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ACRU Election Integrity Bulletin

LEAD STORY

Voter Fraud Exposé

Project Veritas has released undercover footage which shows Florida residents and voters expressing shock when told that voter data shows they also voted in the state of New York. All three Floridians moved from the state of New York several years ago. Project Veritas believes these individuals are the victims, not culprits, of voter fraud.

<https://bit.ly/2JPBY1a>

FEDERAL

Daily Signal: Who's Bankrolling the National Popular Vote Movement

The nonprofit organization building a coalition of states that favor choosing the president by popular vote promotes itself as nonpartisan but is financed by millions of dollars from left-leaning groups. Most of the funding for the nonprofit, National Popular Vote Inc., has come from a wealthy Democrat and a billionaire independent. "We could find no conservative institutional donors to the organization," Scott Walter, president of the Capital Research Center, told *The Daily Signal*. "We found 16 instances of grants from institutional donors, and none were conservative." But the compact should be a tough sell as a bipartisan effort, particularly since it "is mostly funded by the left," said Hans von Spakovsky, manager of The Heritage Foundation's Election Law Reform Initiative.

<https://www.dailysignal.com/2019/03/25/exclusive-heres-whos-bankrolling-the-national-popular-vote-movement/>

Real Clear Politics: "For the People Act" Is Mostly "For the Party Act"

Government dysfunction is the result of many years of party leaders trashing our electoral and governing processes for partisan advantage. The bill's biggest problem is a new campaign finance system that, rather than requiring absolute transparency for all donations, would funnel large amounts of taxpayer money to fund elections. The measure also fails to address many areas abused by the leaders of both parties. These include: the exclusion of independent voters in publicly financed primary elections; a broken ballot access system; the lack of standardized debate processes, along with the House and Senate rules that both parties have abused, such as the filibuster and the use of unrelated amendments to kill legislation. The big problem is that HR 1 appears to omit any reform that would adversely impact the Democratic Party. Written to maximize partisan advantage, the Democratic sponsors knew it stood no chance of being enacted. A sincere effort at political reform would have included elements detrimental to both parties, such as open primaries and term limits. Instead, the Democratic authors cared more about the messaging than actually effecting change.

https://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2019/03/26/for_the_people_act_is_mostly_for_the_party_act.html

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STATES**California: Elections Compromised... by State Legislature**

Dead voters are just the tip of the iceberg of California's compromised elections process according to Linda Paine, founder of the Election Integrity Project, a non-profit, non-partisan corporation focused on assuring that every legally cast vote is properly counted and reported. California has passed a spate of new election laws that some Democrats in Congress now want to adopt as a federal mandate nationwide, including "top two" primary elections, automatic voter registration through the DMV, allowing non-citizens to vote in local elections, allowing mail ballots to arrive after Election Day, rejecting voter ID, ballot harvesting, same-day registration and voting, allowing voters to "cure" their mail ballot signature mismatches via the honor system and, in 2020, providing all registrants with mail ballots. "It's like a Trojan Horse," Paine said. She described California as no longer functioning like a Republic, "it's more like an oligarchy at every jurisdiction and in every county." However, Paine promised, "We are moving heaven and hell, with or without the California Legislature."

<https://californiaglobe.com/legislature/californias-elections-compromised-by-state-legislature/>

California: What Is 'Ballot Harvesting' and How Is it Being Used in Elections?

Would you trust a complete stranger with your ballot? The practice of handing off an absentee ballot to a family member, a friend or a campaign organizer is commonly referred to as 'ballot harvesting' or 'ballot collecting.' "California has voted to make it a legal practice," confirmed Dr. Kevin Wallsten, Associate Professor of Political Science at California State University-Long Beach. "Prior to 2016, only a family member could collect your ballot and turn it in for you. After 2016, it is now possible for anybody to collect a ballot on your behalf and turn it in to the appropriate election official." Ballot collecting is legal in 27 states plus Washington D.C. Unlike other states, the practice of ballot collecting in California has very

[few] regulations. "The only requirement is someone ask you and get your permission and turn it in in your behalf. There is no limit on the number of ballots a person can collect. They can turn in 100, 200, 300 if they like," said Wallsten.

<https://abc7.com/5218463/>

Colorado: Group Hopes to Overturn National Popular Vote Bill at Ballot Box

A small group of Colorado citizens is hoping to overturn a bill passed earlier this year joining the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact (NPV), a workaround to implement a major shift to the Electoral College without amending the Constitution but which detractors argue is unconstitutional. Although 12 states and the District of Columbia have already passed NPV legislation, the effort [would] create one of the first times a citizenry will vote on the idea and could make the state a proxy in the ongoing debate over the Electoral College as more Democratic presidential candidates are campaigning on abolishing the constitutionally created institution. Colorado's constitution allows citizens to reject laws passed by the state general assembly with a ballot referendum, a challenge that's been eagerly accepted by Mayor Don Wilson (R.) of Monument, a small suburb just north of Colorado Springs. "Some of these people that don't have an understanding of the Electoral College or don't understand what the National Popular Vote does, it's as simple as, 'Hey, do you really want Raiders fans deciding your vote?'" Wilson said.

<https://freebeacon.com/politics/colo-group-hopes-to-overturn-national-popular-vote-bill-at-ballot-box/>

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Florida: Bill Aiming to Avoid a Repeat of 2018 Election Gaffes Sparks Debate About Voter Access

A committee bill in the Florida house looking to make sweeping changes to the state's election laws has cleared a key committee stop. A number of them would modify the state's vote-by-mail procedure, which sparked a partisan debate about voter access. "The 2018 election, once again and unfortunately placed Florida in the national spotlight. While most of our election officials and poll workers did an outstanding job following the law, others struggled to do so," said Representative Blaise Ingoglia, who presented the bill in the Public Integrity and Ethics Committee Thursday. The measure would make changes Ingoglia says would avoid future embarrassments to the state while increasing voter access. For starters, it would move the last day to request vote by mail ballots from six to 10 days out before an election. "Currently that standard is six days to request, and four days to mail out. And quite frankly, my opinion that's just basically playing with fire," Ingoglia said. The bill also prohibits supervisors of election from mailing out ballots less than 8 days prior to the elections. And, it seeks to allow supervisors to mail domestic vote-by-mail ballots earlier than before, between 40 and 28 days out, Ingoglia says, "Instead of the current 35 to 28 days—therefor extending voting in the state by up to five extra days. I totally reject the idea that we are limiting access. We are expanding access in this bill." Ingoglia said. "We are putting in place a structure where we can fix a lot of the problems we saw in the 2018 election."

<https://news.wjct.org/post/bill-aiming-avoid-repeat-floridas-2018-election-gaffes-sparks-debate-about-voter-access>

Massachusetts: Sturbridge Hotel Owner Accused of Voting in Two Towns in 2016 Election

A local hotel owner who's running for a three-year seat on the Board of Selectman in April's town election voted twice in the last presidential election, once in Sturbridge and once in Shrewsbury, and also in several other recent elections, officials say. Jayesh Patel, 57, was living at 3 Turtle Creek Circle,

Shrewsbury, when he voted in the presidential election on Nov. 8, 2016. He also voted in Sturbridge in the 2016 presidential election, Sturbridge Town Clerk Lynne Girouard and Shrewsbury Town Clerk Sandra Wright confirmed.

<https://bit.ly/2Wpbf6G>

New Mexico: State Adopts Election-Day Voter Registration

New Mexico will extend voter registration through Election Day beginning in 2020 under a new law that does away with a 28-day registration blackout before elections. New Mexico Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham on Wednesday signed legislation designed to increase participation in statewide elections through same-day registration and voting.

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

New York: U.S. Supreme Court to Hear Appeal in Troy Ballot-Fraud Lawsuit

The U.S. Supreme Court has the opportunity to resolve an issue regarding a question of timeliness when it hears the appeal of a federal civil rights lawsuit that grew out of the prosecution of the decade-old Troy ballot fraud criminal case.

<https://bit.ly/2WBT7Xr>

North Carolina: State BOE Wants Tougher Penalties for Election Crimes

The top official at the State Board of Elections wants tougher punishment for election crimes, suggesting special prosecutors should be appointed if district attorneys or federal authorities refuse to investigate wrongdoing. The board's Executive Director Kim Strach delivered what she called a menu of vital reforms to tackle election corruption Wednesday, March 13, to the House Elections and Ethics Law Committee. Strach said more money was needed to expand the elections board's investigative staff to combat election fraud better and catch it earlier. The elections board doesn't have criminal investigation powers and can't force prosecutors to launch probes.

<https://bit.ly/2I6dl7u>

Texas: SOS Moves to Settle ‘Non-Citizen’ Voter List Lawsuit

A settlement may be in the works for a lawsuit brought forth after the Texas Secretary of State’s office released a list of thousands of names of voters it said may not be citizens. Meanwhile, lawmakers on federal oversight committees in Washington, D.C. are opening an investigation into the release. Civil rights and voter groups sued after Secretary of State David Whitley sent the list of 95,000 names to counties throughout Texas in January. The State’s attorneys and the State’s director of elections have repeatedly argued the list of names was supposed to be further investigated by local county elections officials and treated as a “weak” match. On March 25, Whitley provided settlement terms to each of the lawsuit plaintiffs, according to a document filed Wednesday in court.

<https://www.easttexasmatters.com/news/texas-sec-of-state-moves-to-settle-non-citizen-voter-list-lawsuit/1883383666>

Texas: Details Revealed in Six Cases of Alleged Voter Fraud

The Mission police department found that a complaint lodged against a McAllen City Commission candidate accused of committing voter fraud “held merit” and forwarded it to the Texas Attorney General’s office for further investigation, fueling an already-heated political firestorm that sparked in Edinburg. *The Monitor* obtained a copy of the Mission police report from Houston attorney Jerad Najvar, who filed the complaint against Tania Yanet Ramirez on March 1. Najvar accused Ramirez of voting illegally in at least three Mission elections last year based on residency information she provided in her application to run for the District 4 seat on the McAllen commission. The complaint against Ramirez is part of Najvar’s attempt to discredit the ongoing attorney general investigation into alleged voter fraud in Edinburg’s 2017 municipal election. The Houston attorney is currently defending a group of people aligned with Edinburg Mayor Richard Molina, who has seen 14 of his supporters arrested on felony illegal voting charges since he was elected mayor.

<https://www.themonitor.com/2019/03/24/details-revealed-6-cases-alleged-voter-fraud/>

Texas: U.S. House Committee Investigating Texas Voter Roll Review

The U.S. House’s main investigative committee has opened an inquiry into the Texas secretary of state’s review of the voter rolls for supposed noncitizens. In letters sent to top Texas officials on Thursday, U.S. Reps. Elijah Cummings, the Democratic chair of the Committee on Oversight and Reform, and Jamie Raskin, D-Maryland, requested documents and communications from the secretary of state and the state’s attorney general related to the review through which state officials tagged almost 100,000 registered voters as suspect voters. Texas officials rolled out the review effort in late January, shipping off lists of flagged voters to county voter registrars in what they described as routine maintenance of the state’s massive voter registration database. But state officials’ efforts have been dogged by errors in the data and litigation in federal court, which ground the entire review to a halt over concerns by a federal judge that it targeted naturalized citizens.

<https://www.texastribune.org/2019/03/28/texas-voter-roll-review-under-investigation-us-house-committee/>

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Texas: State Organization, County Judge Address Possible Ballot Fraud

Several complaints are filed to the Texas Secretary of State Elections division on possible voting flaws in Webb County. In February Direct Action Texas, a state political advocacy organization, filed seven complaints to the state after finding possible irregularities that happened during the Webb County 2018 primary elections. “We got some information that there might be an issue in Webb County, so we went ahead and looked into it” Direct Action Texas, Director of Election Integrity, Christine Welborn said. According to Welborn, the complaint was about possible mail-in ballot fraud. The organization started an investigation that resulted in the discovery of more than 100 discrepancies. The irregularities include stacks of applications with the same handwriting but with no indication that someone helped fill them out. “We also found instances where the signatures did not match which can also indicate that there’s a forgery involved and so it was various different things that we found” Welborn said.

<https://www.kgns.tv/content/news/State-organization-County-Judge-address-possible-ballot-fraud--507729281.html>

REDISTRICTING

Daily Signal: Courts Should Stay Out of the ‘Political Thicket’ of Gerrymandering

The Supreme Court heard oral argument this week in two cases challenging congressional district lines drawn for partisan advantage. The question before the justices is whether state legislators violate the Constitution when they draw up district lines with politics in mind. Even the challengers in Tuesday’s two cases don’t claim that there should not be any politics involved in redistricting. So how much politics is acceptable, and how much politics is too much? It’s the political corollary of Goldilocks’ dilemma. The challengers in this case are trying to convince the Supreme Court that there is some nebulous line marking the boundary of “too much politics”—a boundary that exists nowhere in the text of the Constitution. While voters can vote legislators out of office if they don’t like what the legislators have done—such as drawing gerrymandered districts—they can’t vote federal judges out of office. That’s why the Framers of the Constitution committed the task of drawing up district lines to state legislatures with the supervision of Congress—and not to federal courts.

<https://www.dailysignal.com/2019/03/27/courts-should-stay-out-of-the-political-thicket-of-gerrymandering/>