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ACRU Election Integrity Bulletin

FEDERAL

Voter Group Puts 248 Counties on Notice over Bloated Voter Rolls

The Public Interest Legal Foundation is warning nearly 250 counties that they could face a lawsuit over bloated voter rolls, after their own analysis released Monday found they have more people registered to vote than could theoretically be eligible. New York City's big counties are on the list, with New York County — also known as Manhattan — listing 54 percent more names on its voter rolls than the total number of people of voting age, according to Census Bureau figures. The other boroughs also made this PILF list this year, as did San Diego in California. All told, some 248 total counties spanning 24 states were getting warnings for having bloated voter rolls in the 2016 election, PILF said. That's up from 144 counties across 21 states warned after the 2014 election.

https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2017/sep/25/voter-group-puts-248-counties-notice-over-bloated-/?utm_campaign=shareaholic&utm_medium=twitter&utm_source=socialnetwork

DHS Authority over State Elections at Stake in October Meeting

The Department of Homeland Security and election officials from around the country are expected to meet in October to begin working toward an understanding of what authority DHS has over the country's election systems since it designated those systems as "critical infrastructure."

<http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/dhs-authority-over-state-elections-at-stake-in-october-meeting/article/2635183>

ELECTORAL COLLEGE

Politico Columnists Attack Electoral College as a National Security Threat

"Hamilton and his colleagues never could have envisioned a year like 2016, when an enemy state — Russia — was able to manipulate America's election process with stunning effectiveness. But it's clear the national security rationale for the Electoral College is outdated and therefore it should be retired. Simply put, it enables foreign powers to more easily pierce the very shield Hamilton imagined it would be. In Hamilton's day, as he argued, it would have been nearly impossible for a hostile power to co-opt dozens of briefly chosen electors flung across 13 states with primitive roads. But in the social media age, the Electoral College system provides ripe microtargeting grounds for foreign actors who intend to sabotage presidential elections via information and disinformation campaigns, as well as by hacking our voting infrastructure."

<http://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2017/09/20/electoral-college-threat-national-security-215626>

Jake Curtis: Defending the Electoral College, and Federalism, Is Crucial to Our Republic

"The practical benefits of the Electoral College as we know it today have been well established by the small cadre of its defenders, including the Oklahoma Council of Public Affairs' Trent England; Tara Ross, author of *Enlightened Democracy: The Case for the Electoral College*; Louisiana State University Law School's John Baker; and the Heritage Foundation's Hans von Spakovsky. Unfortunately, none of us has million-dollar

budgets to wine and dine devotees. Instead, we speak to local chapters of the Federalist Society, law school classes, rotary clubs, and liberty-minded grassroots groups.”

<http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/defending-the-electoral-college-and-federalism-is-crucial-to-our-republic/article/2635188>

STATES

Georgia: Voter Probe Offers Justification for Integrity Measures

Georgia’s Elections Board has referred 53 cases of allegedly forged voter applications to the state’s Attorney General for prosecution, the result of a three-year probe into a 2014 voter registration drive by the progressive New Georgia Project. While the board said it found no evidence of an organized conspiracy by the New Georgia Project, it does suspect that the 53 fraudulent voter registration forms were completed by some of the 25 paid canvassers the organization hired during its voter registration drive.

<http://www.lifezette.com/polizette/georgia-voter-probe-offers-justification-for-integrity-measures/>

Kentucky: Secretary of State Rejects Claim that Kentucky Has More Registered Voters than Adults

An activist group claims 41 Kentucky counties have more registered voters than adults living there. The Indiana-based Public Interest Legal Foundation (PILF) is requesting some voter information from counties around the nation, including in Kentucky, which it said ranks worst in the nation. Secretary of State Alison Lundergan Grimes strongly rejects the claim. "It's a blatant attempt to try to grab an unfounded headline," Grimes said. "We want voters to have confidence in this process." She said PILF used outdated, inexact census data in its claim. "It is an estimate, and any comparison to our state rolls is just inaccurate and unfounded," Grimes said. Statewide there are around 80,000 more adults than registered voters.

<http://www.wave3.com/story/36450623/secretary-of-state-rejects-claim-kentucky-has-more-registered-voters-than-adults>

Pennsylvania: Hundreds of Illegal Voters Revealed in Philadelphia

According to a Philadelphia elections official, hundreds of individuals who are not U.S. citizens have registered to vote in Philadelphia and nearly half of them voted in past elections. Since 2006, 317 registered voters have contacted the City Commissioners, which oversees Philadelphia elections, asking that their registrations be canceled because they are not citizens. Philly.com reported that many of them registered while either applying for or renewing their driver’s licenses. All applicants were offered the option to register to vote even after providing documentation to DMV officials that although they were in the country legally, they were not citizens. Al Schmidt, the lone Republican on the Philadelphia election commission, said that all 317 registrations have been canceled and he has been speaking with the Pennsylvania Department of State about the problem.

<http://dailysignal.com/2017/09/24/hundreds-of-illegal-voters-revealed-in-philadelphia/>

Pennsylvania: ‘Glitch’ Allows Noncitizens to Vote

City Commissioner Al Schmidt says a glitch in the state’s “motor-voter” process has allowed non-U.S. citizens to register to vote, even though he thinks they did so accidentally. The glitch has had no impact on elections, as the number of people mistakenly registered was small, but Schmidt thinks that statewide there could be many more and he wants the state to review registrations. He also wants it to cross check all active voter registration records against all current PennDOT records containing INS Indicators. Secretary of State Pedro Cortes issued a statement saying PennDOT is changing its system to prevent the problem in the future and has already made improvements. He did not address reviewing and cross-checking registrations statewide.

<http://philadelphia.cbslocal.com/2017/09/20/it-undermines-integrity-of-elections-glitch-allows-non-citizens-in-pa-to-vote/>

REDISTRICTING

Supreme Court Declines to Speed Review of Texas Redistricting

The U.S. Supreme Court on Monday rejected a request to speed its review of a lower-court ruling that said several congressional and Texas House districts had to be redrawn because they discriminated against minority voters. The request, made by lawyers challenging the maps as unconstitutional, was rejected without comment in orders the Supreme Court delivered in the afternoon. A letter sent to the court on Sept. 15 requested an aggressive schedule, with all briefs submitted by Nov. 13 and distributed to the justices within two weeks, with no deadline extensions permitted. The goal, the letter said, was to have everything ready for the justices to discuss the case at their Jan. 5 private conference.

<http://www.statesman.com/news/supreme-court-declines-speed-texas-redistricting-case/QP9rvelNxXu7zycblK8huL/>

Obama, Holder Group Push \$500,000 into Virginia Governor Race – Donation Appears to Be First from National Democratic Redistricting Committee

A group focused on redistricting linked to former President Barack Obama gave \$500,000 to the Democratic Party of Virginia to support the gubernatorial campaign of Democratic candidate Ralph Northam, records show. The National Democratic Redistricting Committee (NDRC), a Washington, D.C.-based organization founded in 2016 that is chaired by former Attorney General Eric Holder, is dedicated to "enacting a comprehensive, multi-cycle Democratic Party redistricting strategy over the next 5 years and beyond." The group seeks to impact the 2021 redistricting process by utilizing electoral, legal and ballot initiative components.

<http://freebeacon.com/politics/obama-holder-group-push-500000-virginia-governor-race/>