



March 18, 2019

ACRU Election Integrity Bulletin

LEAD STORY

Nancy Pelosi Backs 16-year-olds Voting: ‘Capture Kids When They’re in High School’

Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) said Thursday that the voting age should be lowered to 16 years old, telling reporters on Capitol Hill, “I think it’s really important to capture kids when they are in high school when they are interested in all of this, when they are learning about government, to be able to vote.” As *USA Today* noted, the House actually defeated an amendment to the bill by Rep. Ayanna Pressley (D-MA) that would have lowered the age for voting to 16 in federal elections. The vote was 305-126 against the idea.

<https://www.breitbart.com/politics/2019/03/14/nancy-pelosi-backs-16-year-olds-voting-capture-kids-when-theyre-in-high-school/>

FEDERAL

Breitbart: Kobach: If You Wanted to Pass a Law to Encourage Voter Fraud

On March 8, on a party line vote, Nancy Pelosi’s Democrats in the House of Representatives passed H.R. 1, dubbed the “For the People Act of 2019.” It is a massive federal intrusion into the states’ constitutionally-protected realm of regulating and maintaining voter rolls. It’s also a recipe for voter

fraud. Republicans in the House correctly derided it as a “voter fraud and election theft” bill, but that understates how bad it is. H.R. 1 rolls out the red carpet for election fraud.

<https://www.breitbart.com/politics/2019/03/10/kobach-if-you-wanted-to-pass-a-law-to-encourage-voter-fraud/>

Fact Check: Fact-Checking Clinton’s Voter Suppression Claims

In remarks in Alabama, Hillary Clinton took aim at state laws that she said disenfranchise minority voters. But she went too far in a couple of instances when discussing the impact of Wisconsin and Georgia laws in the 2016 election, when she ran for president: Clinton said the “best studies” show that “somewhere between 40[000] and 80,000 people were turned away from the polls” in Wisconsin because of the state’s voter ID law. Clinton falsely claimed that “there were fewer voters registered in Georgia [in 2016] than there had been those prior four years” in 2012. In fact, there were nearly 571,000 more registered voters in the 2016 election, state records show. We went to the Georgia Secretary of State’s website for registration data, and we found that she was wrong.

<https://www.factcheck.org/2019/03/factchecking-clintons-voter-suppression-claims/#.XIrZccOghMc.twitter>

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Daily Signal: America Doesn't Need Automatic Voter Registration. Just Look to California.

Lawmakers on Capitol Hill have held up California's new, error-plagued automatic voter registration program as a model for the nation and are now pushing for a nationalized version of the program in a bill called the For the People Act. The bill would require all states to implement automatic voter registration systems, which advocates claim would improve the accuracy of voter registration rolls, prevent ineligible people from registering, help election officials do less work to keep voter registration records accurate, and make it easier for eligible voters to register or update their registration records. Yet since California started its own automatic voter registration program last April, exactly the opposite has happened. California enacted its law back in 2015 and officially launched the voter registration system in April 2018. That three-year gap should have been plenty of time for state officials to develop a smooth rollout.

Apparently, it was not.

<https://dailysign.al/2TOMQ07>

STATES

Colorado: Gov. Polis Signs National Popular Vote Bill into Law

Gov. Jared Polis signed the controversial national popular vote bill into law Friday. The new law requires Colorado electors to the Electoral College vote for the winner of the national popular vote for president and not the winner of the Colorado popular vote. The measure would only take effect if states with a total of 270 electoral votes agree to do the same. Currently, 11 states have joined the "interstate compact" authorizing the national popular vote.

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

Florida: Couple Leads Push for Voter Referendum that Targets Noncitizens Voting

Gina Loudon has proudly proclaimed Donald Trump to possibly be the "most sound-minded" president in the nation's history and boasted about spending time with him on Air Force One. She even once appeared as a "staunch tea party activist" on the television show "Wife Swap" to promote her conservative family values. Now, the West Palm Beach-based political commentator and her husband have a new mission—pushing a ballot initiative that would change the Florida Constitution to specify that "only a citizen" can vote. The couple's recently formed group—Florida Citizen Voters—already has raised nearly \$2 million to fund the petition drive needed to get the question on the 2020 presidential ballot. That makes it the top fundraiser this year among Florida political committees so far.

<https://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/politics/fl-ne-citizens-voter-referendum-20190315-story.html>

Indiana: Secretary of State Calls for Porter County Officials to Be Fired after Election Mess

In a scathing report on Porter County's chaotic November general election, the Indiana Secretary of State noted toxic behavior and dysfunctional relationships created a wide swath of problems for voters and poll workers alike, placing the blame squarely on three people involved in election duties. "Porter County voters deserve better," Secretary of State Connie Lawson said in a report on the election released Wednesday. Lawson blamed the problems on former Clerk Karen Martin; Democrat J.J. Stankiewicz, now president of the county election board; and Kathy Kozuszek, Democratic director in the Porter County Voter Registration Office. She called on Kozuszek and Stankiewicz to resign.

<https://www.chicagotribune.com/suburbs/post-tribune/news/ct-ptb-porter-election-report-st-0314-story.html>

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New Hampshire: Student Who Voted Twice in 2016 Was Told to by Town or Liberal Activist

The lawyer for a University of New Hampshire student who pleaded guilty to voter fraud in the 2016 election said someone associated with either a town election official or activists with NextGen America had told the Massachusetts man he could cast a New Hampshire ballot. Attorney Scott Bratton of Lowell, Mass., said Spencer McKinnon, now 21, to this day remains foggy about who gave him that advice, which prompted him to vote in Durham on Nov. 8, 2016, after he had already sent in an absentee ballot in Dracut, Mass., where he lived. McKinnon told state investigators “an adult” led him astray on Oct. 26 upon signing up to be an eligible voter during a three-hour voter registration drive in a dining hall on the UNH campus. “Someone, an adult, told him that it would be OK for him to register to vote in Durham as long as he changed his address,” Bratton said.

<https://bit.ly/2F9gj8o>

New Jersey: FBI Questions Dover Officials About Undocumented Immigrants Voting, Sources Say

Federal Bureau of Investigation agents are interviewing Dover Democratic leaders and volunteers today about local politics, including questions about undocumented immigrants voting in the 2018 primary election, two sources confirmed. FBI agents appeared at the homes and workplaces of several local officials this morning, the sources said. Among those questioned were supporters of Dover First, an insurgent group that won control of the local Democratic party last June and ousted three incumbent aldermen. One of the defeated incumbents, Ronald Camacho, alleged voter fraud after Carlos Valencia beat him in the primary by twelve votes.

<https://newjerseyglobe.com/local/fbi-questions-dover-officials-about-undocumented-immigrants-voting-sources-say/>

North Carolina: After 9th District Fraud, Elections Officials Want Tighter Rules for Absentee Ballots...

In the wake of fraud that has forced a new election in the 9th Congressional District, North Carolina elections officials called Wednesday for tighter rules on how mail-in absentee ballots are requested and submitted. The State Board of Elections ordered a new 9th District election last month after a four-day hearing turned up evidence that someone hired by Republican Mark Harris’ campaign was illegally collecting absentee ballots from Bladen County voters and, in some instances, even completing ballots where votes weren’t cast in some races. Kim Strach, state elections director, asked lawmakers for help to make such fraud more difficult and to punish offenders more severely. “We think it’s important that we send strong messages, and by making those penalties tougher, we hopefully will deter people from actually engaging in these activities,” Strach told members of the House Elections and Ethics Law Committee.

<https://www.wral.com/after-9th-district-fraud-nc-elections-officials-want-tighter-rules-for-absentee-ballots/18255477/>

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Texas: GOP Representatives Support Citizenship Census Question

Lawmakers spent hours questioning Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross over why he approved the inclusion of a citizenship question on the 2020 Census. Ross appeared before the House Oversight and Reform Committee Thursday. Two Texans sit on that committee, both of them Republicans. Rep. Chip Roy represents the Austin area. During the hearing, he made impassioned remarks in support of asking people their citizenship status. “I want the question to be asked,” he said. “I just want to know as a member of Congress, I’d like to know how many citizens we have in the United States of America and I’d like to know who’s here who is not a citizen.” Rep. Michael Cloud of Victoria, Texas also expressed support for a citizenship question on the Census. Cloud challenged the idea that including this question is unlawful, noting it’s been asked numerous times as part of the American Community Survey. That survey is conducted each year and sent to about 3.5 million households, but the Census Bureau has not asked all households in the country about U.S. citizenship since 1950. The Supreme Court will hold a hearing on the question next month.

<https://www.texasstandard.org/stories/news-roundup-texas-gop-representatives-support-citizenship-census-question/>

Wisconsin: Election Commission: Review Found 24 Suspected Voter Fraud Cases

The Wisconsin Election Commission says its statewide review of elections in the past year have turned up two dozen cases of suspected voter fraud or irregularities. The State Journal says the violations reportedly include people voting twice in an election, felons casting ballots and a non-citizen voter. The possible cases are just a tiny fraction of the 2.7 million votes cast in the November midterm elections. Municipal clerks are required to report the cases to the commission and to their county’s district attorneys who decide whether to pursue the suspected fraud. The cases of possible voter fraud happened between Feb. 16, 2018 and Feb. 15, 2019. The year before, seven potential voter fraud cases were found.

<https://fox6now.com/2019/03/12/wisconsin-election-commission-review-found-24-suspected-voter-fraud-cases/>

REDISTRICTING

Maryland: Redistricting Case to Be Heard by U.S. Supreme Court

The U.S. Supreme Court will hear oral arguments for two cases on congressional district gerrymandering on March 26, including one from Maryland, which could have far-reaching implications on how future electoral maps are drawn. The justices could, for the first time, issue a standard for determining unconstitutional partisan gerrymandering. At the heart of both the Maryland and North Carolina cases are accusations of redrawing district boundaries in order for one party to gain an advantage over the other in the states. At issue in the Maryland case, *Benisek v. Lamone*, is whether the state’s 6th Congressional District was gerrymandered by the Democratic-led state legislature in 2011 in order to flip that district blue.

<https://patch.com/maryland/annapolis/maryland-redistricting-case-be-heard-us-supreme-court>

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Ohio: Congressional Map in Hands of Federal Judges

The future of Ohio's congressional district map is in the hands of three federal judges. Testimony concluded Wednesday about a lawsuit charging that the GOP-controlled redistricting resulted in an unconstitutional partisan gerrymandering. After considering post-trial legal briefs from attorneys, Judges Timothy Black, Karen Nelson Moore and Michael Watson are expected to rule within weeks on a case that could potentially result in a change of the congressional map for 2020 elections.

<https://www.wcpo.com/news/government/state-government/ohio-state-government-news/ohios-congressional-map-in-hands-of-federal-judges>

Virginia: Redistricting Battle Takes Shape at High Court

Beginning a two-week stretch in which gerrymandering returns to the high court, the justices of the Supreme Court will consider on Monday whether the Virginia Legislature improperly carved up its map to disadvantage black voters. This will be the second time the map Virginia lawmakers drew in 2011 comes to the Supreme Court, as the justices previously sent the case back to U.S. District court after finding the three-judge panel there that upheld the map used the wrong standard. Unlike with partisan gerrymandering, which the justices will consider later this month, the Supreme Court has developed a clear standard by which to judge claims of racial gerrymandering. Over a line of cases stretching back to the 1990s, the court has determined that a map is an unconstitutional racial gerrymander if race is the predominant factor on which it was drawn.

<https://www.courthousenews.com/virginia-redistricting-battle-takes-shape-at-high-court/>