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# ACRU Election Integrity Bulletin

## LEAD STORY

### Trump Again Urges Pennsylvania GOP to Appeal New Congressional Map

President Trump urged Pennsylvania Republicans for the second time to appeal a court's redrawing of the state's congressional map to the U.S. Supreme Court, blasting "Democrat judges" who designed the new map. The president took to Twitter to urge Republicans in the Keystone State to appeal a new congressional map that increases Democrats' electoral strength in several districts currently held by Republicans. "Democrat judges have totally redrawn election lines in the great State of Pennsylvania," Trump wrote. "This is very unfair to Republicans and to our country as a whole. Must be appealed to the United States Supreme Court ASAP!"

<http://thehill.com/homenews/administration/375449-trump-again-urges-pennsylvania-republicans-to-appeal-congressional>

## FEDERAL

### Minnesota Voting Case to Be Heard by Supreme Court

During the 2012 election people wearing shirts from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology were flagged in Florida and Colorado because poll workers thought the acronym, MIT, could be seen as supporting GOP presidential nominee Mitt Romney. "The amount of political clothing that is available now days is endless," said David Breemer, senior counsel for the Pacific Legal Foundation, which is defending Mr. Cilek. "You're really silencing the vast amount of

speech." States' goal is to keep polling places from turning into free-for-all partisan battle zones, with campaigns engaged in sign fights, chant wars and the like.

<https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2018/feb/25/minnesota-voting-case-to-be-heard-by-supreme-court/>

### WSJ: Pennsylvania's Redistricting Coup—Democratic Judges Decide They Can Redraw Election Lines.

Political chaos has broken out in Pennsylvania after the state's high court last week redrew the congressional map for this year's midterm elections. Behold our future judicial overlords if the U.S. Supreme Court rules that partisan gerrymanders are unconstitutional. Last month a 5-2 liberal majority of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court struck down, with unvarnished political hubris, the congressional map adopted by the GOP legislature way back in 2011. The districts "clearly, plainly and palpably violate our state Constitution"...

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/pennsylvanias-redistricting-coup-1519170870>

### Holder, Obama Redistricting Group Targets State Races

A group chaired by former Attorney General Eric Holder Jr. is targeting 12 states in the 2018 election—and Wisconsin is one of them. The National Democratic Redistricting Committee says the Wisconsin races for governor and state senate are critical. This is the first cycle where officials elected will serve in the redistricting process that begins in 2021, following the 2020 census. The NDRC, as "the only entity looking at the electoral map through the lens of redistricting," is spotlighting the elections most

important for adjusting the balance of the power in the redistricting process. The group is focused on nine gubernatorial races, 20 legislative chambers, two ballot initiatives and two “down-ballot” races. States in NDRC’s focus for 2018 include Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia and Wisconsin. NDRC is “watching” races in another eight states.

[http://www.wisconsinjournal.com/news/redistricting-group-targets-state-races/article\\_2fa52672-17fa-11e8-8165-939d343a0a3e.html](http://www.wisconsinjournal.com/news/redistricting-group-targets-state-races/article_2fa52672-17fa-11e8-8165-939d343a0a3e.html)

## STATES

### Alabama: Civil Rights Groups Appeal Alabama Voter ID Ruling

Civil rights groups are again challenging a federal judge’s ruling that an Alabama law requiring a government-issued photo ID for voting is not discriminatory. Legal counsel for the Alabama NAACP, Greater Birmingham Ministries and minority voters filed an appeal in the U.S. district court in northern Alabama. Alabama Secretary of State John Merrill said the law was intended to combat voter fraud and increase turnout. He said voters could get the ID at any registrar during regular business hours or request the mobile service. “If they will show me one person who does not have photo ID or who can’t vote, I will send someone to their house today that will help them be registered to vote,” Merrill said. “That’s why we had the voter ID lawsuit dismissed.”

[https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/alabama/articles/2018-02-22/civil-rights-groups-appeal-alabama-voter-id-ruling?src=usn\\_tw](https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/alabama/articles/2018-02-22/civil-rights-groups-appeal-alabama-voter-id-ruling?src=usn_tw)

### Arkansas: Hearing Set on Voter ID Law Challenge; Mark Martin Defends Law

Circuit Judge Alice Gray has set a hearing March 12 on a lawsuit that asks that she enjoin use of the state’s new voter ID law in the May primary elections. The 2017 legislature tinkered with the language to make the law change appear to apply to voter registration procedures, which are covered in a separate part of the Constitution, but the lawsuit argues that the law still presents a new obstacle to voting, which the Constitution prohibits. The membership of the

Arkansas Supreme Court has changed dramatically since the last ruling, however.

<https://www.arktimes.com/ArkansasBlog/archives/2018/02/24/hearing-set-on-voter-id-law-challenge-mark-martin-defends-law>

### Florida: Hundreds of Fort Lauderdale Voters Had No Say; Their Mailed-In Ballots Arrived Too Late

Nearly 8 percent of those who voted by mail in Fort Lauderdale’s January municipal election didn’t get the say they expected. Their ballots—578 of them—arrived too late to be counted. Election officials say postal delivery has slowed, especially since Broward County’s mail distribution centers were closed in 2012 and 2013. Now all Broward mail is processed in Miami-Dade County. With another round of municipal elections coming March 13, election officials are warning voters to allow plenty of time if they are mailing in their ballots.

<http://www.sun-sentinel.com/local/broward/fl-reg-broward-mail-delays-20180214-story.html>

### New Hampshire: No One Suffered Injuries from Voter Fraud Law

New Hampshire officials on Tuesday urged a judge to dismiss a lawsuit challenging a state law that requires additional documentation from voters who move to the state within 30 days of an election, suggesting it wasn’t harming anyone.

<http://www.nh1.com/politics/nh-politics/state-of-nh-no-one-suffered-injuries-from-voter-fraud-law>

### Texas: Starr County’s Special Crimes Unit Arrested Four More Suspects in an Ongoing Investigation of Voter Fraud in the Rio Grande Valley

South Texas authorities arrested four people for illegally voting in elections in 2016. Robert Caples, commander of Starr County’s Special Crimes Unit, said Rigoberto Vela, Oscar Ivan Peña, Reynaldo Moreno, and Rogelio Garcia are accused of casting ballots while on felony probation. All four were

charged with illegal voting, a second-degree felony. In Texas, felons' voting rights are restored only after they fully complete their punishment, including any incarceration, parole, or probation. The alleged illegal votes were cast in four different elections: the March 2016 Democrat primary, a primary runoff election in May, and municipal elections for the cities of Roma and Escobares.

<https://empowertexans.com/around-texas/voter-fraud-arrests-south-texas/>

## Wyoming: GOP Selects 3 Finalists for Secretary of State

The Wyoming Republican Party selected a former Wyoming Speaker of the House, a local attorney and a Cody farmer as the three finalists for Secretary of State. Torrington's Ed Buchanan, Cheyenne's Darin Smith and Cody's Richard George are all vying to fill the spot left vacant by former Secretary of State Ed Murray. The topic of voter fraud has become more prevalent in recent years as largely Republican states such as Kansas and Wisconsin have passed strict Voter ID laws requiring people to carry a government-issued photo ID to polls.

[https://www.wyomingnews.com/news/local\\_news/wyoming-gop-selects-finalists-for-secretary-of-state/article\\_7c45a4be-19fa-11e8-a423-27077951a288.html](https://www.wyomingnews.com/news/local_news/wyoming-gop-selects-finalists-for-secretary-of-state/article_7c45a4be-19fa-11e8-a423-27077951a288.html)

## REDISTRICTING

## Pennsylvania: Top Republicans Ask U.S. Supreme Court to Block New Map

Republicans have intensified their fight over Pennsylvania's new congressional map, appealing to the nation's highest court and reviving talk of impeaching the state Democratic Supreme Court justices who threw out the old map. Top GOP lawmakers submitted an emergency request to the U.S. Supreme Court on Wednesday, asking the justices to block implementation of the new district boundaries. Meanwhile, national and state Republicans were preparing a separate federal challenge to the map. "The Pennsylvania Supreme Court conspicuously seized the redistricting process and prevented any meaningful ability for the legislature to enact a remedial map to ensure a court

drawn map," they wrote. They noted at one point that the court's majority opinion came out two days before the court-imposed deadline for the legislature to submit a map to the governor. The pair said in a later statement that they are also arguing that the Pennsylvania Supreme Court's actions violated the U.S. Constitution's elections clause "when it legislated from the bench adding new requirements for drawing congressional districts which do not exist in either the Pennsylvania Constitution or the U.S. Constitution."

[www.philly.com/philly/news/pennsylvania-gerrymandering-case-republicans-sue-federal-court-20180221.html](http://www.philly.com/philly/news/pennsylvania-gerrymandering-case-republicans-sue-federal-court-20180221.html)

## Pennsylvania: New Congressional District Map Could Be Challenged by Common Cause, NAACP on Civil Rights Grounds

Micah Sims, executive director of Common Cause Pennsylvania, said his organization and the state NAACP are considering filing suit in federal court to challenge the new map imposed by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court this week. He said it may violate the 1965 Voting Rights Act, which banned obstacles to voting by minorities.

<http://www.philly.com/philly/news/politics/pennsylvania-congressional-district-map-challenge-civil-rights-naACP-common-cause-philadelphia-gerrymandering-20180221.html>