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# ACRU Election Integrity Bulletin

## Michigan Secretary of State Recommends Federal Election Reforms to VP Mike Pence

Michigan Secretary of State Ruth Johnson has weighed in on President Donald Trump's proposed elections commission to investigate voter fraud in the U.S., sending Vice President Mike Pence a wish list of recommendations she said would promote election integrity nationwide. Johnson, a Republican, [sent Pence a letter](#) last week detailing her recommended changes, noting her department has removed 1.1 million ineligible people from voter rolls since she took office, most of whom were deceased voters. "I believe the most critical parts of election administration are getting eligible citizens registered to vote and ensuring that only those individuals who are eligible to vote appear on the voter rolls," Johnson said in the letter. "To allow an ineligible person to cast a ballot is to disenfranchise an eligible citizen."

[http://www.mlive.com/news/index.ssf/2017/02/michigan\\_sos\\_ruth\\_johnson\\_vote.html](http://www.mlive.com/news/index.ssf/2017/02/michigan_sos_ruth_johnson_vote.html)

## States Oppose Designating Election Systems as 'Critical Infrastructure'

In its winter meeting, the National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS) [adopted a resolution](#) opposing the "critical infrastructure" designation by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. The rebuke of the federal agency was partly due to concerns of overreaching by the federal government and because the agency had refused to provide adequate information on the impact that the

designation would have on the states, according to Kay Stimson, spokeswoman for the National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS).

<http://www.eweek.com/security/states-oppose-designating-election-systems-as-critical-infrastructure.html>

## J. Christian Adams: No, We Don't Need National Voter ID Standards

Let's get something straight up front -- voter ID that is free and easy to obtain *should be an essential part of each state's effort to preserve the integrity of elections*. It is an important step to prevent voter fraud, but perhaps more importantly, to aid prosecutors in criminal cases when voter fraud is discovered. Voter ID is good. But that does not mean national voter ID standards or mandates should follow.

<https://pjmedia.com/jchristianadams/2017/02/24/no-we-dont-need-a-national-voter-id-standard/>

## LITIGATION

### Federal Appeals Court Hears Wisconsin Voter ID, Early Voting Cases

A federal appeals court heard arguments Friday on cases involving Wisconsin's voter ID and early voting laws. The 7th Circuit Court of Appeals in Chicago heard arguments in *Frank v. Walker*, a five-year-old case that has been through many appeals, and *One Wisconsin Institute v. Thomsen*, a

younger case aimed at more than a dozen election-related laws passed in Wisconsin since 2011. In this latest *Frank v. Walker* challenge, the American Civil Liberties Union is arguing that the state should let people vote using affidavits if they can't easily get an ID.

<http://www.wpr.org/federal-appeals-court-hears-wisconsin-voter-id-early-voting-cases>

## Federal Appeals Court Could Reinstate Wisconsin's Early Voting Limits

Three federal judges expressed deep skepticism Friday over claims that Wisconsin Republicans had deliberately made it harder for minorities to vote, raising the prospect that they would reinstate limits on early voting. Judge Frank Easterbrook of the U.S. 7th Circuit Court of Appeals said those challenging Wisconsin's voting laws were contending that Democrats can expand voting rules to help their party at the polls but Republicans can't tighten them to their advantage.

<http://www.jsonline.com/story/news/politics/2017/02/24/federal-appeals-court-hear-wisconsin-voter-id-early-voting-cases-friday/98308938/>

## North Carolina Democrats Try to Ask Supreme Court to End Voter ID Review

North Carolina's new Democratic governor and attorney general say they're ending state efforts to persuade the U.S. Supreme Court to revive a GOP-backed voter ID law that was struck down by a lower court, but Republican lawmakers say they will continue pushing for the high court's review.

<http://abc11.com/politics/cooper-stein-ask-supreme-court-to-end-voter-id-review/1765696/>

## Law Firm Disputes Dismissal from NC Voter ID case

A prominent law firm is disputing the authority of Gov. Roy Cooper and Attorney General Josh Stein to withdraw a petition asking the U.S. Supreme Court to uphold North Carolina's hotly debated voter ID law. An attorney with the Ogletree Deakins law firm contends that the Republican-led General Assembly hired it more than three years ago to defend the controversial measure on behalf of state government. Raleigh-based lawyer Thomas A. Farr said in a letter: "It is clear that neither the governor nor the attorney general has the authority to move to dismiss the (Supreme Court appeal) without the consent of the General Assembly or its counsel."

[http://www.greensboro.com/news/government/law-firm-disputes-dismissal-from-nc-voter-id-case/article\\_fc41ca4c-139e-5faf-9232-a5785ca01aba.html](http://www.greensboro.com/news/government/law-firm-disputes-dismissal-from-nc-voter-id-case/article_fc41ca4c-139e-5faf-9232-a5785ca01aba.html)

### IN THE STATES

## Arkansas Senate to Consider Voter ID Legislation

A Senate committee has advanced legislation that requires voters to present a photo ID before they can cast a ballot. Under House Bill 1047, numerous types of identification are acceptable. They include drivers' licenses, military and student IDs, public assistance cards, concealed carry permits and passports. People who have no valid form of photo ID can get one for free, after making a sworn statement that they do not have any other acceptable form of ID.

[http://www.magnoliareporter.com/news\\_and\\_business/opinion/article\\_dc34bebc-fb17-11e6-9505-23b172dd2adb.html](http://www.magnoliareporter.com/news_and_business/opinion/article_dc34bebc-fb17-11e6-9505-23b172dd2adb.html)

## Gov. McAuliffe Vetoes Bill to Investigate Possible Voter Fraud

Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe vetoed a bill Friday available [here](#) that would have required local electoral boards to investigate the list of registered voters when the number of registered voters in a county or city exceeds the population of people old enough to vote. McAuliffe said the bill would require local election officials to investigate Virginia voters without a clear standard for how and when such investigations should be undertaken. Once the investigation was concluded, the local board would report the findings to the State Board of Elections, which then would make them public. <http://wric.com/2017/02/24/gov-mcauliffe-vetoes-bill-to-investigate-potential-voter-fraud/>

## Illinois Lawmakers Push for Automatic Voter Registration

House Bill 3695 and Senate Bill 1933 stipulate that when residents apply for a driver's license, they would be automatically registered to vote. Adams County Clerk Chuck Venvertloh said that he and the Illinois County Clerk Recorders Association think the bills are being pushed too quickly. "We don't necessarily feel that having an automatic registration is the answer right now. We think there's still some problems to work out before they go to that," Venvertloh said. "If that's something that we do down the road, we hope we actually have a say in it and do it the correct way." <http://www.week.com/story/34495626/2017/02/13/illinois-lawmakers-push-for-automatic-voter-registration>

## New Mexico Automatic Voter Registration Bill Dies in Committee

Two Democrats joined with Republicans to kill a bill that would have automatically registered all eligible adults as voters when they obtain a New Mexico driver's license. Rep. Debbie Rodella, D-Española, questioned whether the bill was necessary

when the Motor Vehicle Division can already offer eligible adults the chance to register to vote. <http://nmpoliticalreport.com/175426/automatic-voter-registration-bill-dies-in-committee/>

## Nevada Democrats Poised to Implement Automatic Voter Registration

The measure is likely to pass the Democratic-controlled state Senate, but would have to be signed into law by Republican Gov. Brian Sandoval. <http://www.salon.com/2017/02/24/nevada-democrats-poised-to-implement-automatic-voter-registration-but-republican-governor-threatens-veto/>

### OTHER

## Study Shows Millions of Non-Citizens Registered to Vote

A different study led by Old Dominion University political scientist Jesse Richman found that about 1.3 million non-citizens voted in the 2016 presidential election (6.4% of the 20 million non-citizens) Richman estimated that 81% of the non-citizens voted for Clinton, adding 834,381 net votes to her popular vote lead. <http://lidblog.com/millions-of-non-citizen-registered-to-vote/>