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ACRU Election Integrity Bulletin

FEDERAL

Supreme Court Agrees to Hear Ohio Voter Registration Case

<http://www.scotusblog.com/case-files/cases/husted-v-philip-randolph-institute/>

RNLA Co-Chair: SCOTUS Redistricting Decision Put Interests of Democrats before Rule of Law

“The Supreme Court decided a case from North Carolina regarding redistricting that succeeded in making a complete mess of redistricting law and damaging the separation of powers,” writes RNLA Co-Chair John Ryder. “Fifty-five years ago, Justice Frankfurter, in *Baker v. Carr*, urged the Court not to enter into the “political thicket” of redistricting litigation. The Supreme Court’s decision in *Cooper v. Harris* takes the court beyond the thicket and into the woods.”

<http://dailycaller.com/2017/05/25/scotus-redistricting-decision-put-interests-of-democrats-before-rule-of-law/>

Hans von Spakovsky -- The Goldilocks Principle of Redistricting

“For anyone who seeks clarity in what states must do in redistricting to comply with the Voting Rights Act and the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment, the Supreme Court’s decision in *Cooper v. Harris* will certainly not provide it. This ruling simply adds to the confused state of the law on redistricting and how much legislatures can (or must)

take into account race when trying to draw up new congressional lines.”

<http://www.scotusblog.com/2017/05/symposium-goldilocks-principle-redistricting/>

Wall Street Journal: Voting Rights Confusion

State legislatures have been trying to figure out how much they can or should consider race when redrawing political districts and on Monday the Supreme Court increased the confusion. In a 5-3 decision, the four liberals plus Justice Clarence Thomas struck down North Carolina’s congressional map, ruling that the district lines were drawn in a way that disadvantaged black voters. The Court’s decision is most likely to guarantee more litigation by Democrats, who are happy to use the courts as a way to maximize the opportunities for Democratic candidates, and race as a sword for partisan purposes. <https://www.wsj.com/articles/voting-rights-confusion-1495494823?mod=e2tw>

More Democrats See Voter Fraud as a Problem and ID Laws as a Solution

Most Americans, including Democrats, think voter fraud is a real problem and don’t mind voter ID laws as a solution, according to academic research that suggests Republicans are winning the argument over voting rights and suppression.

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2017/may/28/voter-id-laws-popular-as-fraud-fears-rise/>

Recent Voter Fraud Cases White House Commission Could Review

Asked if the voting integrity commission will be about policy recommendations to reform voting laws, or an audit of the 2016 election, White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer told The Daily Signal it would be both.

“The executive order that the president signed, and the vice president and Secretary of State Kobach are leading, is a bipartisan commission of state elections officials that are going to look at all aspects of election integrity, including voter fraud and proper registration, and allegations of voter suppression.”

<http://dailysignal.com/2017/05/26/recent-voter-fraud-cases-white-house-commission-review/>

New Hampshire Secretary of State Defends Role on Election Integrity Commission

In contrast to the lack of communication from Washington D.C., Bill Gardner has been getting an earful from state Democrats, residents and advocacy groups asking him to reconsider. They pan the commission as a sham and worry Trump will use him to try and validate unsubstantiated claims that millions of people voted illegally last election. But Gardner, a Democrat and the longest serving secretary of state in the nation, isn't backing down. “What is the fear? It's going to be an open process.”

<http://www.concordmonitor.com/bill-gardners-appointment-to-election-commission-under-fire-10333528>

New York Post's Paul Sperry: How Team Obama Tried to Hack the Election

“New revelations have surfaced that the Obama administration abused intelligence during the election by launching a massive domestic spy campaign that included snooping on Trump officials. The irony is mind-boggling: Targeting political opposition is long a technique of police states like Russia, which Team

Obama has loudly condemned for allegedly using its own intelligence agencies to hack into our election. What he and the rest of the Obama gang did has inflicted more damage on the integrity of our electoral process than anything the Russians have done.”

<http://nypost.com/2017/05/26/how-team-obama-tried-to-hack-the-election/>

STATES

Maine's High Court Says Ranked-Choice Voting Is Unconstitutional

Maine's highest court concluded last Tuesday that the nation's first statewide ranked-choice voting system violates the Maine Constitution even though it was approved by the state's voters in a referendum. In a unanimous advisory opinion, the seven justices on the Maine Supreme Judicial Court acknowledged the validity of citizen-initiative ballot questions but noted that even citizen-enacted laws can be unconstitutional.

<http://www.pressherald.com/2017/05/23/maine-high-court-says-ranked-choice-voting-is-unconstitutional/>

Montana: 'Prophecy Coming True' Says Utah Early Voting Critic, in Wake of Montana Election

Republican Greg Gianforte is accused of slamming a reporter to the ground; Gianforte was issued a citation, but still won a special election to Congress in Montana.

One of the reasons may be that most of the ballots were already in, when the clash witnessed by several other people, happened---as much as two-thirds of the votes in the race.

<http://kutv.com/news/local/prophecy-coming-true-says-utah-early-voting-critic-in-wake-of-montana-election>

New Hampshire Deserves Secure Elections

In reality, the only threat to the legitimacy of elections comes from criminals and thieves who try to advance their causes through ballot fraud. Citizens deserve a process that can detect and deter such illicit actions, and punish those responsible. As New Hampshire Secretary of State William Gardner, a Democrat and supporter of SB 3, put it: “You want a process that a lot of people trust and believe is working right with integrity and security.” The people of New Hampshire deserve no less.

<http://www.concordmonitor.com/NH-deserves-secure-elections-10258919>

Virginia: Alien Invasion II – Discovery and Cover-up of Non-Citizen Registration

The Public Interest Legal Foundation published a sequel report based on voting history records in Virginia showing that large numbers of ineligible aliens are registering to vote and casting ballots.

<https://publicinterestlegal.org/blog/alien-invasion-ii-sequel-discovery-cover-non-citizen-registration-voting-virginia/>

Texas: Attorney General Should Join Dallas Voter Fraud Investigation

Since March, the Dallas County District Attorney’s office has investigated allegations that people are misusing mail-in ballots. Voters complained they received mail-in ballots without ever requesting them.

<http://www.wfaa.com/news/local/dallas-county/villalba-ag-should-join-dallas-voter-fraud-investigation/443718906>

REDISTRICTING

Redistricting Gives GOP Key to Political Power in Georgia

These internecine struggles derive from the redistricting of congressional and legislative seats that

follows each decade’s U.S. Census. The process attracts little attention. And yet, it carries profound consequences.

<http://www.myajc.com/news/state--regional-govt--politics/redistricting-gives-gop-key-political-power-georgia/NFfAvz7JptLsvArTGAvH5H/>

No Special Session on Redistricting, Texas Attorney General Tells Court

After conferring with Gov. Greg Abbott, Ken Paxton told the court that there are no plans to ask the Legislature to wade back into the difficult task of redrawing district maps. New maps, Paxton said, would surely be met with new lawsuits, and there is no indication that redrawing the districts would end the current legal challenge.

<http://www.mystatesman.com/news/special-session-redistricting-ken-paxton-tells-court/3xxlTiiRwK8pvq2k8JcM6M/>