



October 2, 2017

ACRU Election Integrity Bulletin

FEDERAL

Wisconsin Voter-ID Study Has Statistical Flaws and Mistaken Assumptions

Media and scholars push a narrative that is not supported by the survey data. In the survey, among those who did respond, the main reason cited for not voting was that they were “unhappy with choice of candidates or issues” (33 percent chose this). After that, other reasons for not voting include being ill, out of town, not interested, otherwise occupied, or believing that their vote did not matter. Only 1.7 percent of respondents believed that they did not have an adequate photo ID, and 1.4 percent claimed to have actually been turned away at the polling place (which might have been related to ID). Put another way, the main reason for not voting cited by somewhere between 95 and 98 percent of the respondents was unrelated to the voter-ID law.

<http://www.nationalreview.com/article/451968/wisconsin-voter-id-study-flawed-unreliable>

Russia Didn't Hack Our Voting System, California Election Official Says

California's top election official has rebutted a federal claim that hackers targeted the state's elections infrastructure, one day after Wisconsin also cast doubt on the Department of Homeland Security's warnings.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-politics/russia-hacking-us-election-voting-systems-did-not-happen-california-a7970976.html>

Texas Official Denies State Was Target of Russia Hacking

A week after the U.S. Department of Homeland Security identified 21 states that were targeted by Russian government hackers before the 2016 presidential election, a top Texas official is disputing that the state belongs on that list.

<https://www.texastribune.org/2017/09/29/texas-denies-it-was-target-election-related-hacking/>

Von Spakovsky: The Electoral College: A Safeguard for Stable Elections

The Electoral College is a very carefully considered structure the Framers of the Constitution set up to balance the competing interests of large and small states. It prevents candidates from winning an election by focusing only on high-population urban centers (the big cities), ignoring smaller states and the more rural areas of the country — the places that progressives and media elites consider flyover country. The College forces candidates to seek the support of a larger cross-section of the American electorate — to win a series of regional elections. The Framers' fears of a "tyranny of the majority" is still very relevant today. One can see its importance in the fact that despite Hillary Clinton's national popular vote total, she won only about a sixth of the counties nationwide, with her support limited mostly to urban areas on both coasts.

<http://www.sacbee.com/news/news-services/article176069706.html>

SCOTUS Dispute over Ballot Integrity Divides Red States, Blue States

Some 30 states have weighed in on a Supreme Court dispute involving Ohio's ballot integrity law, which critics claim was crafted to remove traditionally Democratic constituencies from state voter rolls and afford Republicans a registration advantage. Twelve primarily Democratic states and the District of Columbia filed an amicus brief urging the Court to rule that Ohio's program violates the National Voter Registration Act. A separate coalition of 17 primarily red states filed a brief defending the law, which resembles ballot integrity measures adopted by other states.

http://dailycaller.com/2017/09/26/scotus-dispute-over-ballot-integrity-divides-red-states-blue-states/?utm_source=site-share

STATES

Georgia: Alleged Voter Recruitment Hijinks Are No Joke

It hardly seems unreasonable to ask, given recent events, whether the New Georgia Project, a nonprofit founded three years ago under the leadership of House Minority Leader and now Democratic gubernatorial candidate Stacey Abrams, is the Wells Fargo of voter registration. The venerable American financial giant, as is now widely known, sullied its long-respected brand by, among other things, pressuring employees to bring in as many new accounts as they could — a disastrous business plan that resulted in thousands of fraudulent bank and credit accounts being created in the names of people who didn't even know those accounts existed, and whose credit was put at risk as a result.

A similar kind of pressure might well have been at work in voter recruitment drives in 2014 and 2016.

<http://www.ledger-enquirer.com/opinion/article176190041.html>

Georgia: Editorial: 'An Open Door to Voter Fraud'

It turns out that Republican leaders, including President Trump, who have been concerned about voter fraud may have been right. And the problem of corrupted voter lists may be a problem in Georgia, including the Savannah area, contrary to denials and protestations by state election officials.

<http://savannahnow.com/opinion/editorial/2017-09-26/editorial-open-door-voter-fraud>

Iowa: PILF Claims Voter Rolls Flawed

The Iowa Secretary of State's Office is disputing the findings of an organization that claims 31 Iowa counties have more registered voters than voting-age adults. The Public Interest Legal Foundation (PILF) announced that 248 counties in 24 states had "bloated voter rolls." PILF claimed that 31 Iowa counties had bloated rolls, including Fremont and Cass Counties. The organization's website says Fremont percentage of registered voters compared to voting-age adults is 113 percent.

http://www.nonpareilonline.com/news/politics/group-claims-voter-rolls-flawed/article_e761c7e8-a572-11e7-9867-1b98d219b793.html

Rhode Island: Former Candidate Files Complaint over Voter Registration System

Former Republican gubernatorial candidate Ken Block has accused the state Board of Elections of violating federal election law by failing to collect personal data about some newly registered voters. He made his concerns known in a letter to the U.S. Department of Justice and shared the allegations with several media outlets, including Rhode Island Public Radio. According to a federal law adopted in 2002, states must require drivers' license numbers or the last four digits of a social security number when registering new voters. Block alleges that Rhode Island hasn't always collected that information since a rule change in 2008.

<http://ripr.org/post/former-candidate-files-complaint-over-ri-voter-registration#stream/0>

REDISTRICTING**Michael Barone: To Limit Gerrymandering, Supreme Court Needs Just to Affirm Equal Population Requirement**

This week, the Supreme Court will hear oral arguments in *Gill v. Whitford*, challenging Wisconsin's legislative district lines as an unconstitutional Republican gerrymander. It's attracted attention because many high-minded commentators have blamed partisan gerrymandering for today's highly polarized politics — and for the fact that Republicans have won majorities in 67 of 98 state legislatures and in 10 of the last 12 elections in the U.S. House of Representatives. Actually, as I and others have argued, gerrymandering has contributed only marginally to Republicans' success. More important is demographic clustering. Democratic voters are heavily clustered in central cities, sympathetic suburbs and university towns, while Republican voters are more evenly spread around. The Wisconsin Democrats want to require districting plans to compensate for this clustering, presumably by drawing long tentacles out from central cities through suburbs to countryside. That strategy, followed by Democratic redistricters in Maryland and Illinois, has produced the nation's most grotesquely shaped congressional districts.

<http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/michael-barone-to-limit-gerrymandering-supreme-court-needs-just-to-affirm-equal-population-requirement/article/2635864>