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# ACRU Election Integrity Bulletin

## LEAD STORY

### Iowa Voters Will Be Asked for ID as New Law Gets Soft Rollout

Iowans who vote in the state's June 5 primary election will be asked at the polls to show identification. It's part of a soft rollout of the state's new voter ID law, which goes into full effect next year. Voters will be asked at the polls to produce one of the six acceptable forms of ID; those who do not have one will still be able to vote by signing an oath verifying their identity. But starting in 2019, those without proper identification will be allowed to cast a provisional ballot and must produce an accepted form of ID before the following Monday or the ballot will not be counted. The new law was approved in 2017 by then-Gov. Terry Branstad and the Republican-led Iowa Legislature after a partisan debate. Supporters said the law was needed to protect the integrity of the state's elections and modernize its election system. "We want participation, but we want the integrity. They're not mutually exclusive," Iowa Secretary of State Paul Pate said this week at a Dallas County event where he offered an update on the law.

[http://siouxcityjournal.com/news/state-and-regional/iowa-voters-will-be-asked-for-id-as-new-law/article\\_490820c6-38ee-54bf-904e-403fa155bf05.html](http://siouxcityjournal.com/news/state-and-regional/iowa-voters-will-be-asked-for-id-as-new-law/article_490820c6-38ee-54bf-904e-403fa155bf05.html)

## FEDERAL

### National Review: Elizabeth Warren Is Gravely Concerned About... the Electoral College

At a shindig at the Center for American Progress, Senator Elizabeth Warren (D., Mass.) has reportedly voiced her grave concerns (one gets the sense that she

has no other flavor of concern) about the fact that Hillary Clinton won the popular vote but still lost the election because of the Electoral College. Warren's complaint is squarely in the progressive tradition of finding any impediment to their political success illegitimate, troubling, or suspect. When you're sure you and your allies are the chosen protagonists of the Right Side of History, anything that stands in your way must be not just inconvenient but a bastion of villainy or backwardness.

<https://www.nationalreview.com/corner/elizabeth-warren-electoral-college-popular-vote-complaint/>

### Thanks to Ranked-Choice Voting, Expect a Spike in Spoiled Ballots

Advocates of ranked-choice voting (RCV) commonly claim that their preferred method of deciding elections boosts civic engagement, channels the true will of the people and strengthens our democracy. But for all the empty rhetoric, RCV may actually have significant voter-suppression effects. A study from Stanford University found that voter turnout in mayoral elections declined relative to plurality elections after RCV was implemented, though the result was not statistically significant. Even more concerning, a great deal of evidence suggests that the number of spoiled ballots in RCV elections is substantial. During municipal RCV elections in Minneapolis, MN, in 2009, "10.5 percent of the votes cast... were spoiled ballots or contained voter errors. And a higher incidence of spoiled ballots and voter error occurred in low-income, high-minority population areas, not affluent, predominantly white voting precincts." For comparison, generally about 1 percent of votes cast in plurality elections are invalid. In Minneapolis' RCV elections in 2013, the trend held—researchers observed a higher rate of spoiled ballots in low-income wards than in more affluent ones.

<http://www.themainewire.com/2018/05/ranked-choice-voting-expect-spike-spoiled-ballots/>

**STATES****Florida: Circuit Judge Says Ballots Were Illegally Destroyed in Debbie Wasserman Schultz House Race**

Florida circuit court Judge Raag Singhal ruled the Broward County Supervisor of Elections Office violated state and federal law Friday, after the office destroyed ballots from a 2016 House race for Democratic Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz's seat. The elections office may also be on the hook for \$200,000 in attorney's fees for Tim Canova, who brought a lawsuit against them after he lost to Wasserman Schultz in 2016, the *Sun Sentinel* reported. Canova lost by a final tally of 28,809 to 21,907 in a Democratic primary. Canova requested a closer look at the paper ballots from the race to check for anomalies in March 2017, but Elections Supervisor Brenda Snipes did not respond to his requests so he took her to court, according to the Sun Sentinel. Snipes had signed off on the destruction of the ballots in September 2017.

<http://dailycaller.com/2018/05/17/ballots-illegally-destroyed-in-debbie-wasserman-schultz-house-race/>

**Iowa: State Changes Voting Law to Allow Electronic Proof of Residence**

A change in Iowa's voting laws will allow electronic proof of residence to be presented on Election Day, a move state Secretary of State Paul Pate said would benefit college students. The new law, which goes into effect immediately, allows proof of residence to be provided in an electronic format, such as on a cell phone Pate told a crowd of about 30 people Thursday afternoon in Dallas County. The provision was contained in a legislative bill signed into law Wednesday by Gov. Kim Reynolds. "Most Iowans receive these documents in electronic form already, so this is a natural progression to keep pace with technology while maintaining the integrity of the vote," Pate said in a statement provided to reporters before the meeting. "I want every eligible Iowan to participate in our elections, and this is just one more way that we're making it easy to vote, but hard to cheat."

<https://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/news/2018/05/17/iowa-secretary-state-paul-pate-voting-vote-laws-votes-changes-dallas-des-moines-polk-college/620048002/>

**Maine: Secretary of State to Hold Tutorial Meetings on Ranked-Choice Voting**

Maine Secretary of State Matt Dunlap is going to host a series of informational meetings on the new voting system that'll be used for the first time in June primaries. <https://www.pressherald.com/2018/05/14/maine-secretary-of-state-to-hold-ranked-choice-meetings/>

**New Hampshire: Executive Council Votes to Send Questions on Voting Residency Bill to Supreme Court**

Gov. Chris Sununu said Wednesday that if the state Supreme Court finds a controversial voter residency requirement bill constitutional following a review that he is requesting, "I think it would be hard not to sign it." <http://www.wmur.com/article/council-votes-to-send-questions-on-voting-rights-bill-to-supreme-court/20723583>

**New Hampshire: Court Is Key in Voting Debate**

The state Supreme Court is now Ground Zero in the political and ideological battle over election law in New Hampshire, as two voting-related bills are now before the five justices. All stakeholders in the voting rights debate have acknowledged for the past two years that various bills under consideration would end up in court, just not so soon. Gov. Chris Sununu wants an advisory opinion from the court as to the constitutionality of HB 1264, which passed the House and Senate and will land on his desk. The bill creates a common definition for residency and domicile, and sets the stage for a new residency requirement on transient voters like college students.

<http://www.unionleader.com/Dave-Solomons-State-House-Dome-Court-is-key-in-voting-debate-05202018>

(more)

## New Hampshire: Gov. Sununu, Please Protect Residents' Voting Rights

New Hampshire Democrats did not take kindly to the news that the residential voting requirement was heading to the Supreme Court for a constitutional check-up. "It's hard to believe Sununu is foolish enough to think he has to sign every bill that is deemed constitutional, regardless of how he feels about the legislation," Chairman Ray Buckley told the Associated Press. Right. How dare a popularly elected governor execute a law green-lit by the judiciary after it was drafted by representatives of the Granite State. It is not much to ask that New Hampshire resident citizens only be eligible to elect New Hampshire leaders. Citizens in neighboring Massachusetts do not have this problem. Most don't. Requiring that one must be a resident of a state to register to vote there is not radical. It's not even rare. Browse through the location-specific instructions on the federal voter registration form provided by each state and witness how common it is to see the term "resident" with a durational requirement to boot.

<http://www.insidesources.com/gov-sununu-please-protect-n-h-residents-voting-rights/>

## Texas: Edinburg Mayor Responds to Voter Fraud Accusations

A local mayor is speaking out about voter fraud accusations against him. Richard Molina beat out incumbent Richard Garcia last November by 1,240 votes to be the new mayor of Edinburg. But the outside law enforcement agencies are making sure every vote was cast fair and square. The Texas Rangers have partnered up with the Texas Attorney General's Office to launch an investigation into the city of Edinburg's mayoral election from last November.

<http://valleycentral.com/news/local/edinburg-mayor-responds-to-voter-fraud-accusations>

## REDISTRICTING

### Pennsylvania's New Congressional Map a Huge Gift to Democrats

Is Pennsylvania, a lynchpin of President Trump's victory in 2016, on the verge of evening the scales by tipping the House majority to the Democrats in 2018? The state could deliver a quarter of the 23 seats Democrats need to win control of the House, and it has little to do with the political environment working against the Republicans. The Pennsylvania Supreme Court jammed through a last-minute, reverse-gerrymander of the state's congressional districts, driving this unexpected opportunity.

<https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/campaigns/pennsylvanias-new-congressional-map-a-huge-gift-to-democrats>

### Utah: Redistricting Initiative Will Be on November Ballot

Utah voters will decide in November whether they want an independent commission in charge of redrawing the state's political boundaries, backers of a ballot initiative on the topic said Wednesday.

<https://www.thespectrum.com/story/news/local/2018/05/16/better-boundaries-utah-vote-november-redistricting-reform/615245002/>