



The American
Civil
Rights
Union



Voting
Integrity
Institute

March 6, 2017

ACRU Election Integrity Bulletin

FEDERAL LEVEL

Democratic Redistricting Committee Launched to Fight GOP Control in States

The NDRC will target races in every election cycle through 2020 – including gubernatorial, state legislative and ballot initiative campaigns where Democrats can produce “fairer” electoral maps in 2021.

<http://www.texasinsider.org/democratic-redistricting-committee-launched-to-fight-gop-control-in-states/>

Justice Department Pulls Out of Texas Voter ID case

The Justice Department has revoked a brief filed in federal district court opposing a Texas law requiring voters to show identification at the polls. Observers are calling it the first concrete step Attorney General Jeff Sessions has taken to reverse the Obama administration’s position in voting rights cases.

<http://thehill.com/regulation/court-battles/321397-justice-dept-pulls-out-of-texas-voter-id-case#.WLWIQMKUSs4.twitter>

Supreme Court Renders Split Decision on Va. Redistricting Case

The U.S. Supreme Court sent parts of a race-based challenge to Virginia’s state House districts back to a lower court for further review Wednesday, while upholding the lower court panel’s findings that one

majority black district was legally drawn. In an 8-0 decision written by Justice Anthony Kennedy, the Supreme Court found a three-judge District Court panel followed an incorrect legal standard in its analysis of 11 of the 12 districts challenged in the case. The lower court had required those challenging the districts to show an actual conflict between the plan that was adopted following the 2010 census and one that could be drawn using traditional political redistricting principles without regard for race.

<http://wtop.com/virginia/2017/03/supreme-court-renders-split-decision-on-va-redistricting-case/>

Federal Judge asks U.S. Election Assistance Commission to Weigh In on Lawsuit

A federal judge has asked the U.S. Election Assistance Commission to say whether its executive director had the authority to unilaterally require people to prove their citizenship in order to register to vote using a federal form in Kansas, Georgia and Alabama. U.S. District Judge Richard Leon put the question to the commission on Saturday and gave it until June 1 to respond.

<http://www.wral.com/judge-asks-us-election-commission-to-weigh-in-on-lawsuit/16554931/>

IN THE STATES

More Voters than Residents? Virginia Governor McAuliffe Doesn't Seem to Care

What does the governor’s veto really say? It says that the governor doesn’t want to know — or want the rest

of us to know — why there appear to be too many people on voting rolls in these localities.

http://www.richmond.com/opinion/their-opinion/guest-columnists/mark-obenshain-column-more-voters-than-residents-mcauliffe-doesn-t/article_09476dc7-21ca-5626-ba04-385ccd349976.html

Nebraska May Place Voter ID on Ballot as Constitutional Amendment

Nebraska lawmakers are making arguments on both sides of the voter ID debate. Two state senators introduced bills that could decide where the state stands on the issue. Senator John Murante wants a constitutional amendment requiring identification at the ballot box.

<http://nebraska.tv/news/local/competing-bills-tackle-constitutional-amendment-on-voter-id>

North Carolina Bill to Consider Jury Data Comparison with Voter Lists

Senate Bill 60, which was debated but not voted on by the Senate Judiciary Committee on Tuesday, and a companion measure represent the latest effort to take people who are ineligible off the state's voters rolls. To demonstrate the need for the measure, Sen. Joyce Krawiec, R-Forsyth, pointed to reports out of Ohio that non-citizens may have voted in recent elections. Her proposal is similar to bills that have been filed in prior sessions.

<http://www.wral.com/bill-to-match-jury-excuses-with-voter-lists-raises-concerns/16556943/>

Thousands of Illegal Immigrants Lurking on Virginia's Voter Rolls

Between 2009 and 2014, the Washington, D.C., exurb of Loudoun County had more than 350,000 residents and disqualified more than 9,000 of them for jury duty because they were not U.S. citizens. Loudoun County jury pools come from two sources — voter registration lists and Department of Motor Vehicle driver's license applications. The county's 9,000 juror disqualifications means that a potentially significant

number of non-citizens vote illegally in Virginia. It suggests a basis for President Trump's assertion of illegal immigrants voting in November's elections, though not necessarily by the "millions" he has claimed.

<http://m.washingtontimes.com/news/2017/mar/1/no-citizens-lurking-on-virginia-voter-rolls/>

New Hampshire Considers Legislation to Tighten Up Residency Laws for Voting

State legislators are considering a raft of voting-related bills this session, including several aimed at tightening eligibility at the polls. The Senate is considering proposals targeting the definition of a domicile, the standard used to determine if someone can legally vote in New Hampshire. House members have submitted bills to change the definition of residency and require the Secretary of State's Office to investigate voting irregularities, among others. Another high-profile House bill that would have eliminated same-day voter registration was amended, then later effectively killed.

<http://www.seacoastonline.com/news/20170226/bills-look-to-tighten-nhs-voter-eligibility>

Elections Investigation Discovers Additional Illegal Voters in Ohio

The office of Republican Secretary of State Jon Husted has discovered that 385 people who aren't U.S. citizens were on Ohio's voting rolls last year, and 82 of those people actually cast ballots. Ohio has a total of 7.8 million registered voters.

<http://wvxu.org/post/elections-investigation-discovers-additional-illegal-voters-ohio#stream/0>