



January 8, 2018

ACRU Election Integrity Bulletin

LEAD STORY

Thielen: End of Voter Fraud Commission Is a Win for the Left, But a Loss for America

So, Democrats have “resisted” the bipartisan efforts, in the fine tradition of the last two presidential election commissions, to study and propose solutions to fix our elections. Sadly, the American people are those who lose the most whenever the liberal election world is “successful.” Every illegal vote cancels out the vote of an American citizen, who has lost the right of self-government due to the political agenda of liberal activists. But the left may lose the war, as their victory may hurt their real goals and make it easier to stop non-citizens from registering and voting. <http://thehill.com/opinion/white-house/367614-end-of-voter-fraud-commission-is-a-win-for-the-left-but-a-loss-for>

FEDERAL

Voter Fraud Commission ‘Being Handed Off’ to DHS, Will No Longer Be ‘Stonewalled’ by Dems

Kansas Secretary of State and gubernatorial candidate Kris Kobach says the Presidential Advisory Commission on Election Integrity will be “handed off” to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to “more effectively” investigate voter fraud without being “stonewalled” by Democrats. In an interview with *Breitbart News*, Kobach said the news that President Trump is dissolving the voter fraud commission should not be grounds for leftist

organizations and Democrats—who sought to stop the investigations into double voting and ballots cast by non-citizens—to celebrate, as the investigations will continue under DHS. Kobach, who served as vice chairman of the voter fraud commission, blasted organizations like the ACLU and NAACP, along with Democrats in Congress and on the commission who attempted to halt the panel in its tracks. “They have absolutely no interest in stopping voter fraud,” Kobach said. “It’s truly extraordinary that one party in our system has made clear that they don’t care.” <http://www.breitbart.com/big-government/2018/01/03/exclusive-kris-kobach-voter-fraud-commission-being-handed-off-to-dhs-will-no-longer-be-stonewalled-by-dems/>

Trump Pushes Need for Voter ID Laws After Dissolving Commission on Voter Integrity

President Trump pushed Americans on Thursday to demand ID at the polls as the solution to voter fraud, a day after dissolving his election integrity commission that he’d formed to investigate his own claims of massive fraud in the 2016 vote. Mr. Trump, taking to Twitter, admitted to a rare defeat, saying Democratic-led states had blocked his commission from getting information, stymying the panel’s work. “They fought hard that the Commission not see their records or methods because they know that many people are voting illegally. System is rigged, must go to Voter I.D.” Mr. Trump tweeted. He has asked the Department of Homeland Security Department to pick up where the commission left off, but it’s unclear what that entails. <https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2018/jan/4/donald-trump-pushes-need-for-voter-id-laws-after-d/>

(more)

DOJ Calling for Citizenship Question to Be Put in 2020 Census: Report

The Justice Department is advocating for the inclusion of a question about citizenship in the 2020 Census, according to a report. The DOJ made the argument to add the inquiry to improve citizenship data and better enforce the Voting Rights Act.

<http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/doj-calling-for-citizenship-question-to-be-put-in-2020-census-report/article/2644617>

STATES

Iowa: Voter ID Law Now in Effect

A new law in Iowa goes into effect on Monday. Voters will now need to show an ID at the polls. A driver's license, military ID, veteran ID, and college ID is acceptable as long as it includes a photo and an expiration date. Anyone who doesn't have an ID will have to sign an oath verifying they are who they say they are before being able to vote. Republicans say the law will help prevent voter fraud, but Democrats say it's just one more step towards making voting more difficult. Last month, the Iowa Secretary of State's Office mailed voter ID cards to approximately 123,000 Iowans.

<http://whotv.com/2018/01/01/voter-id-law-now-in-effect/>

Maine: Gov. LePage Renews Call for Maine Voter ID Laws

Republican Gov. Paul LePage again urged the Maine Legislature to pass new voter identification laws. "It is not a hardship to require an ID for voting," LePage said in his weekly radio address, which was released Friday. "An ID is already required for buying alcohol, for driving a car, for cashing a check, for boarding a plane, for starting a job, for checking into a hotel and for many everyday activities." In his weekly radio address, LePage calls for strong polling place identification, singling out college students, whom he says "should meet the residency requirements."

<http://www.pressherald.com/2018/01/05/lepage-renews-call-for-voter-identification-law/>

Missouri: Secretary of State Ashcroft Wins Dismissal of ACLU's Voter ID Lawsuit

The Cole County Circuit Court handed the people of Missouri a victory in the months-long voter ID lawsuit filed by the ACLU on behalf of the NAACP and League of Women Voters. Judge Jon Beetem granted the Secretary of State's motion to dismiss the lawsuit, denying the ACLU's requests to stop the voter ID law. "Missouri's voter ID law is simple. If you're registered to vote, you can vote," said Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft. The law went into effect June 1, 2017. "The people of Missouri were right, and common sense prevailed," Ashcroft said. "We followed the law, we expanded ballot access and we didn't disenfranchise voters. We applaud the years of work by the state legislature to put this voter ID law on the ballot, and we appreciate the overwhelming support of Missouri voters."

<https://www.sos.mo.gov/default.aspx?PageId=9306>

New Hampshire: N.H. Senate Passes Bill to Redefine 'Residency' for Voting

The latest version of HB372 says that to be considered a resident, for voting or otherwise, someone needs to demonstrate an intent to stay in New Hampshire through all of their actions—they can't just say they plan to be here "for the indefinite future." Supporters, including Sen. Andy Sanborn, a Bedford Republican running for Congress, described it as a move to bring more integrity to the state's elections. "The Secretary of State himself has said we have a trust issue in our state, and we need to fix that, because we need to make sure that every vote counts," Sanborn said.

<http://nhpr.org/post/nh-senate-passes-bill-redefine-residency-voting#stream/0>

(more)

Texas: New Texas Laws For 2018 Include Voter ID.

Mike Ward, Austin bureau chief for the Houston Chronicle says every voter ID law the legislature has tried to pass has ended up in court, and the new law is likely to end up there, as well. “The legislature was trying to fix some technical issues with the old law that are being challenged in court, and that some lower court judges have ruled are problematic,” Ward says. “The basic issue is whether you require photo IDs for everybody, or whether there are certain exceptions, and if so, what those exceptions are.” Ward says the updated law places slightly lighter ID requirements on voters, but that opponents of voter ID laws are likely to continue to mount objections.

<https://www.houstonpublicmedia.org/articles/news/2018/01/02/259393/new-texas-laws-for-2018-voter-id-and-a-lot-of-little-tweaks/>

North Carolina: Judges Hear Arguments on 'Special Master's' Redistricting Maps

The special master in North Carolina’s racial gerrymandering case disputed claims that his proposal to fix problematic election districts in Greensboro and elsewhere relies on preset quotas for black voters.

http://www.journalnow.com/news/elections/state/judges-hear-arguments-on-special-master-s-redistricting-maps/article_66fa48e8-fd42-5103-944a-388e8a3dff05.html

REDISTRICTING

Daily Signal: Eliminating Partisan Redistricting Will Make Politics Worse, Not Better

You can’t take politics out of politics. In different words, that’s what James Madison, the Father of the Constitution, expressed when he wrote Federalist No. 10. Instead of eliminating partisan interests, he called for a constitutional system that would pit ambition against ambition to prevent tyranny, rather than trying to extinguish parties or “factions” altogether. But the age-old desire to create a political system free from rank partisanship threatens to make our governing system worse, not better. Robert D. Loevy, a retired professor and former Colorado redistricting commissioner, wrote in his book “Confessions of a Reapportionment Commissioner” that the independent commission guidelines for fair apportionment were essentially a “sham.” Politicking persisted as parties tried to stack or manipulate the commissions to suit their interests, just as they had used their power to create more favorable districts through gerrymandering. The process just became less apparent on the surface and further out of the view of the public.

<http://dailysignal.com/2017/12/28/eliminating-partisan-redistricting-will-make-politics-worse-not-better/>