



September 4, 2018

ACRU Election Integrity Bulletin

LEAD STORY

Trump Calls North Carolina Redistricting Ruling ‘Unfair’

President Trump tore into a court’s ruling this week that struck down the state’s GOP-drawn redistricting map as an unconstitutional gerrymander, suggesting that “there has to be something going on. How unfair is that?” Trump said during a speech at a GOP fundraising event in Charlotte, N.C., attended by several Republican members of Congress, according to White House pool reports. “No, it’s very unfair to have an election in less than 60 days and they change the district on you? And you’ve already won primaries? How does that work?” Trump continued. “You’ve all gone through primaries—or some of you have—and it’s been districted for years, and now you have to redraw lines to have a new district? Even though you won a primary in another district? I don’t know. There has to be something going on.”

<http://thehill.com/homenews/campaign/404651-trump-calls-north-carolina-redistricting-ruling-unfair>

FEDERAL

Reuters: Trump Vows to Fight Censorship of Conservatives by Social Media Firms

President Donald Trump told a campaign-style rally in Indiana that his administration is standing up for free-speech rights, warning that large social media companies could not be allowed to “control what we can and cannot see.” “You look at Google, Facebook, Twitter and other social media giants and I made it clear that we as a country cannot tolerate political censorship, blacklisting and rigged search results,” Trump said. “We will not let large corporations silence conservative voices,” he added, noting that “it can go the other way some day too.”

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-trump-tech/trump-vows-to-fight-censorship-of-conservatives-by-social-media-firms-idUSKCN1LG087>

Daily Caller: Thousands of Foreign Nationals Registered to Vote in 13 Sanctuary Cities

More than 3,000 foreign nationals were removed from voter rolls across 13 sanctuary jurisdictions from 2006 to 2018, according to Public Interest Legal Foundation research released. The study, which collected data on 13 sanctuary cities and counties in seven different states, discovered that approximately 3,120 non-U.S. citizens had been removed, and that some of those non-citizens had cast votes in U.S. elections.

<https://dailycaller.com/2018/08/31/foreign-nationals-registered-to-vote/>

(more)

STATES**Alaska: Investigation into 17 Voter Registrations Traced to Single Mobile Home**

A potential investigation hangs over an Alaska State House Republican primary after the race came down to a few votes, but irregularities like 17 voter registrations that trace back to a single mobile home address caught the attention of the Alaska Division of Elections. Incumbent Gabrielle LeDoux leads challenger Aaron Weaver by 113 votes after Tuesday's election, but at least 26 absentee ballots for LeDoux are classified as "suspect" by the state Division of Elections, reported KTVA. The state Republican Party Chairman Tuckerman Babcock is calling for an investigation.

<https://dailycaller.com/2018/09/01/alaska-primary-voter-fraud/>

Arizona: Human Error Plagues State's Primary Voting

For all the worries about Russian hackers and other cyber-vandals, voting problems this week in Arizona served as a reminder that one of the biggest threats to fair elections is plain old human error. That appeared to be the case during Tuesday's primary, when dozens of polling places in the state's most populous county opened late because the voter verification machinery had not been set up. Sixty-two of the county's 750 or so polling locations did not open first thing in the morning, though all were up and running before noon.

<https://www.newsmax.com/politics/arizona-primary-voting-human-error/2018/08/30/id/879408/>

Kentucky: Attorney General Promises 'Due Diligence' on SOS Grimes Allegations

Democratic Attorney General Andy Beshear says his office will move with the appropriate speed in its handling of new ethics complaints against Secretary of State Alison Lundergan Grimes, but Republicans are skeptical. Beshear confirmed his office received a copy of the letter from State Board of Elections director Jared Dearing, accusing Grimes—a fellow

Democrat—of misusing Kentucky's voter database and directing staff not to follow a federal court order. <http://www.wuky.org/post/attorney-general-promises-due-diligence-grimes-allegations#stream/0>

Nevada: DMV Instructed Employees to Register Non-Citizens to Vote

Nevada's Secretary of State Barbara Cegavske blamed the Department of Motor Vehicles voter registration process for adding people to the state voter rolls who were not U.S. Citizens in a letter. "It has come to our attention that when offering voter registration opportunities to customers, DMV's employees offer voter registration materials to DMV customers whom they know to be non-citizens based upon their presentation of a Green Card for identification purposes," according to Cegavske. "Moreover, we now have confirmed that some non-citizens illegally cast votes in the 2016 election."

<https://dailycaller.com/2017/04/17/nevada-sec-state-dmv-instructed-employees-to-register-non-citizens-to-vote/>

New York: Where Are All the Voters Without an ID?

Documentary filmmaker Ami Horowitz interviewed minorities in East Harlem to see if they have identification. Their response? Of course, I have an ID! "Why would someone think I don't have an ID?" When asked if they knew anyone without ID or anyone who could not afford to get ID, all answered no. Some thought it was rude and ignorant to assume they had no ID or that they were unable to figure out how to get one.

<https://www.charlotteobserver.com/opinion/opn-columns-blogs/article217647320.html>

(more)

North Carolina: State Supreme Court Halts Printing Election Ballots Amid NAACP Challenge

The North Carolina Supreme Court ordered the state's elections board to halt preparation of voting ballots amid a legal challenge from the NAACP. The N.C. Board of Elections and Ethics Enforcement was supposed to begin Aug. 17, so that absentee ballots could be sent by Sept. 7. "Ballot layout and printing vendors require at least twenty-one days for ballot production," Lawson wrote in an email. "A prior stay effectively reduced the absentee period to the federal minimum, beginning September 22."

<http://www.courier-tribune.com/news/20180829/nc-supreme-court-halts-election-ballots-amid-naacp-challenge>

North Carolina: Judges Rule Rewritten Constitutional Amendments Can Appear on Ballot

The rewritten questions that frame two proposed amendments to the North Carolina Constitution should remain on November ballots, a panel of state judges ruled Friday. The questions had been rewritten after some of the same judges blocked earlier versions of the referendums. The three trial judges unanimously denied a motion sought by Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper to block the amendments. His attorneys contend the questions still don't adequately describe to the public what they'd be voting on. A quick appeal by Cooper to the state Supreme Court is now expected, perhaps later Friday, as state elections officials are up against a timeline to begin arranging and printing state ballots.

<https://abc11.com/politics/judges-rule-rewritten-nc-constitutional-amendments-can-appear-on-ballot/4111217/>

Texas: Attorney General Investigating Alleged Gregg County Voter Fraud

The Texas Attorney's General Office is sending agents to investigate voter fraud in Gregg County. In May a fraud complaint was made in regard to the absentee ballots for Precinct Four's Commissioners race. Former Longview Councilwoman Kasha

Williams lost the race due to five absentee ballots. The complaint suspects someone paid for those votes. <https://www.cbs19.tv/article/news/local/texas-attorney-general-investigating-alleged-gregg-county-voter-fraud/501-588845149>

Texas: Tarrant County Woman Who Voted Illegally is Ordered Back to Federal Prison

A Tarrant County woman who voted illegally in the 2016 presidential election while on supervised release will have to go back to federal prison. A federal judge in Fort Worth ruled that Crystal Mason, 43, must spend 10 months behind bars followed by 26 months of supervised release.

<https://www.dallasnews.com/news/courts/2018/08/30/tarrant-county-woman-voted-illegally-ordered-back-federal-prison>

Texas: Election Judge May Carry a Firearm in Performance of Official Duties

Texas attorney general says election judges can start packing heat. Election workers who run polling places now have the state's blessing to carry guns there. In an opinion released Tuesday, Attorney General Ken Paxton said so-called election judges who are licensed to carry a firearm can do so during the performance of their official duties. The opinion was issued after a Republican lawmaker raised concerns about the safety of these poll workers in rural areas.

<https://www.dallasnews.com/news/elections/2018/08/28/election-judges-can-carry-guns-polling-places-ag-ken-paxton-says-new-opinion>

(more)

REDISTRICTING**Missouri Redistricting Initiative Facing Court Challenge**

Republican-aligned attorneys urged a judge Friday to block people from voting on a Missouri ballot measure that could upend political power at the Capitol by requiring state legislative districts to be drawn to achieve “partisan fairness” and “competitiveness.” The lawyers argued that the so-called Clean Missouri initiative, which also would bar lawmakers from accepting lobbyist gifts worth more than \$5, violates the state constitution by addressing multiple subjects. Cole County Circuit Judge Daniel Green said he would rule soon after a Tuesday deadline for attorneys to submit suggested judgments. Regardless of how he rules, the case is likely to be appealed.

https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/missouri/articles/2018-08-31/missouri-redistricting-initiative-facing-court-challenge?src=usn_tv

N.C. Republicans Warn of ‘Unmitigated Chaos’ After Judges Strike Down House District Maps

The top Republicans in North Carolina’s General Assembly say they will appeal to the Supreme Court to overturn a federal court ruling striking down the state’s U.S. House district maps. They will ask the U.S. Supreme Court to stay an appeals court ruling that ordered new maps drawn before November’s midterm elections, which are 69 days away. A three-judge panel on Monday ruled North Carolina’s 13 congressional districts were unconstitutional because they had been drawn with too much consideration of partisanship in order to give Republicans an unfair advantage, in violation of the First Amendment rights of state voters. The panel gave plaintiffs and respondents until Friday to suggest a path forward, one that could lead to new district lines being drawn just days before the state Board of Elections has to print ballots for midterm elections on Nov. 6.

<http://thehill.com/homenews/state-watch/404136-nc-republicans-warn-of-unmitigated-chaos-after-judges-strike-down-house>

Virginia: State Democrat Accuses His Party of Gerrymandering

Virginia state Democrat accused his party of “gerrymandering in response to gerrymandering” during a special session of the Virginia state legislature. “It’s a self-serving political power grab,” state Del. Steve Heretick said, according to *The Washington Post*. “It’s gerrymandering in response to gerrymandering. It’s tit for tat.” Virginia Democrats proposed a redistricting map that Republicans, as well as Heretick, have criticized.

<http://thehill.com/homenews/state-watch/404485-virginia-democrat-accuses-his-party-of-gerrymandering-in-proposed>