



April 23, 2018

ACRU Election Integrity Bulletin

FEDERAL

The Hill: Senators Chart Path Forward on Election Security Bill

Senators are working to again revise legislation designed to help guard digital voting infrastructure from cyberattacks after meeting with state officials. Congress has already sent \$380 million to states to upgrade voting equipment and address security concerns. State officials have been wary of efforts to address election security at the federal level, given that states—not the federal government—have historically been responsible for administering elections. The secretaries are not signing on to support the legislation—at least not yet. “I’m not ready to support the legislation in its current form,” said Missouri Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft (R). “I probably disagree a little bit with some of the senators on how important the bill is,” he said, adding that he believes the extent of Russia’s efforts have been “exaggerated” by federal officials. Ashcroft said that the revised version should do more to increase the flow of information from the federal side to the states, which was a source of concern ahead of the 2016 vote. In a statement, Louisiana Secretary of State Tom Schedler (R) said he was “encouraged by the dialogue” at the Monday meeting. He added, “I believe strongly that states, not the federal government, can most effectively secure our elections as we move forward and I’m confident that progress is being made to accomplish our mutual goals.”

<http://thehill.com/policy/cybersecurity/384200-senators-chart-path-forward-on-election-security-bill>

Heritage Foundation: Add These Voter Fraud Cases to the Growing List

Despite the lack of media coverage, evidence of election fraud continues to mount. This week, The Heritage Foundation added 26 new entries to its election fraud database, bringing the searchable ledger to a total of 1,132 proven instances of election fraud. That includes 983 cases that ended in a criminal conviction, 48 that led to civil penalties, 79 where defendants were enrolled in a diversion program, and 22 cases of official or judicial findings of fraud. Americans should be alarmed. These entries represent irrefutable evidence that fraud has impacted elections in 47 states, and across all levels of government. Worse still, they are probably just the tip of America’s election fraud iceberg. The Heritage database is not comprehensive, so the actual volume of vote fraud is likely far higher. Exactly how much higher is anybody’s guess.

<https://www.dailysignal.com/2018/04/19/add-these-voter-fraud-cases-to-the-growing-list/>

STATES

New York: Cuomo Grants Parolees the Right to Vote

Appealing to his left flank, Gov. Cuomo announced Wednesday that he’s signed an executive order to give convicted felons on parole the right to vote. The order will cover more than 36,000 parolees statewide. More than half—54 percent—live in New York City,

according to the state Department of Corrections and Community Supervision.

<https://nypost.com/2018/04/18/cuomo-grants-parolees-the-right-to-vote/>

North Dakota: State Fights Part of Voter ID Ruling Amid Appeal

North Dakota is fighting part of a federal judge's ruling that loosened the state's voter identification law. Early this month, U.S. District Judge Daniel Hovland issued an order preventing the state from requiring that IDs include a "current residential street address", which Native American communities often lack. The state asked Tuesday, April 10, to delay that order while an appeal is pending.

<https://www.westfargopioneer.com/news/government-and-politics/4434199-nd-fights-part-voter-id-ruling-amid-appeal>

Texas: Woman Convicted of Voter Fraud: 'I Had No Idea I Couldn't Vote'

A Tarrant County woman sentenced to five years in prison for voting while on felony probation spoke on camera for the first time on Tuesday. Crystal Mason says she made a last-minute decision to vote at the urging of her mom. She says she had no idea that it was illegal to vote while she was serving probation. For voting, Mason was sentenced to five years in prison. She had recently served two years and 10 months for committing felony tax fraud and was still on probation.

<http://www.fox4news.com/news/north-texas-woman-convicted-of-voter-fraud-i-had-no-idea-i-couldnt-vote>

Texas: Officials Call for Mail-In Ballot Investigation in Webb County

After receiving complaints from three local elected officials, the director of elections at the Secretary of State's office is calling on an investigation of alleged mail-in ballot fraud in Webb County. Director of Elections Keith Ingram, in an April 10 letter to the Texas Attorney General's Director of Law Enforcement David Maxwell, wrote that the information his office received "warrants a submission for criminal investigation." "The complaint alleges that individuals knowingly provided false information on applications for ballot by mail

and illegally returned those ballots. A violation of (this section) of the Texas Election Code is a state jail felony," Ingram wrote.

<https://www.lmtonline.com/local/article/Officials-call-for-mail-in-ballot-investigation-12850595.php>

Wisconsin: Nekoosa Man Charged with Voter Fraud Doesn't Show Up for Court

A 55-year-old Nekoosa man charged with election fraud failed on Monday to make his initial appearance in Wood County Circuit Court. Thomas S. Tourtillott had a warrant issued for his arrest by Wood County Circuit Judge Todd Wolf. According to court records, the Wisconsin Elections Commission did an audit of the November 2016 presidential election and discovered Tourtillott, who is a convicted felon still on probation, had voted in the election.

<https://www.wisconsinrapidtribune.com/story/news/2018/04/09/nekoosa-man-charged-voter-fraud-doesnt-show-up-court/500392002/>

West Virginia: For First Time, State Law Will Require Voter ID Checks in May Primary

Poll workers across West Virginia are being schooled on West Virginia's new voter ID law as part of their training ahead of the May 8 primary election while educational materials are also being rolled to potential voters. "Our clerks have really taken the ball and rolled with it," said Donald 'Deak' Kersey, elections director and deputy counsel for the West Virginia Secretary of State's Office. "They understand the rules. They're getting their people trained."

<http://wvmetronews.com/2018/04/12/for-1st-time-state-law-will-require-voter-id-checks-in-west-virginia-may-primary/>

(more)

REDISTRICTING

SCOTUS: Texas Redistricting Battles Return to the Court

Since October, the Supreme Court has heard oral argument in two major redistricting battles, involving allegations of partisan gerrymandering in Wisconsin and Maryland. When the justices take the bench next Tuesday, they will hear oral argument in a third redistricting dispute, this time involving allegations that Texas lawmakers drew federal congressional and state legislative districts that harmed some of the state's black and Hispanic residents. Turning to the merits of its case, the state emphasizes that the 2013 maps simply adopted the interim maps imposed by the district court itself in the wake of the Supreme Court's 2012 decision, which "instructed the district court to draw interim maps for Texas's 2012 elections that do not violate the Constitution or the Voting Rights Act." Given this history, the state contends, it cannot be the case that the legislature was intentionally discriminating against minority voters when it enacted the maps that the district court had ordered it to use.

<http://www.scotusblog.com/2018/04/argument-preview-texas-redistricting-battles-return-to-the-court/>