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Institute

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ACRU Election Integrity Bulletin

FEDERAL

AOL: Almost Half of Republicans Believe Millions Voted Illegally in the 2016 Election

Forty-eight percent of Republicans said they believe between 3 million and 5 million people voted illegally in 2016, while 17 percent said they do not, according to a new *HuffPost/YouGov* poll. Another 35 percent of the GOP said they were unsure. Just under one-quarter of Democrats said they believed the allegations that millions of votes were cast illegally, while 51 percent said they didn't and 26 percent said they were unsure. <https://www.aol.com/article/news/2018/05/27/almost-half-of-republicans-believe-millions-voted-illegally-in-the-2016-election/23444571/>

Real Clear Politics: Popular Vote Plan Would Do More Harm Than Good

Since Donald Trump won the 2016 presidential election with a majority in the Electoral College but only a minority of the popular vote, ideas for somehow reforming the presidential election system have received a lot of attention. One of the most successful of these is a plan—already adopted by the legislatures of 11 states (with 165 electoral votes)—to award all the electoral votes of these states to the winner of the national popular vote. https://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2018/05/25/popular_vote_plan_would_do_more_harm_than_good.html

Washington Times: Twitter Unveils 'Election Labels' to Designate Campaign Accounts of Midterm Candidates

Twitter will designate the official campaign accounts of candidates running for office in the 2018 midterm elections with a special label, the social media platform announced Wednesday. Starting May 30, Twitter said it will let candidates vying for state governor or for the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives earmark their campaign accounts with “election labels”. <https://m.washingtontimes.com/news/2018/may/23/twitter-unveils-election-labels-designate-campaign/>

STATES

Florida: Rick Scott Overrules Elections Chief, Directs Florida to Seek Cyber-Security Money

Gov. Rick Scott on Wednesday directed the state's chief elections official to seek \$19.2 million in federal money to help counties protect against possible cyber-security attacks in the 2018 election. <http://www.tampabay.com/florida-politics/buzz/2018/05/23/rick-scott-overrules-elections-chief-directs-florida-to-seek-cyber-security-money/>

(more)

Florida: Judge's Ruling that Ballots Were Illegally Destroyed Continues Broward Election Woes

Florida's Secretary of State plans to send an elections expert to the state's second-largest county during the upcoming elections to "ensure that all laws are followed," after a judge ruled that the Broward Supervisor of Elections illegally destroyed ballots cast in a 2016 congressional race.

<http://www.miamiherald.com/news/local/community/broward/article211080274.html>

Iowa: Secretary of State Announces Record Number of Absentee Ballot Requests

Data released today by Iowa Secretary of State Paul Pate shows a record number of Iowans voting by absentee ballot for the June 5 primary elections. As of Thursday afternoon, 46,087 Iowans had requested an absentee ballot. That is more than any primary election in state history. The new total surpasses the 2016 mark of 44,016 and the 2014 number of 44,740.

<http://www.kwqc.com/content/news/Iowa-Secretary-of-State-announces-record-number-of-absentee-ballot-requests-484240221.html>

New Hampshire: Court Hears from 10 Parties on State's Voting Domicile Bill

Ten individuals or groups have weighed in as the New Hampshire Supreme Court decides whether to consider the constitutionality of ending the state's distinction between full-fledged residents and those who claim the state as their domicile in order to vote. Current law allows college students and others who say they are domiciled in New Hampshire to vote without being official residents subject to residency requirements, such as getting a New Hampshire driver's license or registering a vehicle. The Legislature sent Republican Gov. Chris Sununu a bill last week to align the definitions of domicile and residency, but he wants the court to clarify whether doing so would be constitutional.

<http://www.fosters.com/news/20180531/court-hears-from-10-parties-on-nh-voting-rights-bill>

New Hampshire: Database Flags 142 Possible Voter Fraud Cases in State

The ballot law commission also heard from Associate Attorney General Anne Edwards about other types of voter fraud. She described a handful of prosecuted cases for each election cycle in the last two decades, including people who voted in multiple places because they owned property in more than one town, a 17-year-old who voted under his father's name and a woman who forged her son's application for an absentee ballot. In the last 18 months, the office investigated 28 complaints, only five of which were founded. Those included an older woman who filled out her husband's absentee ballot four days after he died, Edwards said. After the 2016 general election, the system flagged 94,610 New Hampshire voters whose first and last names and dates of birth matched those in other states. That amounts to about one in nine voters, but officials eliminated all but 142 of the matches after taking a closer look at middle names and other information, including the marked checklists maintained by poll workers. Of the 142, officials have sent 51 to the attorney general's office for investigation, and are waiting for information from other states on the rest, Secretary of State Bill Gardner told the ballot law commission.

https://www.laoniadailysun.com/news/state/database-flags-possible-voter-fraud-cases-in-nh/article_d266c238-6383-11e8-b3bb-93c03b216368.html

New York: 800 Absentee Ballots Not Delivered to Board of Elections for 2017 Vote

In April, the New York City Board of Elections received a late delivery of 1,077 pieces of mail from the United States Postal Service, including what turned out to be 828 absentee ballots cast in the 2017 municipal elections. Of those, the BOE found 533 valid absentee ballots never counted, effectively disenfranchising hundreds of voters through no fault of their own, all of whom were attempting to vote in Brooklyn. The postal service's failure was "egregious," BOE Executive Director Michael Ryan said at a public meeting of the board's commissioners on Tuesday.

<http://www.gothamgazette.com/city/7704-800-absentee-ballots-not-delivered-to-board-of-elections-for-2017-vote>

Texas: Texas AG Continues Crusade Against Voter Fraud

Texas state law enforcement officers arrested Laura Janeth Garza, 38, on Friday in Houston and booked her into the Montgomery County Jail in Conroe, an hour north of Houston, where she is being held on \$75,000 bonds for each of two charges of illegal voting.

<https://www.courthousenews.com/texas-ag-continues-crusade-against-voter-fraud/>

Texas: Fifth Person Charged in Edinburg Voter Fraud Investigation

A fifth person arrested in an Edinburg voter fraud investigation is now officially charged. Thirty-three-year-old Francisco Tamez Jr. is charged with two counts of illegal voting. Bond was set at \$100,000. The Texas Attorney General has confirmed Texas Rangers are handling the case focusing on the city elections held in Edinburg last year.

<http://www.krgv.com/story/38333837/fifth-person-charged-in-edinburg-voter-fraud-investigation>

Wisconsin: Appeals Court Yet to Rule on Voter ID and Other Election Laws after 16 Months

More than a year after hearing arguments, a federal appeals court has yet to rule on a host of Wisconsin voting laws, including aspects of the state's voter ID statute. The long delay has left some scratching their heads and raised questions about whether the court will act before this year's elections, including the fast-approaching Aug. 14 primary. Litigation over the voter ID law has been going on since shortly after the measure was approved seven years ago. The law has largely been upheld, but courts have modified parts of it to make it easier for people who don't have birth certificates to get free IDs.

<https://www.jsonline.com/story/news/politics/2018/05/31/appeals-court-yet-rule-voter-id-election-laws-after-16-months/656115002/>

REDISTRICTING

National Review: The Truth About Gerrymandering

Both parties have always treated the process of drawing congressional districts—mandated every ten years by the Census results—as an opportunity to increase their odds of winning while harming their opponents' chances. In recent decades, this has become more scientific as computer analysis has replaced the old-school vote counting utilized since the days of Elbridge Gerry (our fifth vice president but better known for the Massachusetts district map he signed into law as governor in 1812 that gave its name to the practice). However, the sophisticated nature of current computer-driven efforts isn't what has enabled Republicans to weaponize the process in recent years. Rather it is the that the Supreme Court ruling in *Thornburg v. Gingles* resulted in Democrats' most reliable voting group being drained out of competitive districts.

<https://www.nationalreview.com/2018/05/gerrymandering-examples-caused-liberal-judges/>

Washingtonian: Political Insiders Plotted the Most Gerrymandered District in America—and Left a Paper Trail

In March, the Supreme Court heard a groundbreaking challenge to the district's wild contours, brought by seven Republican voters. These Marylanders argue that the Grand Canyon-size district—in a state whose seven others would barely cover the map of Massachusetts—was redrawn to punish the region's GOP voters. Before the court's term ends next month, the justices may hand down a decision that radically changes American politics. *Benisek v. Lamone* is one of two cases before them that take on an age-old system allowing members of Congress to handpick their constituents, effectively deciding their contests well before Election Day. But the battle over Maryland's 6th is different than other gerrymanders—and not just because Democrats are the culprits. The pols who rigged this district left behind a massive paper trail that lays out exactly how it all happened, an operation so fine-grained that mapmakers parked a district line less than a block from a candidate's house.

<https://www.washingtonian.com/2018/05/20/political-insiders-plotted-most-gerrymandered-district-in-america-left-paper-trail-maryland/>