



May 14, 2018

# ACRU Election Integrity Bulletin

## LEAD

### Senate Report: No Evidence that Russians Changed Vote Tallies in 2016

There is no evidence that Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election affected the actual vote count, according to the first installment of the Senate Intelligence Committee's Russia report, released Tuesday. "The Committee has not seen any evidence that vote tallies were manipulated or that voter registration information was deleted or modified," the report said, confirming a January 2017 assessment by U.S. intelligence agencies. However, the committee concluded that hackers affiliated with the Russian Government "conducted an unprecedented, coordinated cyber campaign against state election infrastructure." "Russian actors scanned databases for vulnerabilities, attempted intrusions, and in a small number of cases successfully penetrated a voter registration database," the panel found. "This activity was part of a larger campaign to prepare to undermine confidence in the voting process."

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2018/05/08/senate-report-no-evidence-russians-changed-vote-tallies-2016/592978002/>

## FEDERAL

### Fox News: Blue States Rally to Upend Electoral College, with Addition of Connecticut

Connecticut is joining a growing alliance of liberal states in a "pact" that would supposedly allow them to

change the way presidents are picked—by allocating each state's electoral votes to the winner of the national popular vote. The uphill campaign, which if ever brought to fruition would almost certainly face a court challenge, has gained renewed attention amid Democratic grumbling about the Electoral College in the wake of President Trump's 2016 win. While he defeated Hillary Clinton in the electoral vote, he lost the popular vote by 2.9 million ballots. Enter the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact, which blue states are joining to commit to allocating their electoral votes to the national popular-vote winner—regardless of their own state results. The pact is meant to be a work-around to the constitutional requirements that created the Electoral College system, which awards each state's electors to the winner of that state. Other jurisdictions that have joined the pact include California, Hawaii, Illinois, Massachusetts, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont, Washington and the District of Columbia—all places where Clinton defeated Trump in 2016. Connecticut would be the first state to sign on since 2014, when New York joined. The plan has been pushed for last several years, and proponents are working to get other states to pass legislation joining the pact. According to the National Popular Vote website, the proposal has passed in at least one house in 11 other states, including Arkansas, Arizona, Colorado, Delaware, Maine, Michigan, North Carolina, New Mexico, Nevada, Oklahoma and Oregon.

<http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2018/05/10/blue-states-rally-to-upend-electoral-college-with-addition-connecticut.html>

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## Free Beacon: Soros Sole Funder of PAC Targeting Infrequent Voters in Battleground States

Liberal billionaire George Soros is the only individual funding a political action committee established by a coalition of anti-Trump organizations that will target infrequent voters in three battleground states for the November midterm elections, filings show. Soros, who bankrolled lawsuits against voter identification laws and poured money into voter mobilization campaigns during the 2016 elections, has a personal goal of enlarging the electorate by 10 million voters, internal documents from his foundation previously revealed. The initiative, called the “Win Justice” campaign, will focus on the battleground states of Florida, Michigan, and Nevada, all which have closely contested Senate races. The coalition plans to reach 2.5 million voters as part of the campaign by using digital organization, training individuals to knock on doors to mobilize voters, and peer-to-peer texting. Soros views voter-related issues as a top priority and set a personal goal of enlarging the electorate by 10 million voters, the *Free Beacon* previously reported after discovering the memo in a trove of hacked Soros files released by *DC Leaks* during the 2016 election cycle. The financier has attempted to achieve this goal by pushing funds to a number of voter related initiatives and campaigns that were led by prominent liberal groups and attorneys during the 2016 election cycle. Soros additionally funded a multi-million-dollar push to combat voter identification laws in a number of states leading up to the 2016 elections. That campaign was led by Marc Elias, a partner at the Washington, D.C., office of the Perkins Coie law firm, who was acting as Hillary Clinton’s top campaign lawyer at the time. Elias was filing the suits separate from Hillary’s campaign and in his personal capacity as an attorney at Perkins Coie.

<http://freebeacon.com/politics/soros-sole-funder-pac-targeting-infrequent-voters-battleground-states/>

## STATES

### Arizona: Judge: State Prohibition on ‘Ballot Harvesting’ Is Legal

A federal judge upheld an Arizona law that makes it a felony to bring someone else’s early ballot to a polling place. In an extensive ruling this week, Judge Douglas Rayes said there’s scant evidence the 2016 law will impose a hardship. While a majority of Arizonans now vote with early ballots, he said the vast majority manage to get them turned in without the help of outsiders whose activities are now a crime. The measure was approved by the Republican-controlled Legislature and signed by Gov. Doug Ducey on the claim that limiting who can handle someone’s ballot will prevent voter fraud. In fact, the judge said, there has “never been a case of voter fraud associated with ballot collection charged in Arizona.” But he added, “The Legislature need not wait until a problem occurs to take proactive steps it deems appropriate.” He said challengers, led by the Arizona Democratic Party, presented no evidence that the law is more likely to affect minorities than any other voter.

[http://tucson.com/news/local/arizona-law-against-ballot-harvesting-is-legal-will-stand-judge/article\\_1b4f4dd3-4825-5538-8491-2ce612d896cc.html](http://tucson.com/news/local/arizona-law-against-ballot-harvesting-is-legal-will-stand-judge/article_1b4f4dd3-4825-5538-8491-2ce612d896cc.html)

### North Dakota: State Agrees to Settlement Talks Over Voter ID Laws

North Dakota agreed to hold settlement negotiations with a group of American Indians who sued over expanded voter ID laws after a federal judge admonished the state for exaggerating worries of voter fraud. Republican Gov. Doug Burgum last year signed GOP-led legislation that reworked the ID laws after tribal members sued the state in 2016. Several members of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa in North Dakota have continued to challenge the laws, saying are a form of voter suppression. Hovland previously had eliminated a requirement that documents include residential street addresses, which are sometimes not assigned on American Indian reservations. North Dakota officials called that part of the ruling unworkable, and claimed it could lead to voter fraud. The state already had appealed Hovland’s ruling and the attorney fees totaling more than \$1.1

million filed by the plaintiffs. North Dakota Secretary of State Al Jaeger, a Republican and the state's top election official, said the state would consider settlement proposals.

<http://www.bradenton.com/news/nation-world/national/article210722839.html>

## Oklahoma: State's High Court Upholds Voter ID Law

The state's voter identification law has been ruled constitutional by the Oklahoma Supreme Court. "The Oklahoma Voter ID Act is a reasonable procedural regulation to ensure that voters meet identity and residency qualifications to vote and does not cause an undue burden," according to an opinion that was filed Tuesday and released Wednesday. Lawmakers in 2009 put voter identification on the ballot in the form of State Question 746. The measure in 2010 secured passage with 74 percent of the vote. Requiring identification at the polls protects the integrity and reliability of the electoral process, the opinion states. "Because the Oklahoma Voter ID Act exists as a procedural regulation to ensure voters meet an existing qualification of voting and there is no direct cost associated with voting, it is constitutional," according to the opinion.

[http://www.tulsaworld.com/news/capitol\\_report/state-s-high-court-upholds-voter-id-law/article.056c441d-9fac-5d1f-9738-07af1057a792.html](http://www.tulsaworld.com/news/capitol_report/state-s-high-court-upholds-voter-id-law/article.056c441d-9fac-5d1f-9738-07af1057a792.html)

## Pennsylvania: Election Worker Pleads Guilty to Intimidating Voters Who Wanted to Vote for Non-Democratic Candidates

A North Philadelphia election worker has pleaded guilty to election fraud during a 2017 special election for a state House seat in the city. Pennsylvania Attorney General Josh Shapiro says 59-year-old Thurman George, a machine inspector at Poll 43-7, pleaded guilty on Wednesday to frauds by election officers. George, along with three other election workers, was accused of harassment and intimidation against voters who wanted to vote for candidates of their choice, but not the candidate being pushed by the city's Democratic Party machine. The incident happened during a special election in March 2017 for the 197th State House District. "My job is to uphold Pennsylvania law to ensure free and fair elections,"

Shapiro said. "We are drawing a clear line—during a time when the integrity of our country's elections are being questioned—the sanctity of 'one person, one vote' must and will be upheld here in Pennsylvania." George has been sentenced to five years probation and is prohibited from voting for four years.

<http://philadelphia.cbslocal.com/2018/05/09/thurman-george-pleads-guilty-election-fraud/>

## Texas: Hidalgo's Outgoing Mayor to Contest Election

The mayor here is expected to announce today he will contest Saturday's election after losing to one of the council members by 261 votes. Hidalgo Mayor Martin Cepeda believes his opponent's political party went outside of the city limits to recruit people to vote in the municipal election.

[http://www.themonitor.com/news/local/article\\_feea130e-5402-11e8-b342-7f64857498ff.html](http://www.themonitor.com/news/local/article_feea130e-5402-11e8-b342-7f64857498ff.html)

## West Virginia: State's Voter ID Law: Some Say It's a Balance, Others Say It's Not Needed at All

Having gone into effect at the beginning of this year, West Virginia's new voter identification law sees its first statewide election during the May 8 primaries. While state legislators responsible for passing the law say it strikes a balance, experts opposed to such measures—here and elsewhere in the country—say it is a "solution in search of a problem." Some organizations, though, are teaming with the Secretary of State's office for public outreach programs to help educate voters about the law and what they need to bring with them to the polls. The West Virginia Legislature passed the law during the 2016 regular session. Under the provisions of the new law, voters are required to show an acceptable form of ID to legally make their way to the polls. The aim, according to Republican leaders, was to prevent voter fraud while not burdening those who legitimately want to exercise their constitutional rights.

<http://wvpublic.org/post/west-virginias-voter-id-law-some-say-its-balance-others-say-its-not-needed-all#stream/0>

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**REDISTRICTING****Ohio: State Passes Bipartisan Redistricting Ballot Initiative to Curb Gerrymandering**

Ohio voters overwhelmingly approved a ballot proposal Tuesday to reform the state's redistricting process by requiring bipartisan cooperation in making new maps. After polls closed, three-quarters of votes counted backed the ballot initiative. The measure asked voters if they wanted to amend the state constitution to require bipartisanship while drawing new congressional districts.

<https://www.rollcall.com/news/politics/ohio-passes-bipartisan-redistricting-ballot-initiative-curb-gerrymandering>

**Utah: Redistricting Reform Measure Likely to Qualify for Ballot**

A proposal to overhaul the way Utah draws its political boundaries appears likely to qualify for the November ballot, after supporters turned in nearly 150,000 signatures to state officials. The measure, dubbed Better Boundaries, would create an independent commission to draw district lines every 10 years, following the decennial Census. Today, district maps are drawn by the state legislature. But if the measure passes, it would hand power to draw the maps to the seven-member commission, five of whom would have to sign off on any new map to advance it. The approved map would go first to the chief justice of the state Supreme Court and then to the legislature for approval or rejection. The commission's members would be appointed by the governor and both Democratic and Republican legislative leaders. The final two members would be unaffiliated with either political party. Utah could become the eighth state to adopt an independent commission. Ohio this week joined Alaska, Arizona, California, Idaho, Montana and Washington, which all draw boundary lines via commission rather than through the legislature.

<http://thehill.com/homenews/campaign/387290-utah-redistricting-reform-measure-likely-to-qualify-for-ballot>

**Missouri: State Legislature Would Count Only Citizens When Redistricting**

The Missouri House has advanced a constitutional amendment that would require that only U.S. citizens be counted for the purposes of legislative redistricting. The measure was approved on a 90-34 vote Friday. If the Senate agrees, voters will see the question on the Nov. 6 ballot. The number of citizens would be determined by a citizenship question planned for the upcoming census or a reliable estimate from the U.S. Census Bureau. Currently, districts are drawn based on total population. Proponents say only citizens should matter when it comes to legislative power.

Opponents say the move would mean legal residents would not have representation.

<https://www.ktts.com/news/local-news/missouri-house-would-count-only-citizens-when-redistricting>