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ACRU Election Integrity Bulletin

LEAD STORY

***Christian Science Monitor* on Broward: Securing the Vote—Could Henny Nelson, Age 131, Help Russia Rig an Election?**

The voter rolls of Broward County in the swing state of Florida are bloated with deceased and other dormant voters, making them an enticing target for Russian hackers or anyone else intent on manipulating American elections. Election officials in Florida have apparently tapped into the regenerative powers of Ponce de León's fabled Fountain of Youth. The proof is available on voter rolls in Broward County. Among those on the official list of registered voters is Henny M. Nelson, age 131.

So is Lillian E. Nicoletti of Davie, at 128 years old. And Sophie C. Golub of Sunrise, 118. The oldest known living person on Earth is believed to be 117. So, something truly remarkable must be afoot in the voting precincts of Broward County. Lawyers for a conservative election integrity group say there is a more plausible explanation: Broward's voting rolls are bloated with deceased voters, duplicate registrations, and people who moved away long ago without notifying the elections office. In a court case in Miami, officials with the American Civil Rights Union charge that the county's supervisor of elections is violating a federal law that requires the county to maintain "accurate and current" voter rolls.

<https://www.csmonitor.com/USA/Politics/2017/1103/Securing-the-vote-Could-Henny-Nelson-age-131-help-Russia-rig-an-election>

FEDERAL

Trump Voter Fraud Panel Member Fights Back against Critics

A prominent member of President Trump's election fraud commission is battling back against "absurd" accusations that the panel is trying to suppress the vote. In a sit-down interview with *The Hill*, Hans von Spakovsky dismissed criticism from liberals who say the committee's main objective is not to stop voter fraud, but to make it harder for some Americans—particularly minorities—to cast a ballot.

"I actually find it amusing when critics say 'Oh, well, the purpose of this commission is voter suppression.' Well, that's such B.S. because, look, this is an advisory commission. It has no executive authority of any kind," he said. "The only thing we can do is write a report that makes recommendations and then it's up to the states or Congress to do something about it. The idea this is somehow going to keep you from voting is absurd," he said. Von Spakovsky denies that the panel is alleging massive voter fraud. "We don't have massive voter fraud, but we do have voter fraud," he said. "And the question is, to what extent does it occur and what steps can we take to stop it, and where could it make the difference in a close election?"

<http://thehill.com/business-a-lobbying/358107-trump-voter-fraud-panel-member-fights-back-against-critics#>

STATES**Massachusetts: State Ended Participation in Crosscheck Voter Fraud System in March**

Massachusetts in March quietly ended its participation in a program that's designed to detect duplicate voter registrations. The secretary of state's office confirmed the move to WBUR after we inquired about the state's participation in the Interstate Voter Registration Crosscheck Program, following conflicting reports from the ACLU and others. A spokesperson says Massachusetts voter data was deleted from Crosscheck's files in March 2017. The voter fraud detection program is run by Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach. It was started by Kansas and three other states in 2005. Crosscheck is designed to detect potential duplicate registrations by comparing voter rolls in participating states.

<http://www.wbur.org/radioboston/2017/11/03/massachusetts-crosscheck-system>

Maryland: Debate over Noncitizen Voting Has Upended College Park Elections

The council narrowly voted in September to allow noncitizens to vote—realizing only belatedly that such a change needed a supermajority. Days after the 4-3 vote, with one abstention, Mayor Patrick Wojahn announced—“with considerable embarrassment and regret”—that the controversial measure would have needed at least six votes to pass. “It was a divisive debate,” said Wojahn, who was elected in 2015, supported the amendment to allow noncitizens to vote and is running for a second two-year term. “It is tabled for now.” Council member Mary C. Cook, who opposed allowing noncitizens to vote, said she had not planned to seek office again but now is challenging Wojahn in his bid for reelection because her constituents feel so strongly about the voting issue. “It wasn't my intention to run for office this term, but I had a number of people ask me to do so,” Cook said. “It has turned into a grass-roots movement spurred by the issue of noncitizen voting.”

https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/md-politics/debate-over-noncitizen-voting-has-upended-college-park-elections/2017/11/03/7548937c-c015-11e7-959c-fe2b598d8c00_story.html

New Jersey: Atlantic City Mayor Don Guardian Alleges Widespread Vote Fraud

Atlantic City Mayor Don Guardian claims that the city's mayoral race was being hijacked by a plan to pay homeless people for votes and intimidate others into voting for his Democratic opponents. Standing in front of the Atlantic County Clerk's office, which he said had been overrun with fraudulent requests, Guardian blamed former Atlantic City Councilman Craig Callaway, who he claims is paying for messengers to obtain ballots that are then filled out for Democrats. Other residents have been threatened, Guardian said.

http://www.pressofatlanticcity.com/politics/atlantic-city-mayor-don-guardian-alleges-widespread-voter-fraud/article_1c31439b-f1d1-5081-ade4-a3ca7becd000.html

Pennsylvania: Nursing Home Resident's Son Says 'That's Voter Fraud'

Nicholas Corrato estimated that his mother hadn't voted in at least 30 years because she never wanted to get called for jury duty. Philadelphia election officials say they have no record that she was ever registered to vote in the city. This spring, Corrato's streak was broken. On April 17, the last day to register before the May primary, she became a registered voter in Delaware County, at St. Francis' address in Darby Borough, just over the Southwest Philadelphia border. Minutes later, an application for an absentee ballot was submitted on her behalf for the Democratic primary, according to the election bureau time stamp. Corrato's signature is missing from both forms. She has insisted to her son that she didn't vote and that no one asked her about registering. “There wasn't a signature. There was just an X,” said Nicholas Corrato, who has power of attorney for his mother. “She was either coerced or someone else put an x for her name.” “That's voter fraud,” Corrato, 67, a retired salesman, said in his home near 19th and Oregon Streets.

<http://www.philly.com/philly/news/vote-fraud-election-seniors-pennsylvania-20171103.html?mobi=true>

REDISTRICTING**Assembly Speaker Confronted Kasich over Wisconsin Redistricting Position**

During a meeting of national statehouse leaders in Columbus, Ohio, Gov. John Kasich “got into a tussle” with Assembly Speaker Robin Vos after the Republican from Rochester brought up the U.S. Supreme Court case involving redistricting in Wisconsin, *New York Magazine* said. According to the report, Vos “amicably” approached Kasich, who is also a Republican, during the meeting and then swore at him for supporting the challenge to Wisconsin’s legislative districts, which opponents say unfairly benefit GOP candidates. “They had a heated exchange in which Vos accused Kasich of betraying his party,” the report said.

http://host.madison.com/wsj/news/local/govt-and-politics/report-robin-vos-confronted-john-kasich-over-wisconsin-redistricting-position/article_6252e787-d7b2-5bc5-baf0-36341816abcb.html

Supreme Court Rejects Bid to Halt Pennsylvania Redistricting Lawsuit

The U.S. Supreme Court has declined to put on ice a federal lawsuit challenging Pennsylvania’s congressional districts approved after the 2010 census. Justice Samuel Alito rejected the requested stay of the lawsuit by five Pennsylvania voters against the governor and elections officials, a court official said Saturday. Republican leaders in Pennsylvania’s General Assembly had said in the request that a trial in the case could occur in about a month, as the justices are considering a Wisconsin gerrymandering case with what they call “substantively identical claims.”

<http://www.yorkdispatch.com/story/news/local/pennsylvania/2017/11/04/supreme-court-rejects-bid-halt-redistricting-lawsuit/107353138/>

North Carolina: Judges Appoint Redistricting Expert, Reject GOP Objections

A federal court announced it will go through with plans to hire an outside expert to redraw several North Carolina legislative districts, rejecting arguments by Republican lawmakers that they should get another crack at fixing House and Senate lines.

<http://abc11.com/politics/judges-appoint-redistricting-expert-reject-nc-gop-objections/2593420/>