Fraud Gaining More Attention in Valley

A few arrests have been made out of Starr County. The district attorney's office is examining the county voter rolls and is looking for people who voted illegally. The DA's concerns include mail-in ballot application fraud, unlawful influencing of voters and illegal voting by non-residents and non-citizens. The attention of voter fraud is also being felt across the state. Attorney General Ken Paxton sent a letter to Senator Bryan Hughes, the chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Election Integrity, addressing a significant voter fraud initiative. Paxton expresses the need for additional potential measures to address mail-in ballot fraud.

<http://www.krgv.com/story/37540388/voter-fraud-gaining-more-attention-in-valley>

## REDISTRICTING

## Arizona: Senate President to Amend Redistricting Commission Overhaul

A raft of changes is coming to a Republican-led effort to overhaul the Arizona commission responsible for redrawing the state's congressional and legislative district boundaries.

<https://azcapitoltimes.com/news/2018/02/19/senate-president-to-amend-redistricting-commission-overhaul/>

## Pennsylvania: Top Court Redraws Voting Map in Boost to Democrats

Pennsylvania's top court on Monday unveiled a new map carving out the state's U.S. congressional voting districts, imposing a plan it said was based on "traditional criteria" after rejecting a proposal drawn up by Republican lawmakers as unconstitutional. The court-imposed plan could help Democrats who want to gain control of the U.S. Congress in the November midterm elections. State Republican leaders condemned the new map, saying the court was usurping the powers of the legislative and executive branches.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-politics-pennsylvania/pennsylvania-top-court-redraws-voting-map-in-boost-to-democrats-idUSKCN1G3225>

## Virginia: Former Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe to Travel Country on Redistricting Effort

Former Virginia governor Terry McAuliffe, a potential 2020 Democratic presidential candidate, says he plans to barnstorm 20 states this year to help Democrats win greater control of state legislative maps. McAuliffe's travel comes in his new role as the state engagement chair of the National Democratic Redistricting Committee, a group he helped found with former president Barack Obama, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) and former attorney general Eric H. Holder Jr. The group's mission, backed by a \$30 million budget, is to eliminate Republican control of the redistricting process after the 2020 Census. McAuliffe plans to hold public events, help provide legal counsel and work with local officials in gubernatorial, state legislative and ballot campaigns.

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/former-virginia-governor-terry-mcauliffe-to-travel-country-on-redistricting-effort/2018/02/15/cb424286-1282-11e8-9065-e55346f6de81\\_story.html?utm\\_term=.d18d4acdeaa5](https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/former-virginia-governor-terry-mcauliffe-to-travel-country-on-redistricting-effort/2018/02/15/cb424286-1282-11e8-9065-e55346f6de81_story.html?utm_term=.d18d4acdeaa5)