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# ACRU Election Integrity Bulletin

## LEAD

### **Townhall: ACRU's Blackwell: Protecting the Integrity of Our Elections**

Voting is a fundamental constitutional right. Free and fair elections are vital to our republic. Voting is a right and a civic duty. Our Founding Fathers entrusted “We the People” to have a full voice in leading our country into the exciting future. Every properly registered voter has the right to an undiluted vote. If someone else votes more than once... if a non-citizen votes... that dilutes your precious vote and undermines the integrity of our elections. For eight years as Ohio's Secretary of State, I protected our elections. I witnessed it firsthand, over and over again; elections are vulnerable to fraud. I could write a catalog of ways people try to “game the system” or overzealous political operatives try to gain an edge and rig an election. Safeguarding our ballot boxes is the most important thing a Secretary of State can do because the assaults through voter intimidation, voter registration fraud and outright interference are legendary.

<https://www.theacru.org/blackwell-protecting-the-integrity-of-our-elections/>

## FEDERAL

### **Brietbart: Majority of Democrats: Illegal Aliens Should Be Given the Right to Vote**

A majority of Democrat voters now say that the 12 million illegal aliens currently residing in the United States should be given the right to vote. In a new poll by Rasmussen Reports, a majority of 54 percent of Democrats said illegal aliens in the U.S. should be given

the right to vote so long as they pay taxes. Illegal aliens paying taxes ensures the identity theft of Americans. Likewise, 53 percent of self-described liberal voters said they too support giving the 12 million illegal aliens in the U.S. the right to vote. While the majority of Democrats support illegal aliens having the right to vote, the plan is very unpopular with American voters overall. Nearly 60 percent of voters said illegal aliens should not be given voting rights.

<https://www.breitbart.com/big-government/2018/07/31/majority-of-democrats-illegal-aliens-should-be-given-the-right-to-vote/>

### **Fox News: Names of Non-US Citizens Increasingly Found on Voter Rolls**

Our voter registration system masks non-citizens and allows the opportunity to vote until they decide to self-report at their own peril. All of this could have been prevented if states actually verified citizen eligibility upfront.

<http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2018/08/01/names-non-us-citizens-increasingly-found-on-voter-rolls.html>

### **Daily Caller: DNI: 2018 Russian Efforts Not at 2016 Level, Not Aimed at One Party**

Russian efforts to influence the 2018 midterm elections are not at the levels seen during the 2016 election, according to Director of National Intelligence Dan Coats. Russia has tried to disrupt U.S. elections “through decades,” but it stepped up its effort in 2016, Coats said. Russian efforts in 2018 have not tried to benefit one particular party, he said.

<http://dailycaller.com/2018/08/02/dan-coats-2018-russian-propaganda/>

(more)

## STATES

### Arizona: Officials Defend the State's Ban on 'Ballot Harvesting'

Arizona is entitled to make "ballot harvesting" a crime despite a federal law that allows anyone to deliver a letter, the state's legal defenders are arguing. At issue is a 2016 state law that makes it a felony for anyone to handle anyone else's voted or un-voted ballot. Violators can be sentenced to a year in state prison and a \$150,000 fine. In new legal filings, Joseph La Rue, an assistant attorney general, acknowledged there is a federal statute that spells out that federal law "shall not prohibit the conveyance or transmission of letters or packets by private hands without compensation." What makes that significant is that challengers say once someone puts an early ballot into an envelope and gives it to someone else to take to the polls, it becomes "mail" which the state cannot regulate. But La Rue is telling U.S. District Judge Douglas Rayes that those seeking to void a 2016 state law are misreading that federal law. He said all it does is create a "narrow exception" to the monopoly the U.S. Postal Service has in delivering mail. Specifically, he said it says federal law cannot bar the private delivery of mail.

<http://bit.ly/2MhrrLL>

### Michigan: State Can't Eliminate Straight-Party Voting

A federal judge ruled Wednesday that Michigan can't eliminate straight-party voting, saying that preventing voters from checking a single box to vote for all of a party's candidates would lead to long lines at the polls and discriminate against blacks, who tend to use the straight-party option at a higher rate. The ruling from U.S. District Judge Gershwin Drain in Detroit was a victory for the A. Philip Randolph Institute, which sued Michigan Secretary of State Ruth Johnson to overturn the ban that the Republican-led Legislature passed in late 2015. Drain issued an injunction that stopped the ban from being in effect for the November 2016 election, when nearly half of Michigan voters used the straight-party option. Straight-party voting is popular in urban areas that typically vote Democratic, such as Detroit and Flint. But it was also common in Republican-friendly counties won by President Donald Trump, such as Ottawa, Allegan, Livingston and Kent. Gov. Rick Snyder and other Republicans have said the ban will inspire

voters to do their homework instead of simply choosing a party.

<https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/judge-michigan-cant-eliminate-straight-party-voting>

### Missouri: Ashcroft Calls Report of Russian Hackers Targeting McCaskill 'a Whole Lot of Nothing'

Missouri's top election official is questioning the potential damage from Sen. Claire McCaskill's reported targeting by Russian hackers while assuring Missourians that wanna-be election meddlers will not succeed under his watch. "In a sense, this is a whole lot of nothing," Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft said Monday. "I bet there have been countless attempts in the last year," said Ashcroft, a Republican. "It's important that we defend against it, but it's happening all the time." *The Daily Beast* reporters noted they checked statements a Microsoft official made at a cybersecurity conference and independently discovered evidence McCaskill was targeted. Ashcroft questioned why the story was being made public roughly a year after the attempt and said he was concerned about "strictly partisan political purposes" that might dissuade people from getting involved in the process. "I want to be polite to our sitting senator. She's in a race, but why do you bring up something that happens multiple times a day to anyone?" Ashcroft wondered. He added that he hadn't spoken with McCaskill or her office about the incident but would be happy to assist: "We'd be glad to help her investigate it and make sure her staff were well trained. The people of the state should know: Their election is not going to be changed by Russians or Serbians or Chinese or people from Arkansas," Ashcroft said.

<https://www.news-leader.com/story/news/politics/elections/2018/07/30/mccaskills-ashcroft-russia-missouri-voters-scare-problem-worry/862648002/>

### North Carolina: Democratic Governor Roy Cooper Will Take the Legislature to Court Over Proposed Amendments

North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper will sue state legislative leaders over two proposed constitutional amendments that he wants to keep off the ballot in this November's elections. Cooper, a Democrat, said that the amendments would be an unconstitutional power grab by the Republicans in the General Assembly and that the amendments themselves are worded in a misleading way

to trick voters. The two amendments would take away Cooper's power to appoint judges, regulators, board members and other state officials, and transfer that power to the legislature. Cooper's announcement came Saturday evening, just hours after the legislature overrode two of Cooper's vetoes on different election-related bills that are now law. One of the proposed amendments would transfer the power to fill judicial vacancies from Cooper's office to the legislature. The other proposed amendment would make even broader changes to state government, giving the General Assembly all of the power to appoint regulators, board members and other officials. But when voters go to the polls this November, they won't know any of that simply by reading their ballots, Cooper said. The only language describing that amendment on the ballot will say: "Constitutional amendment to establish a bipartisan Board of Ethics and Elections to administer ethics and election laws, to clarify the appointment authority of the Legislative and the Judicial Branches, and to prohibit legislators from serving on boards and commissions exercising executive or judicial authority."

<https://www.newsobserver.com/news/politics-government/article216119195.html>

## Oklahoma: Two Charged with Voter Fraud

Washington County District Attorney Kevin Buchanan is investigating at least three cases of illegal voting during the June 26 primary election, and has already filed two felony cases as a result of the investigation. In the first case, Max Eugene Burchett Sr., 60, of Bartlesville was arrested on one felony count of voting illegally. According to a probable cause affidavit, Burchett completed an application for an in-person absentee ballot and cast his vote at the Washington County Election Board on June 22. Investigators said Burchett voted again at his regular polling place on June 26, submitting a second ballot for the primary election. Burchett admitted to voting twice during an interview with Bartlesville Police Department investigators, according to the affidavit. In another case, William James Hines II, 35, was arrested on one felony count of voting illegally. Investigators said Hines voted in-person absentee at the Washington County Election Board on June 21 and then voted again at his precinct on June 26. Washington County court records show a warrant has been issued for a third case of voter fraud, but the suspect has not been located and arrested yet.

<http://www.examiner-enterprise.com/news/20180803/2-charged-with-voter-fraud>

## Pennsylvania: State Changed 'Motor Voter' Registration Two Years Ago to Weed Out Noncitizens

An effort to remove noncitizens from voter rolls has reached a step that involves all but three Pennsylvania counties. Elections offices in counties in Southwestern Pennsylvania will attempt to ascertain the status of approximately 8,700 registered voters. "We know some of these are going to turn out to be eligible citizens," said Wanda Murren, spokeswoman for the Department of State in Harrisburg Monday.

<http://bit.ly/2vDPkwX>

### REDISTRICTING

## Michigan News: Independent Redistricting Plan Will Be on Ballot, Supreme Court Rules

A proposal to implement an independent redistricting commission in Michigan will be on the November ballot, the Michigan Supreme Court has ruled. The majority opinion concluded that the plan put forward by Voters Not Politicians was not a general revision of the Constitution, and did not negatively impact powers assigned by the three branches of government. Voters Not Politicians has faced stiff opposition almost from the start from groups like the Michigan Chamber of Commerce and the Michigan Republican Party, who have tried to frame the matter as an effort by progressives to wrest political control from Republicans. Attorney Peter Ellsworth argued the proposal would create a "super agency" with no checks and balances of power from voters or branches of government that would perform a key government function.

<https://www.mlive.com/news/index.ssf/2018/07/michigan-supreme-court-rules-i-1.html>