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Voting
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Institute

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LEAD STORY

Fox News: Voter Fraud Exists—Even Though Many in the Media Claim It Doesn't

President Trump warned on Twitter last week that law enforcement would be looking for “voter fraud” in the midterm elections. Many journalists quickly responded—as they always do—by dismissing the very existence of voter fraud. Journalists have credulously repeated unsupported, patronizing claims that in Georgia and other states, voter registration and absentee ballot laws somehow suppress minority votes. David Wasserman of the *Cook Political Report* said there are “valid concerns about the restrictive impact of new voting laws and voters improperly removed from rolls, but there’s also a lot of outrage-stoking and sloppy journalism in this realm that are counterproductive to fixing real problems.” When the 2002 Help America Vote Act passed Congress with bipartisan support in the aftermath of the 2000 election debacle in Florida, its co-author—Democratic Sen. Chris Dodd of Connecticut—declared the goal of our laws should be to “make it easy to vote and hard to cheat.” Indeed, there is no reason why we can’t pursue both goals. But the media aren’t doing our democracy any favors by summarily dismissing the existence of voter fraud—like the almost 1,200 proven cases in the Heritage Foundation’s election fraud database—while questioning the very need for accurate voter rolls.

<https://www.foxnews.com/opinion/voter-fraud-exists-even-though-many-in-the-media-claim-it-doesnt>

FEDERAL

Daily Signal: Voter Fraud Undermines the Votes of Black Americans

We often hear people complain that their votes don’t count, and recent election results have many questioning our voting process. Indeed, without effective safeguards, the civil rights movement’s goal of making everybody’s vote count may never be achieved. When a vote is cast in someone else’s name—dead or alive—the votes of others are diminished. When an illegal immigrant or a restricted felon votes, the votes of others are similarly compromised. Voter fraud may lack the intimidation and violence employed in the past, but it still minimizes the ability of all people to participate in the process and determine how they are to be governed. Those in poor and minority communities are particularly at risk because they are frequent victims of voter fraud. Anthony DeFiglio, a Democratic committeeman in Troy, New York, said, “The people who are targeted live in low-income housing and there is a sense that they are a lot less likely to ask questions. What appears as a huge conspiracy to nonpolitical persons is really a normal political tactic.” DeFiglio should know. He pled guilty to voter fraud himself.

<https://www.dailysignal.com/2018/10/24/voter-fraud-undermines-the-votes-of-black-americans/>

(more)

***The Hill*: Judge Denies Government's Request to Delay Trial on Census Citizenship Question**

A federal district court judge on Friday denied the Trump administration's request to postpone a trial addressing lawsuits that challenge the government's decision to add a citizenship question to the 2020 census. The government asked Judge Jesse Furman, of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York, to put the trial slated to start next month on hold until the Supreme Court considers whether to hear the government's challenge to Furman's ruling allowing the challengers to depose Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross and other administration officials. Furman said it might be good under other circumstances to wait for further guidance from the Supreme Court, but added that "time is of the essence" in this case. The Supreme Court this week blocked Ross' deposition, but refused to stop John Gore, the acting assistant attorney general for the Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division, and other senior officials from being deposed. The orders came in two cases that have been consolidated into one trial brought by 17 blue-leaning states and a coalition of immigrant rights groups regarding the addition of a citizenship question on the decennial.

<https://thehill.com/regulation/court-battles/413426-judge-denies-governments-request-to-delay-trial-on-census>

***Washington Journal*: John Fund and Kristen Clarke on Voting Rights and Campaign 2018**

National Review columnist John Fund and Kristen Clarke of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law discussed allegations of voter suppression in the 2018 midterm elections.

<https://www.c-span.org/video/?453611-3/washington-journal-john-fund-kristen-clarke-discuss-voting-rights-campaign-2018>

STATES

California: San Francisco Spends \$300,000 to Register Noncitizen Voters—A Whopping 49 Sign Up

San Francisco's effort to get noncitizen parents to the ballot box is pretty much a bust the first time out, with only 49 signing up to vote in the Nov. 6 election. Back in July, the city began registering noncitizens—including undocumented immigrants—to vote in school board elections. The program is the first-of-its-kind in California and followed passage of a 2016 San Francisco ballot measure opening school elections to noncitizens who are over the age of 18, city residents and have children under age 19. This year, city officials began voicing concerns that signing up could expose people here illegally to detection by Immigration and Customs Enforcement since voter rolls—including home addresses—could be subpoenaed by the feds. Supervisor Sandra Lee Fewer urged the city to spend as much as \$500,000 to warn undocumented residents that registering to vote could point ICE their way—but then-Mayor Mark Farrell nixed her initial request for \$125,000 to get the ball rolling. Whatever the case, the tally to register noncitizen voters comes to about \$6,326 per sign up.

<https://bit.ly/2PoDPWa>

(more)

Colorado: Website that Alleges Voters Have Been Purged from Voter Rolls Is Inaccurate, Says Secretary of State's Office

The biggest problem with any election is misinformation, according to the Secretary of State's office, which is now dealing with complaints about a website that alleges Colorado voters have been purged from the voter registration rolls. The website, gregpalast.com, claims to hold lists of purged voter registration information on six states, including Colorado. Greg Palast is a freelance investigative reporter. Lynn Bartels of the Secretary of State's office said they have already had several complaints about the website. "We do not purge voters," Bartels said. "What we have is a number of inactive voters. Those are voters who will not receive a mail ballot because their county clerk mailed them something and it came back as undeliverable. Ballots don't forward."

<https://bit.ly/2EMyGTD>

Colorado: Officials Point Fingers at Each Other after 60,000 Adams County Ballots Go Missing

The 61,000 voters in Adams County who've been waiting on ballots in the mail are waiting no more: the post office said they've been delivered. Though it's still unclear who should be held accountable for them going missing in the first place. State and local election officials traded blame with the United States Postal Service on Wednesday as they investigated how an entire truckload of ballots went unaccounted for between Oct. 15 and Oct. 22.

<https://www.9news.com/article/news/local/next/officials-point-fingers-at-each-other-after-60000-adams-county-ballots-go-missing/73-607792277>

Maryland: State Constitutional Amendment Would Allow Voters to Register on Election Day

Right now, Marylanders can register to vote during early voting, but not on Election Day. Del. Kirill Reznik wants to change that. He sponsored

successful legislation proposing a constitutional amendment that could allow voters to register at polling places on Election Day. The amendment goes before general election voters. It then must be implemented under legislation. Eleven states and the District of Columbia already allow same-day registration. Reznik said registration would work the same way it does during early voting, with the same proof of residency standards.

<http://www.wbal.com/article/342843/3/state-constitutional-amendment-would-allow-maryland-voters-to-register-on-election-day>

Michigan: At Least 1,400 Noncitizens Registered to Vote in Detroit Area, Says Report

At least 1,400 noncitizens, who registered to vote in the Detroit metropolitan area, were removed from the voter rolls since 2011, according to a new report that also reveals concerns over voter duplications and registrants with implausible dates of birth, some dating back to the 1800s. The Public Interest Legal Foundation (PILF) details how Michigan's noncitizens became registered to vote through DMV transactions and other means as required by the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA). From the 1,400, 822 noncitizens resided in Detroit proper, a figure which PILF called "among the highest" they ever saw from a single jurisdiction nationwide.

<https://prestonbusinessreview.com/at-least-1400-noncitizens-registered-to-vote-in-detroit-area-says-report/21388/>

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Missouri: Secretary of State Lashes Out at Judge Who Gutted Voter ID Law Requirement

Missouri Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft lashed out at a judge who struck down key portions of the state's voter ID law. Earlier this month, Cole County Circuit Court Judge Richard Callahan tossed out a requirement for voters who don't present a photo ID to sign an affidavit in order to cast a regular ballot in elections. Ashcroft said Callahan's latest move guts Missouri's photo ID law as crafted by the state Legislature. The component of the new law that remains in effect allows voters who show no ID at the polls to cast a provisional ballot. The provisional ballot would be validated if the voter returned to the polling place later with a photo ID, or if the voter's signature matched their signature on file in voter registration records.

<https://www.missourinet.com/2018/10/24/missouri-secretary-of-state-lashes-out-at-judge-who-gutted-voter-id-law-requirement/>

New Hampshire: Supreme Court Sides With State in SB 3 (Student Residency) Case

A week of contention and confusion regarding the state's SB 3 voter registration law culminated with the New Hampshire Supreme Court issuing a 5-0 decision against the Democratic Party and the League of Women Voters. That means the requirements of SB 3 will be in place for the Nov. 6 general election. State House Majority Whip. Rep. Kathleen Hoelzel, R-Raymond, also hailed the ruling. "I'm glad the Supreme Court has resolved this matter for the time being, however, the lower court's order and the publicity it has caused has now created questions in the minds of the public," she said. "The bill is supposed to protect the integrity of the elections, and now we have people questioning why the judges are involved in making the laws, and creating confusion at the last minute."

<http://www.nashuatelegraph.com/news/local-news/2018/10/27/supreme-court-sides-with-state-in-sb-3-case/>

North Carolina: Lieutenant Governor Appears in Voter Fraud Video

Amid a push to pass a photo ID requirement for North Carolina elections, the state's lieutenant governor appears in a video that offers instructions on how to commit voter fraud in the state. The video, posted on Facebook, features Lt. Gov. Dan Forest telling how a group could collect the identifying information of infrequent voters before Election Day and then impersonate those voters at the polls, which is a crime under state law. Forest says in the video, titled Voter Fraud 101, "Committing voter fraud is easy in our state. Just for fun, here's one way an organized group could commit voter fraud in North Carolina." Asked why the video was produced, Hal Weatherman, Forest's chief of staff, didn't provide an explanation, saying only in an email, "The voter fraud outlined in the video would not be possible if NC had photo voter ID."

<https://bit.ly/2AwPo53>

Texas: Undocumented Immigrant Voted in Bexar County for More than 20 Years

An undocumented Mexican immigrant who lived for years in a rural San Antonio suburb pleaded guilty Thursday to charges of fraud and identity theft, admitting he used a stolen identity to vote in several elections. Enrique Salazar Ortiz, 63, would not tell federal agents how many times he had voted using the name of former San Antonio resident Jesse H. Vargas Jr., but Salazar did admit casting a ballot in the 2016 general election, according to the plea agreement. But Bexar County records show a man with Vargas' name and date of birth voted in every general election for the past 24 years, county elections administrator Jacque Callanen said Thursday. "He's been voting since at least 1994," Callanen said. "Vargas" also voted in the 2008 Democratic primary, she said.

<https://bit.ly/2EN2Gif>

Texas: Democratic Party Leader Funded ‘Voter Fraud Ring,’ Says Attorney General

A North Texas woman recently indicted as part of a “voter fraud ring” paid the others involved in the scheme with funds provided by a Democratic Party leader, say court documents filed by the Office of Attorney General Ken Paxton this week. Leticia Sanchez was charged with 17 felony counts of voter fraud following an investigation by Paxton’s office. Sanchez, 57, allegedly paid her co-defendants to target elderly voters in select northern Fort Worth precincts in the 2016 March Democrat Party primary election to affect the outcome of certain down-ballot candidate races. The state’s newly filed notice of intent to introduce evidence in the Sanchez criminal case alleged that Stuart Clegg, then Tarrant County Democratic Party executive director, funded the alleged voter fraud ring’s criminal activities.

<https://www.breitbart.com/border/2018/10/25/texas-democratic-party-leader-funded-voter-fraud-ring-says-ag/>

Texas: Dallas Republicans Questioning Mail-In Ballot Verification Process

The Dallas County Republican Party is raising concerns about dozens, if not hundreds of current mail-in ballots, alleging that the Dallas County Elections Department is not letting a bi-partisan team of election watchers fully do their jobs. Thursday afternoon, the Dallas County Republican Party threatened to seek a temporary restraining order to stop the Dallas County Elections Office from keeping members of the Signature Verification Committee from recording written notes about any discrepancies they might find. The Republicans allege that both a Republican poll watcher and members of the Signature Verification Committee were told they weren’t allowed to take their own notes regarding mail-in ballots and any signature verification issues they believe need further inspection.

<https://www.wfaa.com/article/news/local/dallas-county/dallas-republicans-questioning-mail-in-ballot-verification-process/287-608183268>

Texas: Documents Show More People Connected to Vote Harvesting Scheme in Tarrant County

Court documents filed in this week name more people the State of Texas says were connected to a vote harvesting scheme in Tarrant County. The state indicted four women this month who prosecutors said were requesting mail-in ballots and filling them out for the Democratic Party. New documents say Leticia Sanchez was receiving money to pay the other women for votes they collected. The documents also say ballot applications were sent from the office of former Fort Worth City Councilman Sal Espino, but he is not charged in the case.

<https://cbsloc.al/2Odtfwj>

REDISTRICTING

AP: Conservative Fund Spends \$1.2M Against Redistricting Measure

A conservative group is spending at least \$1.2 million to oppose Proposal 2, the Michigan ballot initiative aimed at stopping partisan gerrymandering. Protect My Vote will unveil TV ads Wednesday that are running for two weeks through Election Day. The opposition committee received the \$1.2 million contribution this week from the Michigan Freedom Fund, which has had ties to the wealthy DeVos family. Voters Not Politicians, the group behind the measure, already has been airing ads. Its constitutional amendment would empower an independent commission to draw congressional and legislative districts. The Legislature and governor now control the once-a-decade process—drawing complaints that the maps are drawn for partisan gain and don’t have enough competitive seats, leading to ineffective governing. Critics of the proposal say it’s intended to help Democrats.

<https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/michigan/articles/2018-10-24/conservative-fund-spends-12m-against-redistricting-measure>