



April 22, 2019

# ACRU Election Integrity Bulletin

## LEAD STORY

### Conservative Leaders Call on “Masters of the Universe” to Cut Ties with SPLC

A group of conservative leaders has called on the Silicon Valley Masters of the Universe to cut ties with the SPLC. Following reported that Twitter has severed ties with the SPLC, Bozell wrote in a statement: Two weeks ago, we issued open letters to the CEO’s of Facebook, Twitter, Google and Amazon urging them to cut ties with the corrupt, anti-conservative, anti-Christian Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC). Since then, it’s been reported that Twitter has severed ties with the organization. It’s time they publicly confirm or deny this. If true, we commend them for taking action. The lack of a public response from Facebook, Google, and Amazon, however, indicates they continue to affiliate themselves with the hypocritical SPLC. The American public deserves an answer. We ask the CEOs of these tech giants again—will your company continue to align itself with an anti-conservative, anti-Christian organization accused of harboring systemic racism or will you do the right thing and publicly sever ties with them? We await your response.

<https://www.breitbart.com/tech/2019/04/20/conservative-leaders-call-on-masters-of-the-universe-to-cut-ties-with-splc/>

## STATES

### Arizona: County Approves Money for Election Probe in Polygamous Town

An Arizona county on Monday approved money for an investigation of possible voter fraud in a remote community on the Arizona-Utah border where members of a polygamous sect kept control of a town council. The Mohave County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously in favor of the request by County Attorney Matt Smith for \$8,000 to hire a private investigator to look into whether people voted last year using addresses where they no longer live in Colorado City, Arizona.

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

### Florida: Lawmakers Seek to Purge Undocumented Immigrants from Voter Rolls

As several bills affecting the 2020 election are set to make a landing in the Legislature this year, a set aimed at ensuring non-citizens are removed from voter rolls is poised for a floor vote. Senate Bill 230 and House Bill 131 would require that each county supervisor of elections enters into an agreement with the clerk of the circuit court to receive, on a monthly basis, a list of potential jurors who have identified themselves as undocumented immigrants. Each supervisor would then have to compare the information with the voter roll. The bill also requires the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to continue to give a similar list to the election[s] supervisors each month, which they already do. “The purpose of this bill is to assist election offices and maintain the accuracy of the official voter registration list,” said bill sponsor Rep. Amber Mariano, a Hudson Republican.

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

## New Hampshire: Man Charged with Voting in N.H., Fla. During 2018 Election

A 77-year-old man surrendered himself to authorities Friday afternoon after an arrest warrant charged him with voting in both New Hampshire and Florida during last November's general election, officials said. Robert A. Bell faces one count of voting in more than one state [which is] prohibited [and] a class B felony, according to the New Hampshire attorney general's office. Authorities allege he knowingly checked in at a "checklist" in Atkinson and cast a New Hampshire ballot after having already cast a ballot in the same election in Florida.

<https://bit.ly/2Dst3ad>

## New Mexico: The Latest State to Approve the National Popular Vote

New Mexico has now joined a growing number of states (14 plus D.C.) in passing legislation to give its five electoral votes to the Presidential candidate who wins the national popular vote—regardless of which candidate wins the popular vote in New Mexico. Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham, a Democrat, signed House Bill 55 on April 3rd. National Popular Vote, the group that is pushing the interstate compact, says the compact would guarantee the Presidency to the candidate who receives the largest number of votes (a plurality or more) in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The compact does not abolish the electoral system that is mandated in the U.S. Constitution, but it would undermine its intent. New Mexico is the fifteenth jurisdiction to join the NPV compact, in addition to California, Colorado, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Massachusetts, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont and Washington.

<https://www.cnsnews.com/news/article/alex-madajian/new-mexico-latest-state-approve-national-popular-vote>

## North Carolina: Mexican National Gets Light Sentence for Illegally Voting in Presidential Election

A Mexican national was sentenced to one month in prison for illegally voting in the 2016 Presidential election, a U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of North Carolina announced Monday. Guadalupe

Espinosa-Pena, 61, pleaded guilty to illegally voting in the 2016 general election in North Carolina. He was consequently sentenced to one month in prison followed by a supervised release for one year.

<https://dailycaller.com/2019/04/16/mexican-national-2016-vote-election/>

## Pennsylvania: Foundation Claims State Is Violating Federal Voter Registration Law

Two months after losing one federal court battle, a private foundation has launched another seeking to force Pennsylvania officials to release information on what they are doing to keep non-citizens from voting in state and federal elections. The Indianapolis, Indiana-based Public Interest Legal Foundation claims in its newly-filed U.S. Middle District Court suit that the state Department of State is violating the National Voter Registration Act by refusing to provide the information it seeks. The group, which is involved in immigrant rights disputes nationwide, contends it needs the information on Pennsylvania's efforts to combat voting by non-citizens to promote its mission to "keep voter rolls free of ineligible registrants." Testimony given by state officials during public hearings has shown there is a problem and that efforts are being made to ensure non-citizens aren't making it onto the state's voter rolls and into its voting booths, the foundation contends.

<https://www.pennlive.com/news/2019/04/foundation-that-targets-voting-by-non-citizens-claims-pa-is-violating-federal-voter-registration-law.html>

## Tennessee: Ex-Deputy Who Bought Votes in Monroe Sheriff's Race Gets 5-Year Probation

A former reserve deputy who recruited a marijuana dealer to buy votes for a Republican candidate for Monroe County sheriff in 2014 and then lied about it—repeatedly—is now banned from politicking for the next five years. U.S. District Judge Tom Varlan on Tuesday approved a five-year probationary sentence for Brian Keith "Wormy" Hodge for Hodge's role in a conspiracy to buy votes for Republican Randy White in White's successful 2014 campaign for sheriff in Monroe County.

<https://bit.ly/2Vipj51>

(more)

## Texas: Galveston County Registrar Refers ‘Non-Citizens’ for Voter Fraud Investigation

Galveston County’s top election official, currently being sued in federal court for removing naturalized citizens from voter rolls, has referred five “potential non-citizens” to the local district attorney’s office to be investigated for possible voter fraud. Cheryl Johnson, the county’s tax assessor and collector, made the referral to District Attorney Jack Roady weeks after reviewing her office’s policy on processing jury summons lists that indicate a voter might not be a U.S. citizen. Johnson, who doubles as county registrar overseeing the county’s voter rolls, will now use a person’s voluntary declaration that they are a non-citizen on a jury summons exemption as a precursor for possible criminal investigation for voter fraud. The policy revision, dated March 12, states that if a potential non-citizen is flagged and does not submit proof of citizenship or voluntarily remove him- or herself from voter rolls within 35 days of notification from the registrar’s office, the registrar will drop that person from the voter rolls and refer the matter to county prosecutors for investigation.

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

## Texas: New Bill Seeks Harsher Punishment for Voter Fraud

Right now, if you commit voter fraud, it’s considered a class A misdemeanor, but a state bill could change that charge to a felony if it becomes law. Senate Bill 9 recently passed in the state Senate and will go to the House for review. “There’s not much more fundamental to democracy than the right to vote. That’s what this bill is about,” said state Sen. Bryan Huges, R-Mineola. SB 9 aims to create a more severe punishment for those that commit voter fraud. Huges said it mainly does two things: 1. It creates a paper trail of how a person voted. 2. It increases penalties from a misdemeanor to a felony if someone commits voter fraud.

[https://www.ksat.com/news/politics/new-bill-seeks-harsher-punishment-for-voter-fraud?\\_vfz=medium%3Dsharebar](https://www.ksat.com/news/politics/new-bill-seeks-harsher-punishment-for-voter-fraud?_vfz=medium%3Dsharebar)

## Washington: Sen. Doug Ericksen Expresses Concern Over Potential for Election Fraud

A state legislator says he can’t understand why Democrats don’t want to combat potential voter fraud. After a very close election in our state, ballot chasers from campaigns contact people who submitted problem ballots in hopes of changing or solidifying results before certification. “An individual could go and find out every single person, this is all public information, make a request to find out all of the people who did not sign their ballot properly or whose signature did not match.” Senator Doug Ericksen says the ballot chasers or others can help the voters sign affidavits and serve as witnesses to get the votes counted, but he says that process is ripe for fraud. Ericksen proposed an amendment to a Democratic bill, in order to require those witnesses to provide printed names, addresses and phone numbers, but Democrats rejected it. “To me that’s mind-boggling. So now, coming into the next election, everybody in Washington State knows, because of my speech, how you can go out and commit election fraud.”

<https://www.kpq.com/sen-doug-ericksen-expresses-concern-over-potential-for-election-fraud/>

## West Virginia: Division of Motor Vehicles Is Losing Voter Registrations

State officials say the West Virginia Division of Motor Vehicles is losing voter registrations, but they don’t know how many and for how long. Donald Kersey, general counsel for Secretary of State Mac Warner’s office, said the DMV sends the Secretary of State’s office a daily list of voter registrations, but the Secretary’s office estimate several registrations are lost per day because of technical problems at the DMV— “a systematic error,” he said. The problem, Kersey said, has been ongoing at least since the 2018 general election. During a five-day test period in January, 37 people, who were flagged as registering at the DMV, did not have their registration received by the Secretary of State.

[https://www.register-herald.com/news/state\\_region/wv-division-of-motor-vehicles-is-losing-voter-registrations/article\\_dbf5b5c0-9b5d-5461-b841-947b5d34e5e5.html](https://www.register-herald.com/news/state_region/wv-division-of-motor-vehicles-is-losing-voter-registrations/article_dbf5b5c0-9b5d-5461-b841-947b5d34e5e5.html)

*(more)*

## REDISTRICTING

### **North Carolina: Senate Bill Introduced to Reform Redistricting Process**

The process of drawing district lines in North Carolina has seen its fair share of criticism. Now, three democratic senators have introduced a bill that they hope will change that. A bill was introduced Thursday that would eliminate politically charged gerrymandering—the process of dividing a region in a way that gives one political party an unfair advantage. Regular voters would have the power to draw district lines. “It puts voters, not politicians, at the center of a fair and open process to draw our congressional legislative districts,” said Jennifer Bremer, League of Women Voters of North Carolina. The bill creates a 15-person citizens’ redistricting commission. Anyone could apply but there are strict requirements. Candidates cannot have any affiliation with politics, but they must be registered voters.

<https://abc11.com/politics/senate-bill-introduced-to-reform-nc-redistricting-process-/5257961/>