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# ACRU Election Integrity Bulletin

## FEDERAL

### Obama Never Warned State Election Officials of Russian Election ‘Hacking’

Neither former President Barack Obama nor any member of his cabinet warned state election officials of any Russian effort to hack or interfere with the country’s electoral systems, according to the president of the National Association of Secretaries of State. “We did ask,” Denise Merrill, Connecticut secretary of state and the association’s top official, told The Daily Caller News Foundation’s Investigative Group last Wednesday. “And over-and-over again, they did say there was no credible threat that they had found.” <http://dailycaller.com/2017/06/07/exclusive-obama-never-warned-state-election-officials-of-russian-election-hacking/>

### Top-Secret NSA Report Details Russian Hacking Effort Days before 2016 Election

Russian military intelligence executed a cyberattack on at least one U.S. voter registration software supplier and sent spear-phishing emails to more than 100 local election officials just days before last November’s presidential election, according to a highly classified intelligence report obtained by The Intercept. The top-secret National Security Agency document, which was provided anonymously to The Intercept and independently authenticated, analyzes intelligence very recently acquired by the agency about a months-long Russian intelligence cyber effort

against elements of the U.S. election and voting infrastructure.

<https://theintercept.com/2017/06/05/top-secret-nsa-report-details-russian-hacking-effort-days-before-2016-election/>

### Response of National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS)

The security of our voting process is a top priority for Secretaries of State who serve as chief state election officials. The NSA report is concerning. However, we have yet to see any evidence that would call into question the outcome of the 2016 elections in any state or locality. That said, these attempts to penetrate our voter registration systems are an urgent reminder of the need to get more cybersecurity support and resources into the hands of the state and local officials who administer and oversee U.S. elections.

<http://www.nass.org/index.php/news-releases-and-statements/release-nass-statement-on-us-intelligence-report-local-officials-june-17>

### Washington Times: Homeland Security Has No Archive on Illegal Immigrants Who Vote

President’s Trump election integrity commission plans to significantly rely on data from the Department of Homeland Security to determine the extent of illegal voting by non-citizens. But the commission, headed by Vice President Mike Pence and Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach, may be in for unpleasant surprises.

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2017/jun/4/illegal-immigrants-who-vote-not-tracked/>

## DHS Chief Doubles Down on Critical Infrastructure Designation for Voting Systems

In the wake of a leaked intelligence document describing Russian attempts to hack voting systems, Department of Homeland Security Secretary John Kelly doubled down on maintaining the designation of voting systems as critical infrastructure. Kelly told the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee on June 6 that despite pushback he's received from state and local election officials -- as well as "many members of Congress" -- he would support the designation put in place by his predecessor, Jeh Johnson. "I don't believe we should" back off on the critical infrastructure designation, he testified, adding that he plans to meet with state officials next week to further discuss how DHS can make sure states' election systems are protected.

<https://fcw.com/articles/2017/06/06/gunter-dhs-kelly-election-protection.aspx?m=1>

### Video at 23:00 Can Be Found on Subject:

<https://www.c-span.org/video/?429383-1/secretary-kelly-travel-ban-injunctions-hobbling-homeland-security-screening-effort&start=1386>

## Election Assistance Commission: White Paper on U.S. Election Systems as Critical Infrastructure

[https://www.eac.gov/assets/1/6/starting\\_point\\_us\\_election\\_systems\\_as\\_Critical\\_Infrastructure.pdf](https://www.eac.gov/assets/1/6/starting_point_us_election_systems_as_Critical_Infrastructure.pdf)

### STATES

## Indiana: Canvassers Charged in Fake, Fraudulent Voter Registrations

Twelve employees of a Democrat-linked group focused on mobilizing black voters in Indiana are accused of submitting fake or fraudulent voter registration applications ahead of last year's general

election in order to meet quotas, according to charging documents. Prosecutors allege that 11 temporary workers employed by the Indiana Voter Registration Project created and submitted an unknown number of falsified applications. According to a probable cause affidavit, a supervisor for those canvassers, Holiday Burke, was also charged, as was the group.

<https://apnews.com/6b71a926cb624a209851b41ac616b184>

## Texas: Appeals Court to Weigh Voting Law Limiting Language Interpreters at the Polls

The U.S. 5th Circuit Court of Appeals will hear arguments Thursday over an obscure provision in the Texas Election Code that critics say makes it harder for Texans not proficient in English to get assistance while voting.

<https://www.texastribune.org/2017/06/08/appeals-court-consider-texas-election-law-language-interpreters/>

## Texas: Dead People Applied to Vote in Dallas County

At least 17 deceased individuals applied for a ballot to vote in the May 6 election, according to the Dallas County elections department. State law says the county clerk or Secretary of State's office are supposed to review death certificates and alert the elections department if someone is deceased.

<http://www.wtsp.com/news/politics/dead-people-apply-to-vote-in-dallas-county/447034930>

## Texas: Governor Abbott Calls for Special Session to Include Mail-in Ballot Reforms – “We Will Crush Illegal Voting.”

The Legislature used part of its regular session to pass a bill that curbs voter fraud at nursing homes and widens ballot access to elderly Texans who live in them. Abbott wants further action during the special session asking for a bill "cracking down on mail-in ballot fraud." In late 2016, after the state began

investigating alleged mail-in ballot voter fraud in Tarrant County, he tweeted, "We will crush illegal voting."

<https://www.texastribune.org/2017/06/08/what-greg-abbott-said-special-session-agenda/>

## Virginia: Guilty Plea Expected in Voter Fraud Case Involving Registration Forms

Charges have been filed in connection with a Harrisonburg voter fraud case. According to documents filed Thursday in federal court, the Acting U.S. Attorney claims Andrew Spieles attempted to transfer a false voter registration form. Spieles intends to plead guilty and the next hearing is June 20. In the lead up to the 2016 election, the Commonwealth Attorney had said that the FBI and the Harrisonburg police were investigating a number of voter registration forms that appeared to be false. <http://www.whsv.com/content/news/Charges-filed-in-Harrisonburg-voter-fraud-case-427300193.html>

## REDISTRICTING

### North Carolina: U.S. Supreme Court Finds Lawmaker Maps Were Racial Gerrymanders

The Supreme Court faulted North Carolina in a racially tinged voting rights case, upholding a lower court's ruling that the districts were racial gerrymanders with boundaries drawn to diminish the voting power of minorities, violating the U.S. Constitution's guarantee of equal protection under the law. The lower court found that the Republican-led state legislature had crammed black voters into a limited number of districts in order to lessen their statewide electoral power. The Supreme Court sent the case back to the lower court to determine whether special elections were necessary.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-court-election-idUSKBN18W1TF>

### Texas: Democrats See New Opportunities in Redistricting Case

A congressional redistricting case could offer Texas Democrats a glimmer of hope for making gains in the Republican-dominated states if a new map takes effect shortly before the 2018 elections. A panel of three federal judges in Texas concluded in March that three congressional districts in the 2011 congressional map violated the Voting Rights Act by diluting opportunities for minority communities to select candidates of their choice. But the 2011 map is no longer in effect, since the state adopted a new map in 2013 amid ongoing litigation. Texas says the 2013 map is legal, since it was approved by the courts.

<http://www.rollcall.com/news/politics/democrats-see-new-opportunities-texas-redistricting-case#sthash.Sp0xQVDM.uxf5>