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ACRU Election Integrity Bulletin

LEAD STORY

Message to Trump: 'We Need to Know the Exact Number of Citizens in Our States' for 2020 Census

Kansas Secretary of State and gubernatorial candidate Kris Kobach has sent a letter urging President Trump's administration to put a question asking United States residents if they are citizens back on the 2020 Census. In a letter, Kobach tells Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross—who will make the final decision on whether or not to put the citizenship question on the 2020 Census—that the citizenship question is “essential” in order to “know the exact number of citizens in our states.”

<http://www.breitbart.com/big-government/2018/02/28/exclusive-kris-kobach-to-trump-we-need-to-know-the-exact-number-of-citizens-in-our-states-for-2020-census/>

FEDERAL

DHS: 'No Intelligence' Russia Compromised Seven States Ahead of 2016 Election

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is denying the accuracy of an NBC News report that alleged Russia breached voter sites or registration systems in seven U.S. states prior to the 2016 election. “NBC’s reporting tonight on the 2016 elections is not accurate and is actively undermining efforts of the Department of Homeland Security to work in close partnership with state and local governments to protect the nation’s election systems from foreign

actors,” DHS acting press secretary Tyler Q. Houlton said in a statement.

<http://thehill.com/policy/cybersecurity/375912-intel-officials-russia-breached-voter-sites-or-registration-systems-in>

Why The Left Is Going Gonzo Over Asking Citizenship Status On The Census

This is a question at the core of an emerging controversy over a seemingly trivial question the Department of Justice has urged the Census Bureau to reinstate on the 2020 Census: Are you a U.S. citizen? The census is essential to our political process because it provides a population count of citizens and noncitizens that drives apportionment of U.S. House seats, and by extension the number of presidential electors allocated to each state. The census also dictates where and to whom the federal government doles out hundreds of billions of dollars. The DOJ is pushing to reinstate the citizenship question because it says the government needs a more accurate count of the citizen voting-age population in order to enforce the Voting Rights Act, which protects voters from discrimination including vote-dilution.

<http://thefederalist.com/2018/03/01/left-going-gonzo-asking-citizenship-status-census/#.WpgyhPCqiq0.twitter>

(more)

Daily Signal: Progressive Activists Look to Courts to Undermine the Electoral College

Having failed to generate enough support to abolish the Electoral College through a constitutional amendment, the institution's detractors are now looking to the courts to upend it. A new lawsuit, spearheaded by Harvard University law professor Lawrence Lessig and filed in four states, charges that the "winner-take-all" element of how states divvy up their Electoral College votes is unconstitutional. The District of Columbia and 48 states use this winner-take-all system. The only exceptions are Maine and Nebraska, which use a proportional allocation of votes.

<http://dailysignal.com/2018/03/04/progressive-activists-look-courts-undermine-electoral-college/>

The Supreme Court Should Restore the First Amendment in Minnesota

A Minnesota law banning political T-shirts at polling booths is prone to abuse—and violates the First Amendment. The Supreme Court should throw it out. Andy Cilek of the Minnesota Voters Alliance (MVA) wore such a shirt in 2010, and was thrown out of his polling place. Cilek also wore a button that read "Please I.D. Me," an obviously deeply subversive political statement—at least according to Minnesota election officials.

<https://www.nationalreview.com/2018/03/supreme-court-restore-first-amendment-minnesota-polling-place-laws/>

STATES

Alaska: Alaskan Election Officials Question Reports of Russian Breach

Top elections official Josie Bahnke said that despite news reports that the state was one of seven compromised by Russian actors, there was no evidence that systems were accessed by an outside entity. She said efforts by Russian "cyber actors" never went beyond a scan of the state elections

division's public website, according to information her office received from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. "There was no breach, essentially," she said in an interview. "They wiggled on the door and moved on."

<http://www.govtech.com/security/Alaskan-Election-Officials-Question-Reports-of-Russian-Breach.html>

Arkansas: Hearing Set on Voter ID Law Challenge; Mark Martin Defends Law

Circuit Judge Alice Gray has set a hearing March 12 on a lawsuit that asks that she enjoin use of the state's new voter ID law in the May primary elections. The 2017 legislature tinkered with the language to make the law change appear to apply to voter registration procedures, which are covered in a separate part of the Constitution, but the lawsuit argues that the law still presents a new obstacle to voting, which the Constitution prohibits. The membership of the Arkansas Supreme Court has changed dramatically since the last ruling, however.

<https://www.arktimes.com/ArkansasBlog/archives/2018/02/24/hearing-set-on-voter-id-law-challenge-mark-martin-defends-law>

Maine: Maine Governor Proposes Another Voter ID Bill

Maine's Republican governor is again trying to require Mainers to present photo ID to vote. About two dozen gubernatorial hopefuls want to succeed Gov. Paul LePage, who is term-limited from running for governor. Gov. Paul LePage's latest voter ID bill would allow those who don't have a photo ID to cast a regular ballot with an affidavit. But after the November election, Mainers without a photo ID would only have their vote officially cast by presenting a photo ID within three business days. No hearing is set yet for the bill.

<http://mainepublic.org/post/maine-governor-proposes-another-voter-id-bill>

(more)

Pennsylvania: 100K Non-Citizens Registered to Vote in Pennsylvania?

That question has come to the Keystone State in full force this year. As reported in the Washington Times, the Public Interest Legal Foundation (PILF) has filed suit in federal court in Harrisburg seeking to have the State of Pennsylvania turn over the numbers. If you're thinking that noncitizens can't register to vote you're correct in theory, but not in practice. State officials have allegedly already acknowledged that a "glitch" in the driver's license renewal process allowed noncitizens to automatically register to vote. That 100K figure is being attributed to Philadelphia Commissioner Al Schmidt, who originally discovered the "glitch" but who is not commenting to the press about it. The state is refusing to comment on pending litigation also, but several counties have provided PILF with requested information and they've turned up some doozies.

<https://hotair.com/archives/2018/03/04/100k-non-citizens-registered-vote-pennsylvania/>

Wisconsin: Elections Commission Statement on NBC News Story About Election Cyber Security

The Wisconsin Elections Commission has never detected a successful hacking attempt on its systems, nor has it ever been notified of one by the Department of Homeland Security or any other state or federal agency. We are not aware of any new Russian targeting of Wisconsin systems beyond the scanning attempts from 2016 we reported in September 2017 as soon as we were notified by DHS.

http://chippewa.com/dunnconnect/news/local/statement-on-nbc-news-story-about-election-cyber-security/article_7ad809d5-9e1c-53ff-8f33-fb3c8ce90802.html

REDISTRICTING

North Carolina: Race-Based Redistricting Imposed on NC 'Against Its Will'

Lawmakers were critical of the process, saying the federal judges who tapped a Stanford University law professor to draw maps for them had done so prematurely and allowed him to consider race as he looked at election districts in Cumberland, Guilford, Hoke, Mecklenburg, Wake, Bladen, Sampson and Wayne counties. The three federal judges presiding over the case that will determine what districts North Carolina's state Senate and House members come from in the 2018 elections have yet to rule on maps the lawmakers adopted in August. Phil Strach, the Raleigh-based attorney representing lawmakers, contends the judges were premature in appointing a "special master," unaffiliated with either party, as their mapmaker. "Judges do not issue provisional sentences before a defendant is found guilty," Strach stated in the lawmakers' response to the mapmaker submitted shortly before the midnight deadline on Friday. "(J)uries do not make provisional damages awards before adjudicating liability; and courts do not craft provisional remedies before finding a constitutional violation."

<http://www.newsobserver.com/news/politics-government/state-politics/article185423903.html>