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ACRU Election Integrity Bulletin

LEAD

Concord Monitor: N.H. Supreme Court Upholds Constitutionality of Voter Residency Bill

A fiercely contested bill to make residency a condition of voting in New Hampshire was determined by the state Supreme Court to be constitutional Thursday, in a major ruling that clears its approval by Gov. Chris Sununu. In a 3-2 ruling, the court found that the bill, House Bill 1264, is not a burden on the right to vote, but rather a means to better organize state laws “in order to place voters and residents on equal footing as New Hampshire citizens.”

<https://www.concordmonitor.com/In-3-2-decision-Supreme-Court-upholds-constitutionality-of-voting-residency-bill-18791151>

WMUR: Amid Criticism, Praise, Sununu Signs Voter Residency Requirement Bill into Law

Calling it an avenue to restoring “equality and fairness to our elections,” Gov. Chris Sununu on Friday signed into law highly controversial legislation requiring anyone voting in New Hampshire to take action to become a resident of the state. House Bill 1264 will take effect July 1, 2019, which means the upcoming 2018 elections will be held under the existing statutes that allow people domiciled in the state to vote in the state even if they are not residents of the state.

<http://www.wmur.com/article/amid-uproar-sununu-signs-voter-residency-requirement-bill-into-law/22142492>

FEDERAL

Washington Times: Noncitizen Immigrants Find It Easy to Register to Vote, Cast Ballots

Allegheny County has removed more than 130 people from its voter lists in recent years after discovering they weren't U.S. citizens and should never have been allowed to register, much less vote, according to a report being released Thursday from the Public Interest Legal Foundation. Of those, nearly 40 went on to vote in elections before they were removed from the lists, the foundation found.

<https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2018/jul/12/immigrants-find-noncitizen-voter-registration-easy/>

How Trump's Supreme Court Pick Ruled on SC's Voter ID Law

Even before he possibly secures a seat on the U.S. Supreme Court, President Donald Trump's choice to be the next associate justice on the nation's highest court already has had an impact on S.C. laws—and the state's election process. As a judge on the D.C. Court of Appeals in 2012, Kavanaugh ruled on a Justice Department challenge to a S.C. law requiring voters to show an ID to cast their ballots, a law that critics contended really was intended to reduce minority turnout in elections. Kavanaugh was the primary author of the opinion, which ultimately upheld the S.C. law. That law, passed by the GOP-controlled Legislature in 2011, required voters to show one of five forms of photo identification before they could vote.

<https://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article214750305.html>

Real Clear Politics: Let's Not Paper Over Election Security

As our nation focuses on election security, an errant notion has emerged that paper-only balloting is some kind of panacea against potential threats. While it is vital to election security that we mandate the use of verifiable paper audit trails, the same cannot be said of paper-only ballots, where the voters do not interact with a voting machine of any kind. The best system is a hybrid approach in which the voter interacts with a machine but still generates a voter verifiable paper record. This offers voters a second chance because they now have the opportunity to review their ballot to ensure that the votes they are casting are the votes they intend to cast. The machine will either indicate to the voter if they made a mistake or will prevent them from making the mistake altogether.

https://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2018/07/14/lets_not_paper_over_election_security_137522.html

STATES

California: Stop the Undocumented from Getting Driver's Licenses? State Plan Would Reverse Law

An initiative that would reverse a law that allows immigrants residing in California illegally to obtain driver's licenses has been cleared to begin gathering signatures for the 2020 ballot. The proposal also seeks to eliminate the current "sanctuary state" law and end automatic voter registration practices in California. Don Rosenberg, the main proponent of the proposal and a staunch opponent of illegal immigration, said he believes the plan will increase public safety, reduce voter fraud and prevent traffic fatalities. More than 1 million illegal immigrants in California have been issued driver's licenses since Assembly Bill 60 took effect in 2015.

<https://www.sacbee.com/news/politics-government/capitol-alert/article214451294.html>

Georgia: Atlanta Mayor's Campaign Paid Firm Registered to Election Official

Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms' campaign paid a consulting firm registered to a senior official in the Fulton County elections department during last year's runoff election. According to records obtained by Channel 2 Action News and The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, the campaign paid more than \$3,600 to RJ Mays Consulting, whose registered agent is Ralph Jones Sr., registration chief of the county's election department.

<https://www.ajc.com/news/local-govt--politics/atlanta-mayor-campaign-paid-firm-registered-election-official/yhLLC8tSFuuYP0c4dWZ1yL/>

Massachusetts: Boston Weighs Giving Legal, Non-US Citizens Voting Rights

Non-U.S. citizens living in the country legally may one day be allowed to vote in Boston elections. The City Council is holding a hearing Tuesday on the idea at the request of Council President Andrea Campbell. The council is considering ways to make city elections more inclusive, including allowing immigrants with legal status in the country the right to vote in municipal races.

<https://www.boston.com/news/local-news/2018/07/08/boston-weighs-giving-legal-non-us-citizens-voting-rights>

Maryland: Company Working for Elections System Has Ties to Russia

Maryland officials are asking the Department of Homeland Security to help secure the state's election system after learning a vendor that provides key services was bought by a company with links to a Russian oligarch. State House Speaker Michael Busch said the FBI had found no criminal activity. But Gov. Larry Hogan said even the appearance of the potential for "bad actors" to influence the state's election infrastructure could undermine public trust. An investor in the vendor, ByteGrid LLC, has "close ties" to Russian President Vladimir Putin, according to Busch.

<https://nyp.st/2zJbD9K>

New Jersey: Lawsuit Claims Voter Fraud in Dover's 4th Ward Election Results

Dover Alderman Ronald M. Camacho has alleged voter fraud and misconduct by poll workers in a lawsuit challenging his 12-vote loss to newcomer Carlos A. Valencia in the June 5 Democratic primary election. Filed with Superior Court Assignment Judge Stuart Minkowitz in Morristown, the lawsuit identifies 28 ballots cast in the 4th Ward that should be nullified. Those voters either don't live in the ward, received illegal assistance in filling out mail-in ballots, had mail-in ballots brought to the Morris County Board of Elections by a non-authorized person, or received improper assistance by a poll worker filling out a provisional ballot on election day, the lawsuit charges.

<https://www.dailyrecord.com/story/news/politics/2018/07/13/dover-nj-alderman-files-election-voter-fraud-lawsuit/778239002/>

Oregon: Illegal Immigration Foes Move to Bypass Liberal Legislatures, Take Anti-Sanctuary Measures to Voters

There's virtually no chance that the uber-progressive Oregon legislature would ever repeal the state's oldest-in-the-nation sanctuary law, which is why locals worried about illegal immigration have turned to the voters. The Stop Oregon Sanctuaries campaign submitted roughly 110,000 signatures last week to qualify an anti-sanctuary measure for the November ballot, more than the 88,000 required, stunning liberal activists and laying the groundwork for a landmark ballot battle. "This has national ramifications and our opponents know that," said Cynthia Kendoll, president of Oregonians for Immigration Reform, which led the petition drive.

<https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2018/jul/11/stop-oregon-sanctuaries-fight-sanctuary-state-aim/>

Texas: Aliens Fuel Voter Fraud in State

For a "non-existent" problem, non-citizen voting is becoming a regular occurrence in Texas. In the past two weeks: A Salvadoran national who entered the U.S. illegally was indicted on multiple counts of voter fraud. Prosecutors say Mario Obdulio Orellana registered to vote as a U.S. citizen and voted in the November 2016 election. A non-citizen was indicted for marking a ballot without a voter's consent. Marcela Gutierrez allegedly led a voter to believe she was demonstrating how to use a voting machine while actually casting votes for a slate of candidates she was paid to support. Following last year's prosecution of Mexican national Rosa Ortega, who illegally voted in Texas for over 10 years, the latest cases expose what the state Attorney General's Office calls a "lack of safeguards in the system to detect ineligible voters, like non-citizens." While the Left persists in dismissing such fraudulent behavior as a mythological urban legend, officials in Texas, home to the nation's second biggest population of legal and illegal aliens, say the state makes it easy for non-citizens to vote. "We depend on the self-reporting of the individual," observed state Sen. Brian Birdwell, R-Granbury. "That is a significant problem."

<https://immigrationreform.com/2018/07/10/aliens-fuel-voter-fraud-in-texas/>

(more)

REDISTRICTING

Breitbart News: Pennsylvania Redistricting May Flip 3 House Seats to Democrats

Democrats are currently favored in three seats held by Pennsylvania Republicans in the U.S. House of Representatives, thanks in large part to a controversial and unprecedented decision by the Democrat-dominated Pennsylvania State Supreme Court earlier this year. In that decision, the Court rejected the state legislature's 2011 redistricting of the state's congressional districts completed after the 2010 census and draw the boundaries of those congressional district lines themselves. All told, seven Republican-held seats in Pennsylvania are now on the Cook Political Report's list of 99 competitive races: two are rated "likely Democratic," one is rated "lean Democratic," one is rated "Toss-Up," one is rated "lean Republican", and two are rated "likely Republican." To get a sense of how significantly the Democrat-dominated Pennsylvania Supreme Court's gerrymandering has hurt Republican chances in the Keystone State this fall, consider that on December 30, 2017, when the Real Clear Politics Average of Polls gave the Democrats a 12.9 point generic congressional ballot advantage, five points higher than the Democrats' current 7.2 point generic congressional ballot advantage, the Cook Political Report listed only six Republican-held seats in Pennsylvania on the list of 99 competitive House races.

<https://www.breitbart.com/big-government/2018/07/09/pennsylvania-redistricting-likely-flip-3-house-seats-democrats/>