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Voting
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Institute

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ACRU Election Integrity Bulletin

LEAD STORY

ACRU Tells Judge that Broward County Needs to Trim Its Voting Lists

The voter rolls in Broward County include thousands of people who probably aren't eligible to vote. Elections supervisor Brenda Snipes acknowledges that. But Snipes says her office is doing everything required by law to maintain the list. A nonprofit group — the American Civil Rights Union — insists she needs to do more. The conservative-leaning organization sued Snipes as part of a larger national effort to remove dead people, convicted felons, non-citizens and non-residents from registration lists. Those names, the ACRU says, increase the chances of voter fraud. The two sides now have filed their final recommendations to U.S. District Court Judge Beth Bloom, whose decision could influence practices across the country.

<http://www.sun-sentinel.com/local/broward/fl-sb-broward-election-registration-problems-20171024-story.html>

FEDERAL

Committee on House Administration Holds Hearing on State Voter Registration List Maintenance

Following the hearing, Chairman Gregg Harper (R-MS) said: “Every election in this country should be conducted in a fair and open manner. Voter registration list maintenance is each state’s responsibility, and the federal government partners with the states to help provide appropriate access of federal databases to further

list maintenance efforts. Today, our Committee heard from witnesses on how state and local election officials are working to strengthen the accuracy of voter registration lists. Maintaining accurate registration lists increases voter confidence, eases the administration of elections, reduces wait times, and helps prevent voter fraud and irregularity.” The hearing can be watched at the link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KEefJSSB2UY>

Electoral College Isn't in Constitution, DNC Chairman Asserts

In a lecture at Indiana University Law School, Tom Perez, a lawyer who chairs the Democratic National Committee, said, “The Electoral College is not a creation of the Constitution. It doesn't have to be there.” Perez, who was secretary of labor during President Barack Obama's second term and is a former assistant U.S. attorney general for civil rights. He asserted that the national popular vote should be the principal standard. Article II of the Constitution, however, clearly outlines the electoral process, dictating that states must appoint electors who meet and vote for the president.

<http://dailysignal.com/2017/10/27/dnc-chairman-falsely-claims-electoral-college-isnt-in-constitution/>

Michael Thielen: Accurate Voter Registration Lists Prevent Problems, Delays

Enabling fraud is not the only problem with messy voter registration rolls. Inaccurate rolls also create the opportunity for honest mistakes that negatively impact the voting process. They contribute to long lines and congestion at the polling place. Voters are also frustrated when they show up at the polling place not properly

registered in the correct precinct. Logistically, inaccurate rolls require states and localities to waste money on ballots, poll workers, and other Election Day resources for ghost voters who do not exist or moved years ago.

<http://dailycaller.com/2017/10/26/accurate-voter-registration-lists-are-essential-to-election-integrity/>

Tara Ross: How the Electoral College Helps Protect Against Voter Fraud

No election system can turn dishonest people into honest ones. Where people are vying for power, there will always be motivation for fraud. The best that an election system can do is to throw up as many hurdles as possible to dishonesty and to minimize its effects. The Electoral College accomplishes both of these goals far better than a direct national election can. With the Electoral College in place, an election cannot be stolen unless a few factors come together simultaneously. First, at the national level, the election needs to be close enough that altering the results in only one or two states would change the outcome. Second, the margins in those contested states must also be very close. Such elections are fairly rare.

<http://dailysignal.com/2017/10/26/electoral-college-helps-protect-voter-fraud/>

STATES

California: Mexican Man Charged with Using Fake ID, Voting in Several Elections

A Mexican man living in Sacramento is accused of using a dead man's identity for 25 years and illegally voting in five elections. A federal grand jury indicted 62-year-old Gustavo Araujo Lerma for passport fraud, identity theft, conspiracy to commit unlawful procurement of citizenship and illegal voting. Federal prosecutors say that for over a quarter of a century, he used passports in the name of "Hiram Enrique Velez," a U.S. citizen who has died. Authorities claim he voted in numerous federal, state and local elections and used the false identity to obtain residency and then citizenship for his wife.

<http://www.kolotv.com/content/news/California-Mexican-man-charged-with-using-fake-ID-voting-in-elections-453481733.html>

Kentucky: Fired Elections Staffer Alleges Grimes Improperly Gathered Voter Data

The recently fired assistant to the director of the State Board of Elections alleged in a letter to some members of the board that the office of Secretary of State Alison Lundergan Grimes improperly gathered voter information from the state's voter registration system during campaigns.

<http://www.kentucky.com/news/politics-government/article180856371.html#storylink=cpy>

Illinois: Expert Says Illinois Should Stay in Voter Database Program

An effort to persuade Illinois officials to remove the state from a large voter database is unwise, an elections expert says. The Interstate Voters Registration Crosscheck Program is designed to prevent voter fraud by cleaning voter rolls of duplicate registrations. Twenty-eight states in the U.S. provide their data and the program looks for matches. Hans von Spakovsky is manager of the Election Law Reform Initiative at the Heritage Foundation and is a former member of the Federal Election Commission. He says it makes no sense to pull out of the program. "This is a system in which states compare their statewide voter registration lists in order to find people who are registered in more than one state," Spakovsky said. "So the only reason to get out of the program is if you don't want people getting caught illegally voting in more than one state."

https://www.ilnews.org/news/statewide/elections-expert-illinois-should-stay-in-voter-database-program-to/article_03518fbc-bb2e-11e7-9854-a3b79fd6d3a9.html

Michigan: Allegations of Voter Fraud in Hamtramck Lead to Police Raids

While no one has been arrested in the case, Michigan State Police performed a raid on a business owned by a man running for council in the city. The police wouldn't disclose why they decided to raid Nayeem Choudhury's business but the police blotter in Hamtramck shows they did the same kind of thing earlier on claims of election fraud.

<http://www.fox2detroit.com/news/local-news/allegations-of-voter-fraud-in-hamtramck-lead-to-police-raids>

Maine: Ranked-Choice Voting Delayed until 2021

It looks like ranked-choice voting (RCV) isn't going to happen in Maine, at least for several years. Voters decided in November of last year to adopt the voting method but the state's Supreme Court has said part of the RCV law is unconstitutional. Many Republicans wanted RCV repealed, while others wanted it delayed beyond the next election. The state Senate passed a plan to delay the effective date of RCV until 2021 to give supporters time to attempt to change the Maine Constitution. However, under that plan, if the constitution is not changed by 2021, RCV would simply go away, and never be implemented. Because a constitutional amendment requires a two-thirds vote of the full Legislature, lawmakers have said an RCV amendment could not pass in the current political atmosphere in Augusta.

<http://www.wcsh6.com/news/politics/loose-ends-bring-legislature-back-for-special-session/485282422>

Pennsylvania: Legislature Probes Finding of 'Hundreds' of Noncitizen Voters

The Pennsylvania House State Government Committee convened a hearing after a series of revelations indicating "hundreds" of alien residents were found registered to vote and casting ballots. The chief election officer for the State abruptly and silently resigned after the latest study into the matter.

<http://www.breitbart.com/texas/2017/10/25/pennsylvania-probes-hundreds-noncitizen-voters-found-full-scale-unclear/>

REDISTRICTING

Eric Holder's Group Pumps Big Money into Close Virginia Governor's Race

A Democratic group led by former Attorney General Eric Holder is pumping another \$250,000 into the Virginia governor's race, which, with two weeks left, is widely seen as the most important election of the year. The funds bring total spending in the race to \$1 million by the National Democratic Redistricting Committee, which was established this year when former President

Barack Obama tapped Holder to coordinate Democrats' redistricting efforts ahead of the 2020 Census. The NDRC has spent the past year fundraising and putting the pieces together in preparation for what it's hoping will be a very active presence in the courts and on the campaign trail in 2018 and beyond — with some action in Virginia and New Jersey races this year — with the goal of changing the redistricting process to reverse the existing Republican tilt of maps in many states. The results could significantly reshape the makeup of the House, as well as state legislatures.

<https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/elections/eric-holder-group-pumps-big-money-close-virginia-governor-s-n814801>

Obama's Army (Organizing for Action) Enlists in Redistricting Fight

Organizing for Action, the progressive group born out of Barack Obama's old campaign apparatus, is joining the redistricting effort that Obama has made a central cause of his post-presidency. OFA officially launched a partnership with the National Democratic Redistricting Committee, chaired by former Attorney General Eric Holder.

<https://www.politico.com/story/2017/10/23/obama-redistricting-fight-244049>