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ACRU Election Integrity Bulletin

FEDERAL

11 States Warned to Clean Voter Registration Lists or Face Federal Lawsuit

Judicial Watch announced it has sent notice-of-violation letters threatening to sue 11 states having counties in which the number of registered voters exceeds the number of voting-age citizens, as calculated by the U.S. Census Bureau's 2011-2015 American Community Survey. The 11 states are: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina and Tennessee. Judicial Watch informed the states that should they fail to take action to correct violations of Section 8 of the NVRA, it would file suit.

<http://www.judicialwatch.org/press-room/press-releases/judicial-watch-warns-11-states-clean-voter-registration-lists-face-federal-lawsuit/>

National Leftwing Lawyers Group Files Voting Rights Suit before Crucial Georgia Run-off Election

The Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights filed a suit on behalf of several leftwing groups that could affect the June runoff between Democrat Jon Ossoff and Republican Karen Handel, who are running to replace former Republican Rep. Tom Price, who joined the Trump administration. The lawsuit alleges that a Georgia law prohibiting voters who weren't registered in time for the special election from voting in the runoff violates federal voting law.

<http://www.cnn.com/2017/04/20/politics/voting-rights-suit-georgia/>

STATES

Pennsylvania: Hearing Slated on ACRU Case in Philadelphia

This Friday (April 28), the Third Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals will hear *American Civil Rights Union v. Philadelphia City Commissioners* to decide whether ineligible felons can remain on the books, notes ACRU Senior Fellow Robert Knight in a Washington Times column. "The ACRU will argue that the National Voter Registration Act requires that only eligible voters should appear on the official voter lists.

“An American Civil Rights Union lawsuit in 2016 forced Philadelphia election officials to open registration records, revealing not only that thousands of felons and non-citizens were on the rolls but that election officials refused to do anything about it.

“It’s illegal in Pennsylvania for felons to vote, but the felons remain on the rolls and were included in poll books used on Election Day. There is no voter ID required in the Keystone state so nothing prevents incarcerated felons from getting absentee ballots or arranging for someone to vote in their name.” The column also takes Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe to task for vetoing several election integrity bills.

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2017/apr/23/voter-fraud-oughta-be-a-crime/>

Columnist: For Philly's Voter Fraud Reputation, More Poll Watchers May Be the Cure

Maybe you’ve heard: Philadelphia has a reputation for voter fraud. That reputation grows stronger the farther away from Philadelphia you travel and the less you know about the recent history of in-person voter fraud here. Maybe you’ve also heard: Candidates and political parties can appoint “poll watchers” to observe and report any suspected Election Day voter fraud. Despite the reputation, volunteers are not exactly clamoring to serve as poll watchers in the city. It’s easier to talk up the rumor about voter fraud than to step up and look for it. State Rep. Rick Saccone, an Allegheny County Republican, is again pushing a change to the state Election Code section that requires poll watchers to be registered voters in the county where they serve. He wants voters to be able to serve in any county in Pennsylvania. The House’s State Government Committee approved the measure Wednesday in a strict party-line vote — 16 Republicans in favor, nine Democrats opposed.

http://www.philly.com/philly/columnists/chris_brennan/For-Phillys-voter-fraud-reputation-more-poll-watchers-may-be-the-cure.html

Indiana Prepares For Future Elections by Cleaning Up Its Voter Roll (Press Release)

In 2014, Indiana began its latest effort to keep the voter registration lists accurate. While removing inaccurate voter list information is required by federal law, this work was formerly done almost entirely at the county level and not all county voter registration offices had the funding to do it regularly. Indiana Secretary of State Connie Lawson asked the General Assembly to fund a comprehensive statewide voter list maintenance program.

<http://www.wbiw.com/state/archive/2017/04/indiana-prepares-for-future-elections-by-cleaning-up-its-voter-roll.php>

Indiana Cancels Nearly Half a Million Voter Registrations

Nearly half a million individuals have been deleted from Indiana’s list of registered voters since the November 8, 2016, general election. Republican Secretary of State Connie Lawson said that it is part of an ongoing effort to clean up the state’s voter records after she determined her predecessors

largely ignored the time consuming task: “I made it a priority to ensure our state’s list was accurate and that we followed federal law.” Across Indiana, 481,231 registered voters were purged, or about 10% of the state total. The process began in 2014 when Larson mailed a postcard to every registered voter.

http://www.nwitimes.com/news/state-and-regional/indiana/indiana-purges-k-inactive-voter-registrations-from-rolls/article_d93a994d-e101-564b-bb50-198ef374bfe5.html

Nebraska: Sec. State Candidate Says Stopping Vote Fraud Would Be Focus

The man who wants to be the next Secretary of State says Nebraska can do more to stop vote fraud. Lincoln attorney Bob Evnen announced his candidacy Monday.

<http://nebraska.tv/news/local-politics/evnen-says-stopping-voter-fraud-would-be-focus-as-secretary-of-state>

Nevada Launches Fraud Probe after Non-citizen Voters Discovered

Barbara Cegavske, Nevada's secretary of state, has launched a fraud probe after a pipeline of non-citizen voters was discovered. The Associated Press first reported on the investigation that was announced in a letter sent by Cegavske to Terri Albertson, the state director of the Department of Motor Vehicles. Cegavske said in the letter that DMV employees offered and accepted voter registrations from people seeking identification cards and driver's licenses. The workers allegedly did this even if the individual presented a Green Card showing that they were not U.S. Citizens.

<http://freebeacon.com/politics/nevada-launches-fraud-probe-noncitizen-voters-discovered/>

North Carolina: Audit of 2016 Election Reveals Voter Fraud Problem

According to an audit released on Friday by the State Board of Elections, there were over 500 votes that they found which were cast illegally. Most of the 508 voters were active felons at the time of the election and only made up a small percentage of the total 4.8 million ballots cast. Another 24 ballots were believed to have been cast by individuals who voted multiple times.

<http://www.redstate.com/sweetie15/2017/04/22/vindication-audit-2016-election-nc-reveals-voter-fraud-problem/>

Texas: Dallas Democrats Fret over Threat of ‘Voter Fraud’

Two prominent north Texas Democrats are sounding the alarm on the threat of a politically-uncommon concern: voter fraud. Dallas Mayor Mike Rawlings (D) and State Representative Eric Johnson (D-HD 100) submitted a letter Thursday to Dallas County Elections Administrator Toni Pippins-Poole after public concerns continued to mount about scores of reports involving a potential absentee voter fraud scheme. “According to reports, dozens of voters received mail-in ballots they

never requested,” the letter states, which “suggests the possibility of a coordinated effort to benefit a candidate or candidates in the upcoming Dallas City Council elections.”

<http://www.breitbart.com/texas/2017/04/21/dallas-democrats-fret-threat-voter-fraud/>

Wisconsin: Onalaska felon fined for illegal voting in 2016 elections

Mark Fischer, 59, was on probation for a felony drunken driving offense when he voted in the presidential primary and general election because he “felt that this election was important,” according to the complaint filed in La Crosse County Circuit Court. At the time, he was serving three years on probation for a fifth- or sixth-offense operating while intoxicated conviction in Buffalo County. He told investigators he knew he was ineligible but voted April 5 in Onalaska and Oct. 31 in the town of Onalaska, the complaint stated.

http://lacrossetribune.com/couleenews/news/local/onalaska-felon-fined-for-illegal-voting-in-elections/article_cad3cc7f-507d-561d-a2a6-05ae2fb492c0.html

REDISTRICTING

Wisconsin: Dems Could Win in Supreme Court Case on Gerrymandering

The U.S. Supreme Court will rule on a court case alleging partisan gerrymandering in the Badger State before the 2012 election in what could be a significant victory for Democrats.

<http://www.newsmax.com/US/democrats-supreme-court-wisconsin-gerrymandering/2017/04/21/id/785635/>

Texas: Supreme Court May Hear Case after Federal Panel Finds 'Intentional' Discrimination

The U.S. Supreme Court is likely to hear the Texas redistricting case in which a three-judge federal panel ruled against the state in a 2-1 decision. In a statement, Attorney General Ken Paxton said the ruling was moot because the current map drawn in 2013 is a compromise following a court challenge at the time. But Vera said it was a temporary fix after the Supreme Court sent back the 2011 map.

<http://www.ksat.com/news/us-supreme-court-likely-to-hear-texas-redistricting-case>

LEGISLATION

Nebraska: Bill Advances to Make Electoral College Votes Winner-Take-All

Nebraska lawmakers may soon debate a familiar effort to return the state to a winner-take-all system for awarding presidential electors. The Legislature’s Government, Military and Veterans Affairs

Committee voted last Tuesday to advance Legislative Bill 25 to the floor. Republican state Sen. John Murante of Gretna, the bill's sponsor, said he will attempt to attach the proposal to another bill so it can still be debated in the waning weeks of the legislative session. Republican members of the officially nonpartisan Legislature have tried repeatedly to end Nebraska's system of splitting its three Electoral College votes based upon the winner in each congressional district. Votes on the issue have largely fallen along party lines, with primarily Democrats voting against. Last year, supporters of a similar bill fell one vote short of the 33 votes needed to break a filibuster and advance the bill. This year, 18 senators are serving their first terms and have never voted on the issue.

http://www.omaha.com/news/legislature/bill-to-make-nebraska-s-electoral-college-votes-winner-take/article_3f311cb0-2474-11e7-8c5e-2bbe9676ed9c.html