



July 2, 2018

ACRU Election Integrity Bulletin

LEAD

North Carolina Lawmakers Agree to Pitch ID Mandate to Voters

North Carolina's Republican lawmakers are asking the public for a fresh mandate to block voting by people without certain kinds of photo identification, two years after their earlier attempt to make that a state law got thrown out by federal judges. With a Senate vote on Friday's last day of session, the GOP-controlled legislature finalized a proposed constitutional amendment that would require photo IDs to vote in person. The House voted earlier this week to submit the referendum to voters in November. It isn't subject to the veto stamp of Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper, a strong voter ID opponent. The voter ID amendment is one of six approved for ballots this week by Republicans, who are trying to retain their veto-proof majorities this fall against energized Democrats. The voter ID amendment and others are likely to bring out conservative voters. If voters approve the amendments, the GOP could implement them in a lame-duck session the legislature plans for late November.

http://www.tampabay.com/north-carolina-lawmakers-agree-to-pitch-id-mandate-to-voters-ap_national2667c4c54989405ab28c57715edcdf44

FEDERAL

Racial Gerrymanders Rebuked: The Supreme Court Calls Foul on a Voting-Rights Gambit in Texas

Liberals have weaponized the Voting Rights Act and sometimes found support from a conflicted Supreme Court. But a 5-4 majority on Monday pushed back hard against the left's gambit in Texas to use the law to racially gerrymander legislative districts.

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/racial-gerrymanders-rebuked-1529968160>

In England, Hillary Trashes America's Electoral College

Repeat presidential candidate Hillary Clinton is heaping more criticism on America's electoral college, this time during an appearance at Oxford in the United Kingdom. Clinton, who lost the 2016 presidential campaign with 232 electoral votes to President Trump's 306, has previously called for scrapping America's system of electing presidents, instead relying on a direct one-person, one-vote election. "Populists can stay in power by mobilizing a fervent base. Now, there are many other lessons like this. My personal experience—with winning 3 million more votes, but still losing. And we will leave discussions of American Electoral College for another day."

<https://news.grabien.com/story-england-hillary-trashes-americas-electoral-college>

STATES

Alabama: Is Collecting Absentee Ballots Illegal?

Deputy Attorney General, Brent Beal, asks residents to let the Secretary of State's office know if they receive an absentee ballot they did not apply for or if a worker asks to pick up your absentee ballot. Collecting and filling out absentee ballots is illegal.

https://www.al.com/living/index.ssf/2018/06/john_merrill_the_practice_of_c.html

Maryland: Elections Board Says Another 7,200 Voters' Information Wasn't Passed on by MVA

The State Board of Elections disclosed Thursday that the Motor Vehicle Administration had informed it that an additional 7,200 voters had been affected by the computer

glitch that forced many Marylanders to cast provisional ballots in Tuesday's primary. The additional names bring the number of voters whose updates of their addresses or party registrations were not sent to the elections board this year and in 2017 to almost 90,000. The board announced last weekend that 19,000 voters had been affected, then revised that total to 80,000 on the eve of the election. It is not yet known how many people a cast provisional ballots as a result of the glitch.

<http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/maryland/politics/bs-md-mva-elections-board-20180628-story.html>

Ohio: Congressional Candidate Melanie Leneghan Claims Ballot-Box Fraud, Asks Supreme Court to Intervene

Republican 12th Congressional District candidate Melanie Leneghan has asked the Ohio Supreme Court to either order a new election in Muskingum County or declare her the winner of the primary because county elections officials opened ballot boxes prior to the start of a scheduled recount. In a complaint filed with the Supreme Court last Wednesday, Leneghan claims that ballots in 16 Muskingum County precincts were "fraudulently tampered with" and must be declared ineligible because they were opened and counted prior to a June 6 recount, ordered at Leneghan's request. Leneghan, who lost the May 8 primary to state Sen. Troy Balderson by 653 votes, has offered no evidence that the preliminary ballot count in the 16 precincts was wrong or that anyone tried to change the outcome.

https://www.cleveland.com/open/index.ssf/2018/06/congressional_candidate_melanie.html

Texas: Democrat Runoff Election Results Invalidated for 'Voter Fraud'

A Texas judge threw out the results of a recent Democrat runoff race for a justice of the peace seat in Kleberg County, ruling seven votes cast were invalid. He ordered a new election must be held. *Breitbart Texas* reported that Democrat challenger Ofelia "Ofie" Gutierrez contested the results of the May 22 primary runoff race against Democrat incumbent Esequiel "Cheque" De La Paz for Kleberg County Justice of the Peace in District 4. Gutierrez originally lost by seven votes. She requested a recount but lost again by six votes, 318 to 312. Then, on June 8, Gutierrez sued De La Paz, alleging voter fraud. This week, visiting Judge Joel Johnson heard arguments from attorneys for Gutierrez and De La Paz in the 105th District Court. Frank Alvarez, representing Gutierrez, argued that five adults registered to vote used De La Paz's home address

and two others did not live in Kleberg County. He contended the seven questionable votes were cast by individuals related to De La Paz or connected to his immediate family members.

<http://www.breitbart.com/texas/2018/06/28/texas-democrat-runoff-election-results-invalidated-for-voter-fraud/>

Texas: Noncitizen Arrested for Alleged Illegal 'Voter Assistance' Scheme in Border County

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton announced that authorities arrested a noncitizen for her alleged role in a voter assistance scheme during a 2016 border city runoff election. Marcela Gutierrez, a non-United States citizen, was taken into custody following an investigation conducted by the AG's office. On June 3, she was indicted by a Hidalgo County grand jury and charged with illegal voting for marking a ballot without a voter's consent in a June 2016 Hidalgo city runoff election. Gutierrez purportedly misled a voter to believe she was demonstrating how to use a voting machine when, actually, the accused cast votes on a ballot for a slate of candidates she was paid to support.

<http://www.breitbart.com/texas/2018/06/27/noncitizen-arrested-for-alleged-illegal-voter-assistance-scheme-in-texas-border-city/>

REDISTRICTING

The Redistricting Cases Are Not About Gerrymandering, They're About Imposing Proportional Representation

The Supreme Court's decision last week in *Gill v. Whitford* is potentially more important than most commentary suggests. This is because the justices' opinions did touch on the heart of the matter. It is precisely this issue of local versus aggregate vote-counting that is the real core question, not whether some level of partisan self-interest in drawing election districts goes too far by some arbitrarily selected mathematical formula. For despite all its dressing in what the chief justice in oral argument called "sociological gobbledygook," the true goal of the Democratic plaintiffs in these and similar cases is the judicial transformation of the American electoral system from our current majority/plurality rules to effectively become one of proportional representation.

<https://www.nationalreview.com/2018/06/gerrymandering-case-issue-proportional-representation/>

Supreme Court Rules for Texas in Redistricting Case

The Supreme Court on Monday largely ruled in favor of Texas, reviving congressional and legislative districts that were struck down by a lower court for diluting the votes of black and Hispanic voters. In a 5-4 decision, the justices said there isn't enough evidence to prove that state Republicans acted in bad faith and engaged in intentional discrimination when it adopted new maps in 2013 for two congressional districts and several legislative districts. But the court said the lower court was correct in ruling that one legislative district was a racial gerrymander.

<http://thehill.com/regulation/court-battles/393940-supreme-court-rules-for-texas-in-redistricting-case>