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ACRU Election Integrity Bulletin

LEAD STORY

How the Left Is Trying to Take Back Power through the Courts — Podcast from the Erick Erickson Show

John Ryder is the chair of the Republican National Lawyers Association. Erick Erickson interviewed him about the Left's latest strategy for taking back power, i.e. getting the Supreme Court to involve itself in partisan gerrymandering. In Georgia and elsewhere, Eric Holder and liberals are pushing supposedly neutral mathematical arguments to try to give liberal judges the power to impose partisan redistricting on the nation.

<https://www.spreaker.com/user/ewerickson/john-ryder-interview-10-16-17-1-55-pm>

FEDERAL

CIA Director: Russian Meddling 'Did Not Affect Outcome of Election'

CIA Director Mike Pompeo contested allegations that Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election skewed results. He made the remarks last Thursday before the Foundation for Defense of Democracies. "The intelligence community's assessment is that the Russian meddling that took place did not affect the outcome of the election," Pompeo flatly declared, adding that he could not think of anything more important for the U.S. intelligence community to do than ensure the integrity of elections. Pompeo's speech echoes the assessment of a January report from

the U.S. intelligence community that, "that the types of systems Russian actors targeted or compromised were not involved in vote tallying."

<http://dailycaller.com/2017/10/19/cia-director-russian-meddling-did-not-affect-outcome-of-election/>

Former President Carter: The Russians Did Not Steal Election from Clinton

"I don't think there's any evidence that what the Russians did changed enough votes, or any votes," former President Jimmy Carter told the *New York Times* in an interview.

<http://thehill.com/blogs/blog-briefing-room/news/356634-jimmy-carter-russians-didnt-steal-election-from-hillary-clinton>

Columnist: Truth Catches Up with the Effort to Abolish the Electoral College

Hillary Clinton's call to eliminate the Electoral College has been widely reported, but less attention has been given to a former member of her husband's presidential administration. Robert Reich, who supports the National Popular Vote Initiative, recently urged listeners to "resist Donald Trump," but also to "make sure our democracy doesn't ever again elect a candidate who loses the popular vote." He surely wishes that were true. But it's not. NPV does not create a magical solution where "it's done," never to be dealt with again. To the contrary, states will be able to pop in and out of the contract.

<http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/truth-catches-up-with-the-effort-to-abolish-the-electoral-college/article/2637915>

STATES**Illinois: Plea Deal Possible in Vote Fraud Case**

A plea agreement offer is expected next week for a Vigo County official accused of living in Illinois but voting in Indiana. Jerome D. Kesler was arrested in June on the Class D felony charge. He is charged with two counts of voting outside precinct of residence, both Class D felonies, following an investigation by the Indiana State Police.

http://www.tribstar.com/news/local_news/plea-deal-possible-in-voter-fraud-case/article_365ff284-48a3-58fb-9cfc-97790b1af819.html

Missouri: Noncitizen Sentenced for Identity Theft and Voter Fraud

Kevin Kunlay Williams, also known as Kunlay Sodipo, a Nigerian citizen who resides in St. Louis, was sentenced to 78 months in prison for mail fraud, aggravated identity theft, voter fraud and re-entering the U.S. after being removed, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Missouri. In 2012, he registered to vote in federal, state and local elections by falsely claiming that he was a citizen, prosecutors said. Williams voted in the 2012 and 2016 presidential elections, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office.

<https://www.bizjournals.com/stlouis/news/2017/10/20/man-sentenced-to-prison-for-12-million-tax-refund.html>

Texas: Challenge to Voter ID Law Should Be Over, AG Argues

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton filed a brief with the U.S. Court of Appeals calling for the judges to end a challenge to the state's new voter ID law for good. In his 101-page document, the Republican argued that because the state has already added new exceptions to the law to allow people who have a reasonable impediment to getting an ID to still vote, the case should be officially concluded.

<http://www.chron.com/news/politics/texas/article/Challenge-to-Texas-voter-ID-law-should-be-over-12286321.php>

REDISTRICTING**Texas: AG Asks U.S. Supreme Court to Take Up Congressional Redistricting Case**

Attorney General Ken Paxton filed a brief asking the U.S. Supreme Court to hear Texas' congressional redistricting case and correct a U.S. District Court ruling from August that invalidated two of the state's 36 congressional seats. Last month, the high court blocked the lower court's ruling and allowed Texas to continue to use the existing maps in the 2018 elections, for which candidate filing begins next month. In a separate ruling last month, the U.S. Supreme Court also blocked a lower court ruling that invalidated nine of Texas' 150 House seats. Paxton indicated he plans soon to ask the high court to take up that redistricting case.

<https://easttexasreview.com/ag-paxton-asks-u-s-supreme-court-take-texas-congressional-redistricting-case/>

Jay Cost in *Weekly Standard*: The Junk Science at the Heart of the Gerrymandering Case

One can, of course, argue that we should alter our system of representation in this way. Our approach to democracy may indeed be outdated. Maybe Europe has a better way. However, such changes are properly left to the people. If some state legislatures want to bind themselves in their redistricting efforts by some version of efficiency-gap analysis, more power to them. The Supreme Court, though, should not impose such a sweeping alteration by judicial fiat. Moreover, it should not pretend to be engaging in some neutral application of bulletproof social science findings. To be certain, the efficiency gap is an interesting and useful metric. ... the question is whether the efficiency gap should acquire the force of law. The answer is no. The Court should not allow itself to be tempted into a sweeping change in our system of representation. Justice Kennedy has long been looking for a workable standard to adjudicate claims of partisan gerrymandering. The efficiency gap, as ingenious as it may be, is simply not good enough.

<http://www.weeklystandard.com/the-junk-science-at-the-heart-of-the-gerrymandering-case/article/2010102#.Wec7YxRIHU8.twitter>

Eric Holder's Plan to Gerrymander America

Former Attorney General Eric Holder is riddled with scandal from the Obama administration, but that won't stop him from pushing a far-left agenda — and possibly even from making a presidential run in 2020. Holder has his fingers in the upcoming congressional redistricting pie, and if he has his way, he'll replace what he considers to be fake Republican “gerrymandering” with real Democratic gerrymandering — with disastrous results.

<https://capitalresearch.org/article/eric-holders-plan-to-gerrymander-america/>