



November 27, 2017

ACRU Election Integrity Bulletin

LEAD STORY

NYT: Culling Voter Rolls: Battling Over Who Even Gets to Go to the Polls

Conservative groups and Republican election officials in some states say the poorly maintained rolls invite fraud and meddling by hackers, sap public confidence in elections and make election workers' jobs harder. Voting rights advocates and most Democratic election officials, in turn, say that the benefits are mostly imaginary, and that the purges are intended to reduce the number of minority, poor and young voters, who are disproportionately Democrats. The Public Interest Legal Foundation is one of four conservative advocacy groups that have pursued often-overlapping campaigns to purge voter rolls. Three of the groups—the foundation, Judicial Watch and the American Civil Rights Union—rely on former lawyers in the Justice Department's civil rights division during the George W. Bush administration. The fourth, True the Vote, is an offshoot of a Tea Party group based in Houston. The groups argue that election officials are ignoring a requirement in the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 that a "reasonable effort" be made to cull ineligible voters—the dead, people who have moved, noncitizens and felons whose voting rights are restricted.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/11/25/us/voter-rolls-registration-culling-election.html>

FEDERAL

Appeals Court Skeptical of Privacy-Focused Suit against Trump Election Integrity Panel

An appeals court gave a skeptical reception to a lawsuit claiming that the Presidential Advisory Commission on Election Integrity violated federal law by failing to study the privacy impact of a demand for voter rolls and other personal data on millions of Americans.

<https://www.politico.com/blogs/under-the-radar/2017/11/21/privacy-trump-voter-fraud-panel-258060>

States Spurning Election Commission Show Irregularities in Voter Registration

Many of the states refusing to cooperate with President Donald Trump's election commission aren't in compliance with federal law on maintaining voter registration lists, according to government watchdog groups. So far, 18 states and the District of Columbia have declined or are still considering whether to provide election data to the Presidential Advisory Commission on Election Integrity, established in May to examine and prevent voter fraud, among other concerns.

<http://dailysignal.com/2017/11/22/states-spurning-election-commission-show-irregularities-in-voter-registration/>

(more)

Von Spakovsky and Adams: One Democrat on Trump's Electoral Integrity Commission Is Misleading the Public with Complaints about Its Work

We are saddened that Maine Secretary of State Matt Dunlap, our colleague on the Presidential Advisory Commission on Election Integrity, has filed a widely-reported complaint against the commission. Even more dismaying, his complaint and statements to the press contain inaccurate information and outright falsehoods. It seems intended to inhibit, if not outright sabotage, the commission's valuable work of examining our voter registration and election system to recommend improvements that will ensure electoral integrity. In the suit, Dunlap states that he has been "blocked from receiving Commission documents" and hasn't been allowed "substantive participation." This is simply untrue. He also claims that a majority of the commission members "have a history of working to restrict access to the ballot box." This statement is false, defamatory, and hardly conducive to promoting a productive, bipartisan inquiry into an important topic.

<http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/one-democrat-on-trumps-electoral-integrity-commission-is-misleading-the-public-with-complaints-about-its-work/article/2641268>

STATES

Alabama: City Disturbed by Reports of Voter Fraud

At least 32 illegal voters may have thrown off the results of the recent Phenix City Council District 2 election, according to a police investigation. The city clerk's office released the official complaint of dozens of voters illegally registered at business addresses instead of their homes. Phenix City Police Chief Ray Smith says his investigation has already confirmed at least 32 incorrectly registered voters, but his office is already looking into 20 more.

<http://wrbl.com/2017/11/21/phenix-city-council-disturbed-by-reports-of-voter-fraud/>

Georgia: Councilwoman Accuses Atlanta Mayor of Widespread Vote Fraud in 2009 Contest

Atlanta Councilwoman Mary Norwood raised new questions about her narrow 2009 defeat to Mayor Kasim Reed as she readies for a Dec. 5 runoff for the city's top job. In June remarks to the Buckhead Young Republicans that were obtained by *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, Norwood accuses Reed of widespread voter fraud, including "late night fluffing" of vote counts and encouraging former city residents who rely on government assistance to cast ballots.

<http://www.ajc.com/news/state--regional-govt--politics/ajc-exclusive-norwood-accuses-reed-widespread-voter-fraud-2009-contest/ni18X40T8cT6XSEI0KUOGO/>

Idaho: Grand Jury Indicts Idaho Man for Voter Fraud

A grand jury found on Nov. 21 that Richard Floyd Farley Jr. submitted a voter registration that he knew was false. The indictment says Farley voted on Nov. 8, but he failed to reveal that he was legally disqualified from voting because he's on felony probation.

<https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/crime/grand-jury-indicts-idaho-man-for-voter-fraud/>

Illinois: State to Remain in Interstate Crosscheck Voter Database after Elections Board Vote

Sangamon County Clerk Don Gray said the Crosscheck system has been useful for his election authority. As to concerns Crosscheck is removing voters from the rolls, Gray said that's not the case in Illinois. "We take the additional measure in Sangamon to default down to our voter verification program, more commonly known as Show Cause or purge process, that we're required to by Illinois statute," Gray said. All of Illinois' neighbors are members of Crosscheck with the exception of Wisconsin, which is a member of ERIC. But Crosscheck has come under fire for not being secure. The company has said it is in the process of updating its database protocols with enhanced security. Illinois State Board of Elections member Charles Scholz motioned to withdraw from Crosscheck during the board's monthly meeting "because of my concern about the security of our voter file as used by other jurisdictions and the concerns about

false positives being misused in other jurisdictions.” The vote failed on a 4 to 4 tie, meaning Illinois remains in Crosscheck.

https://www.ilnews.org/news/state_politics/illinois-remains-in-interstate-crosscheck-voter-database-after-elections-board/article_5bb181c6-ce25-11e7-8323-c32605d08a7e.html

Ohio: An Illegal Vote from Noncitizen Means Probation

An Austintown man who voted despite lacking U.S. citizenship pleaded guilty to attempted illegal voting and received one year’s probation. Konstantinos Mouzos, 69, faced two felony counts of illegal voting, which could have resulted in up to two years in prison and the possible revocation of his legal status. The Mahoning County Board of Elections had a record of Mouzos voting in the 2016 general election. Mouzos possesses a green card, which grants him legal permanent residency, but he cannot vote. Prosecutors dismissed one count of illegal voting and reduced the other to attempted illegal voting, a misdemeanor, in exchange for the plea.

<http://www.vindy.com/news/2017/nov/23/man-pleads-guilty-to-illegal-voting/?mobile>

Wisconsin: Eau Claire Woman Charged with Vote Fraud

A 36-year-old Eau Claire woman who voted in the Nov. 8 presidential election is accused of election fraud by providing false information to an election official. Jamie L. Sammons was charged with the felony this week in Eau Claire County Court. As a felon under supervision by the state, she was not eligible to vote in the Nov. 8 elections. “Sometimes someone slips through the cracks,” Elections Commission spokesman Reid Magney said. In mid-July, state officials referred 79 individuals to district attorneys in 28 of Wisconsin’s 72 counties, according to information provided by Magney. In west-central Wisconsin, the names of three people—one each in Buffalo, Eau Claire and St. Croix counties—were referred. Referrals don’t always result in charges, Magney said. It’s up to district attorney’s offices or law enforcement agencies to investigate all information before charges are filed. “I would say felon voting is by far the largest category of voter fraud, election fraud in Wisconsin,” Magney said. “It far outnumbers double voting, things like that.”

<http://www.leadertelegram.com/News/Front-Page/2017/11/22/Eau-Claire-woman-charged-with-vote-fraud.html>

REDISTRICTING

Democrats Focused on Next Round of Redistricting

Democrats say part of the reason they don’t control the U.S. House and trail so badly in state legislatures is because the GOP did a masterful job the last time around in drawing districts tailored to Republicans. Flipping that script ahead of the next round of redistricting, after the 2020 census, is a major focus for Democrats. And it’s a particular passion for former President Barack Obama and former Attorney General Eric H. Holder Jr., who have launched the National Democratic Redistricting Committee to make more voters aware that redistricting will shape the next decade of politics. “I think there is a focus on this issue now that there was not before, and I think very frankly that is as a result of our existence and the fact that we have pushed this issue out there,” Mr. Holder said recently on *Politico’s* “Off Message” podcast. “I think people will be looking in 2021 at the redistricting process in a way they did not in 2011.”

<https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2017/nov/26/democrats-focused-on-next-round-of-redistricting/>

North Carolina Redistricting Debate Intensifies as Deadline Nears

With Guilford County once again in their cross hairs, the two sides accused each other in newly filed paperwork of political calculation and hypocrisy in their efforts to reshape the legislative redistricting process that the courts say should have ended seven years ago. The outcome depends on a panel of three federal judges in the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of North Carolina who recently appointed a “special master” to fix remaining flaws in state House and Senate electoral districts that the legislators redrew this summer under court order.

http://www.greensboro.com/news/government/redistricting-debate-intensifies-as-deadline-nears/article_e02c1869-dead-5365-8878-830a19d3a7cf.html