



The American
Civil
Rights
Union



Voting
Integrity
Institute

May 13, 2019

ACRU Election Integrity Bulletin

LEAD STORY

Why the Left Wants to Ditch the Electoral College

The Left wants to get rid of the Electoral College. Learn why this is important to the future of America. This well-done video needs to be distributed widely!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JFGhX0hLy6E&feature=youtu.be>

FEDERAL

Voter Suppression? Not Really: Data Show Minority Turnout Surged in 2018

Democrats like to claim that Republicans use various laws such as voter ID—widely supported and used in nearly every major democracy on earth—to disenfranchise minority voters and steal elections. Two-time failed Presidential candidate Hillary Clinton and failed gubernatorial candidate Stacey Abrams are among those who actually reject election outcomes based on their theory. But the data offer no evidence, and strongly suggest that it is not true. The ongoing charge from Democrats is that voter ID laws, along with efforts to clean up voter rolls and limitations on early voting, have disenfranchised massive voting blocs that would otherwise help Democratic candidates. In order to make the argument seem relevant, they also claim,

without evidence that these laws disproportionately affect black Americans specifically. However, as Jason L. Riley notes in the *Wall Street Journal*, the facts do not support these allegations.

<https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/voter-suppression-not-really-data-show-minority-turnout-surged-in-2018>

Kamala Harris Says Voter Suppression Kept Stacey Abrams, Andrew Gillum Out of Office. Really?

Richard Hasen, an election law expert at University of California, Irvine, has said Democrats should cool it with rhetoric that the Georgia race was “stolen.” “I have seen no good evidence that the suppressive effects of strict voting and registration laws affected the outcome of the governor’s races in Georgia and Florida,” he told PolitiFact. “It would be one thing to claim, as some have, that these laws are aimed to suppress the vote and likely suppressed some votes. It is quite another to claim that there is good proof they affected the outcome.”

<https://www.politifact.com/truth-o-meter/article/2019/may/10/fact-checking-kamala-harris-claim-stacey-abrams-an/>

(more)

STATES

Connecticut: Bridgeport Special Election Candidates Request Increased Oversight of Absentee Ballots

Three of the five candidates on the ballot in next Tuesday's special election for the 130th House District in Bridgeport are asking for increased oversight of absentee ballots, which they say could tip the race and are ripe for fraud. In a letter Wednesday to the Secretary of the State's office and the State Elections Enforcement Commission, Kate Rivera, Hector Diaz, and Josh Parrow raised concerns about the integrity of the voting and requested supervised balloting at seven apartment complexes in the city where 20 or more absentee ballots were distributed. Most of them are senior housing locations.

<https://bit.ly/30gXFoP>

Indiana: Man Arrested, Accused of Voter Fraud

A Clark County, Indiana man has been arrested and accused of voter fraud after an April investigation. John Croucher, 60, is facing perjury, ineligible voter and voting outside precinct residence charges. The investigation started in mid-April after police received a report of voter fraud.

<https://bit.ly/30qDjjs>

Louisiana: Voter Fraud Claim in St. Gabriel Police Chief's Race Launches Secretary of State, DA's Office Investigation

Iberville Parish prosecutors are working to determine whether a voter fraud allegation made in the St. Gabriel police chief's election this spring has merit. Police Chief Kevin "Butchie" Ambeau won a fifth term March 30, defeating challenger Anthony Davis by 56 votes, 664-608. Both men are Democrats. Tyler Brey, press secretary for the

Louisiana Secretary of State, said investigators found sufficient evidence to warrant turning over findings to prosecutors in the 18th Judicial District. Under state elections law, the state Elections Compliance Unit must turn over findings if it determines that "there may be a violation of any criminal law or provision of the Louisiana Election Code."

<https://bit.ly/2Yst9q2>

Maine: Emotions Flare as Lawmakers Debate Measure to Ensure That Only Citizens Vote

A proposed constitutional amendment to prohibit non-citizens from casting ballots in Maine elections spurred an emotional debate Friday over voting rights, history and the tone of today's political climate. Members of the Legislature's Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee split along party lines over whether a constitutional amendment was even necessary given that state law already says it is a felony offense for non-citizens to vote. Those bills, L.D. 186 and L.D. 1372, will go to the House and Senate for consideration. But tensions rose in the committee room as lawmakers questioned the patriotism of their colleagues and veered into partisan issues such as "voter ID," illegal immigration and voter suppression.

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

New Jersey: Man Pleads Guilty in Alleged Hoboken Voter Bribery Scheme

According to an announcement by U.S. Attorney Craig Carpenito, Hoboken resident Matthew Calicchio, 28, admitted to promoting a voter bribery scheme in two city elections. Calicchio, plead guilty on May 7 before U.S. District Court Judge William J. Martini in Newark federal court to information charging him with using the mails to promote voter bribery from 2013 to 2015 in municipal elections in Hoboken.

<https://bit.ly/2Q1ef7q>

(more)

New Jersey: Middlesex Prosecutor Announces Initiative Targeting Voter Fraud

The Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office has announced a new initiative to target voter fraud, particularly for mail-in ballots following a change in vote-by-mail rules last year. "There is a concern with fraud, and we're trying to combat it," Middlesex County Prosecutor Andrew C. Carey said in an interview last week. "This is not to prevent people from voting. We want to make sure everyone can vote safely and that their votes count." <https://bit.ly/2H8hKWF>

Texas: Another Arrest Made in Connection with Edinburg Election Fraud Case

A new arrest has been made in connection with the Edinburg election fraud case. According to public records, Daniel Castillo, was arrested on charges false statement voter registration application charges. <https://valleycentral.com/news/local/another-arrest-made-in-connection-with-edinburg-election-fraud-case>

REDISTRICTING

Michigan: Case Could Be Third Gerrymandering Case Headed to Supreme Court

A prominent constitutional law professor says the Supreme Court is obliged to hear a new legal challenge to a federal court's determination that congressional districts in Michigan were unlawfully gerrymandered and will have to be redrawn before elections in November 2020. Michigan lawmakers and congressional Republicans filed an emergency appeal May 3 with the Supreme Court to set aside a ruling by a panel of three federal judges in Detroit that ordered the state's electoral map be redrawn because of what the judges unanimously called an unconstitutional "political gerrymander of 'historical proportions'" that caused "severe" constitutional violations. "A wide breadth of statistical evidence" suggests partisan bias that gave Republicans a strong advantage over Democrats, the ruling stated, according to *The Detroit News*. <https://matthewvadum.com/2019/05/michigan-is-third-state-to-head-to-scotus-over-gerrymandering-allegations-before-2020-elections/>

Ohio: Case Could be Fourth Gerrymandering Case Headed to Supreme Court

Ohio officials vow to appeal to the Supreme Court a three-judge federal panel's determination that congressional districts in the Buckeye State were unlawfully gerrymandered and will have to be redrawn long before elections in November 2020. <https://matthewvadum.com/2019/05/ohio-4th-gerrymander-case-heading-scotus/>