



April 17, 2017

ACRU Election Integrity Bulletin

FEDERAL

Top Tax-Writing Republicans Renew Call for DOJ to Investigate Lois Lerner over IRS Scandal

Two top tax-writing Republicans in the House are calling on the Department of Justice to reopen its investigation into whether former IRS official Lois Lerner unlawfully targeted conservative organizations applying for tax-exempt status. Ways and Means Committee Chairman Kevin Brady and tax policy subcommittee Chairman Peter Roskam sent a letter to Attorney General Jeff Sessions on April 12, noting the Obama administration refused to review the information the committee gathered in its extensive investigation into the matter. According to the congressmen, there is clear evidence Lerner willfully partook in criminal activity during her tenure as the Exempt Organizations division director, yet former President Barak Obama insisted there was “not a smidgeon of corruption” at the agency.

<http://dailysignal.com/2017/04/13/top-tax-writing-republicans-renew-call-for-doj-to-investigate-lois-lerner-over-irs-scandal/>

Eric Dreiband Tapped to Lead DOJ Civil Rights Division

Attorney General Jeff Sessions recommends Eric Dreiband, a partner at the law firm Jones Day, to succeed Vanita Gupta as head of the Justice Department's civil rights division. Conservatives want to root out "ideological rot" among "career bureaucrats" there.

<https://thecrimereport.org/2017/04/11/eric-dreiband-tapped-to-lead-doj-civil-rights-division/>

Washington Labor Lawyer Could Run DOJ Civil Rights Unit

Attorney General Jeff Sessions is recommending the White House nominate Washington labor lawyer Eric Dreiband to lead the Justice Department's civil rights division, according to two NPR sources briefed on the hiring process. Dreiband represents companies at the law firm Jones Day, where his law partners included Donald McGahn, now the White House counsel. Dreiband served as the top lawyer at the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission under President George W. Bush

<http://www.npr.org/2017/04/10/523301414/washington-labor-lawyer-eric-dreiband-could-run-doj-civil-rights-unit>

Adams: The Left's Felony Assault on Voting

In Philadelphia, felons who are ineligible to vote remain on the rolls deliberately, writes J. Christian Adams in *The Hill*. Pennsylvania does not allow incarcerated felons to vote. Yet election officials regularly send absentee ballots to prisons for misdemeanor convicts. There is no voter ID in Pennsylvania, and convicted felons remain on the poll books used on Election Day in Philadelphia. The astonishing circumstance in Philadelphia was discovered in a lawsuit brought by the American Civil Rights Union (ACRU) seeking access to public election records. When the ACRU asked for records showing voter rolls maintenance regarding felons who lost their right to vote, Philadelphia election officials just laughed. There were no records because they do nothing about it.

<http://thehill.com/blogs/pundits-blog/campaign/328567-philadelphia-has-a-felon-voter-problem>

STATES

Lawmakers across U.S. Move to Include Young People in Voting

Lawmakers in more than a dozen states are trying to increase voter participation by targeting young people. Their bills are among nearly 500 pieces of legislation introduced around the country this year to make voting easier, according to a March analysis by New York University's Brennan Center for Justice. While Republican-leaning states have moved to tighten voting rules — nearly 90 such bills have been introduced — those efforts have been outstripped by the number of bills seeking to expand access to the polls.

http://hosted2.ap.org/APDEFAULT/89ae8247abe8493fae24405546e9a1aa/Article_2017-04-16-US--Voting%20Rights-Expanding%20Access/id-d86754e159c145d7917d6749de91a0d9

Florida: In County Election for Sheriff, Voter-Fraud Allegations Cast New Doubt

The runner-up in the November 2016 election for Putnam County, Florida's sheriff and his attorney argued before a judge on April 12 that winner Gator DeLoach's slim margin of victory — paired with the possibility of voter fraud — cast new doubts on race's results. Daniel Nordby, Kinney's attorney, told Fourth Circuit Court Judge Gary L. Wilkinson that further investigation into the case has led to the discovery that at least 42 people voted illegally. "The number of illegal votes received was sufficient enough to change or place in doubt the results of the election," Nordby said in his opening statements Wednesday's proceedings, which were part of Kinney's civil-case challenge to DeLoach's victory.

https://www.wuft.org/news/2017/04/13/in-putnam-county-election-for-sheriff-voter-fraud-allegations-cast-new-doubt/#.WPDz4_vvXgg.twitter

Illinois: Peru Native Who Voted Illegally in Two U.S. Elections Now Faces Deportation

Department of Homeland Security spokesperson said Margarita Del Pilar Fitzpatrick "rendered herself deportable when she gave a false claim to U.S. citizenship in 2005 by signing the voter registration form on which she declared herself to be a U.S. citizen."

<http://www.nbcnews.com/nightly-news/peru-native-who-voted-illegally-two-u-s-elections-now-n746721>

Kansas: Sec State Announces First Conviction of Non-citizen Voter

Kris Kobach said on April 12 that he has obtained his first conviction of a person who illegally voted in a Kansas election without being a U.S. citizen. Kobach, who has advised President Trump on immigration and voter fraud, said that Victor David Garcia Bebek has pleaded guilty to voter fraud. Kobach, a Republican, is the only secretary of state in the country with the authority to prosecute voter fraud. "No matter how many cases we prosecute the political left will always whine that there's not enough cases to justify protecting our elections in this way," Kobach said. "That's absurd."

<http://www.kansascity.com/news/politics-government/article144256424.html#storylink=cpy>

Conviction of Illegal Voter 'Tip of the Iceberg'

Kansas this week did something that almost never happens: It convicted a non-citizen for voting. Victor David Garcia Bebek pleaded guilty to voter fraud after admitting that he registered to vote in 2011, according to The Kansas City Star. "This is the tip of the iceberg. Few people are willing to take a closer look to see. The reality is that our system and our polls are as porous as our borders." It is the first time that Kansas has successfully prosecuted a non-citizen for voting.

<http://www.lifetzette.com/polizette/kansas-conviction-illegal-voter-tip-off-iceberg/>

Nevada: Secretary of State Confirms that Non-citizens Voted

Barbara Cegavske said she's launching a voter fraud probe after discovering evidence that "non-citizens" cast ballots in the 2016 election. Cegavske's office didn't immediately answer additional questions about the alleged illegal votes, including how many were cast, where, whether arrests have been made, and why the existing system for verifying voters' eligibility apparently did not catch unqualified registrations. "Although we are in the nascent stages of the investigation, we have confirmed there were illegal non-citizen votes cast in the 2016 general election," Cegavske, a Republican, said in a statement on April 14. "We also have confirmed instances of ineligible voters who did not vote being on the voter rolls. As I have pledged to all Nevadans, I will be vigilant in ensuring the integrity of the election process."

<https://thenevadaindependent.com/article/nevada-secretary-state-says-shes-confirmed-noncitizens-cast-ballots>

Texas: Voter Fraud Worries Overshadow Dallas County Elections

Less than one month from a May 6 election, allegations of forged mail-in ballots targeting the elderly overshadow the Dallas County, Texas elections. One Dallas pastor, James Armstrong, expressed concerns that elderly residents are being targeted in a possible mail-in voter scheme after some of his church members said they received ballots, only they never applied for them. Armstrong, the senior pastor of the west Dallas Community Fellowship Church, said at least 10 church members, all senior citizen voters, filed complaints with the Dallas County Elections office after receiving these unsolicited mail-in ballots, according to The Dallas Morning News.

<http://www.breitbart.com/texas/2017/04/12/voter-fraud-worries-overshadow-dallas-county-elections/>

LEGISLATION

(More updates can be found in our periodic ACRU Legislation Reports)

Iowa: Voter ID Bill Gets Final OK; Heads to Governor Branstad

The Iowa Senate gave final approval on April 13 to legislation that will require voters to show government-issued identification at the polls and will reduce the time period for early voting. House File 516 passed on a 28-21 vote with Republicans casting all the yes votes. Democrats and one independent all voted no. The bill now heads to Gov. Terry Branstad, who is expected to sign it.

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/news/politics/2017/04/13/contentious-voter-id-bill-gets-final-ok-heads-branstad/100416752/>