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# ACRU Election Integrity Bulletin

## LEAD STORY

### Dennis Prager: ‘God Will Ask You Why You Didn’t Vote’

My Faith Votes recently sat down with Dennis Prager, conservative radio host, author and co-founder of Prager University. The wide-ranging conversation touched on the political and cultural divide in America, how the ideology of the Left constitutes a godless religion that has infiltrated society’s core, raising boys in today’s culture—and Big Tech’s biased censorship of over 100 PragerU videos. To me, though, the most important part of our time with Dennis Prager was the few minutes we discussed why some people choose not to vote. While the percentage changes from election to election, in general about 60 percent of eligible voters participate in Presidential elections and even fewer, roughly 40 percent, participate in midterm elections.

<https://bit.ly/2WON9IB>

## NATIONAL

### The Hill: Liberals Try to Derail Census Case with Fake News About Citizenship

Some liberals are terrified that the Supreme Court will allow the Trump administration to reinstate a citizenship question on the census. Why? Because they do not want accurate information about the number of noncitizens living in the United States. Their latest ploy is an attempt to “improperly derail” the resolution of this case, the Justice Department

wrote in a letter this month. At the heart of the motion by the plaintiffs to reopen the evidence and sanction the government is their claim, which the Justice Department itself says “borders on frivolous,” that Thomas Hofeller, a Republican National Committee redistricting expert, had supposedly influenced the decision to reinstate the citizenship question through a 2015 study, and that Trump administration officials failed to reveal his involvement.

<https://bit.ly/2XtB1Lv>

### GOPUSA: Coalition to Change Electoral College Votes Grows Closer to 270-Vote Mark

Five times in U.S. history, the Presidential candidate who won the national popular vote did not win the White House—including two of the last five elections. Those losses have spurred a national movement to change the way elections are won. Since Democrat Hillary Clinton lost the 2016 race, with nearly 3 million more votes than Donald Trump, a number of states have passed laws to award their electoral votes to the winner of the national popular vote. Fifteen states and Washington, D.C., have so far enacted such laws—with the latest, Oregon, joining Wednesday. It’s a movement that’s been growing since 2006, when the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact—a non-profit with the goal of enacting a system to elect the popular vote winner—formed to persuade states to join.

<http://www.gopusa.com/coalition-to-change-electoral-college-votes-grows-closer-to-270-vote-mark/>

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**STATES****Colorado: Ethics Group Suing Secretary of State Jena Griswold Over Lack of Transparency in Open Records Request**

Secretary of State Jena Griswold is facing her first lawsuit since being sworn into office just five months ago. Judicial Watch, a conservative Washington D.C.-based organization is suing Griswold for communication records she refused to turn over through a Colorado Open Records Act Request. Griswold could not immediately be reached for comment. The suit was filed on behalf of Todd Shepherd, a reporter for the *Washington Free Beacon*. Shepherd, who also co-founded Complete Colorado before moving to Washington, filed for several documents on February 4 pertaining to an Electoral College debate concerning the National Popular Vote (NPV) Bill that was eventually signed by Gov. Jared Polis. Former Secretary of State Scott Gessler is representing Shepherd in the suit.

<https://bit.ly/2WNUp16>

**Colorado: Organizers Behind National Popular Vote Law Repeal Say They're Halfway to Signature Goal for Colorado Ballot**

Organizers pushing to roll back Colorado's involvement in the national popular vote movement say they're halfway to their signature goal for a ballot measure that would ask voters to repeal the new state law. Gov. Jared Polis signed the measure into law earlier this year. It would tie the state's electoral votes to the Presidential candidate who receives the most votes across the nation if a national effort reaches its goal of signing on enough states to commit 270 electoral votes—the number needed for a candidate to win the White House—to the winner of the popular vote nationally. “More than 2,100 Coloradans have volunteered to carry petitions to protect Colorado's votes,” organizers said in a fundraising email. “We want Colorado voters to decide who gets our Electoral College votes, not voters in California, Illinois and New York.” According to the email, Coloradans Vote,

the group behind the repeal effort, has collected 100,000 signatures. To qualify for the 2020 ballot, the group needs to submit 124,632 valid signatures to the Secretary of State by Aug. 1. To ensure enough are valid, organizers want to collect 200,000 signatures. <https://www.denverpost.com/2019/06/07/colorado-national-popular-vote/>

**Florida: Dems Prepping for a 2020 Recount Some See as Inevitable**

Florida Democrats on Saturday were put on notice and told by the state's new voter protection director to expect a recount during next year's Presidential election. Brandon Peters, who was hired by the state party in May, told a packed room of Democratic activists gathered in Orlando that there will be teams of volunteers trained in how to monitor county canvassing boards for recount problems around the state. “We are going to be prepared,” Peters said at the party's Leadership Blue 2019 meeting. The state party is coordinating with the Democratic National Party to set up a tool to track election problems in real time. There also will be a hotline for volunteers to call in problems, Peters said.

<https://fxn.ws/2MUwVba>

**Florida: Gillum: Investigation Won't Derail Push to 'Flip Florida Blue'**

A federal grand jury in north Florida has subpoenaed information related to Gillum's gubernatorial campaign, his political committee and associated non-profit groups. Gillum, considered a rising star in the party after losing to DeSantis, in March announced an ambitious plan to register up to 1 million voters as part of an effort to block President Donald Trump from retaking Florida, the nation's largest battleground state, in 2020. The question, however, is whether the federal investigation could dampen donor enthusiasm. Gillum's non-profit group, Forward Florida Action, has given \$100,000 to the party so far to boost registration efforts. Cash will be doled out to the Florida Democratic Party and progressive south Florida organizations with voter-registration infrastructure.

<https://politi.co/2XV2ZwD>

(more)

## Florida: Voter Registration Mailer Creates Confusion for Voters and Phone Calls for Officials

Dozens of Leon County residents received notices in their mailboxes today that they were not registered to vote. The mailing initiated a flood of phone calls to the Supervisor of Elections Office by people wanting to know why they were removed from the voter rolls. Problem is, they weren't. And Florida election officials had nothing to do with the notifications. They were sent by two non-profit groups based in Washington, D.C., dedicated to increasing voter participation among lower income residents, people of color and single women. But the effort, according to Leon County Supervisor of Elections Mark Earley, seems to create more confusion each year than increase new voters.

<https://www.tallahassee.com/story/news/politics/2019/06/14/voter-registration-mailer-creates-confusion-voters-and-phone-calls/1460093001/>

## Louisiana: Crowley Woman Faces Voter Fraud Charges

The state Attorney General's Office has accused the 68-year-old Crowley woman of failing to "mark a ballot in the manner dictated by the voter when assisting" on two separate occasions, *Acadia Parish Today* reported. According the Attorney General's Office, Louisiana Department of State Elections Compliance Unit is leading the investigation. "It came to us on a request for assistance from District Attorney Keith Stutes," Jacques Ambers, special assistant to the AG, said Thursday. "As stated on the bill of information, we allege that the two offenses were committed on September 6, 2018, and September 10, 2018."

<https://www.klfy.com/news/local/ag-crowley-woman-faces-voter-fraud-charges/2074540700>

## Maine: Democrats Advance Bill to Establish Automatic Voter Registration by 2022

Maine is on track to become the 18<sup>th</sup> state to establish an automatic voter registration system after Democrats pushed a measure backed by party leaders through the state Senate on Monday in the second

consecutive party-line vote on the issue. The upper chamber backed a bill from House Speaker Sara Gideon, D-Freeport, in a 19-14 vote. Only Democrats voted for it after another party-line vote in the House of Representatives last week. The measure faces further action in both chambers and would take effect in 2022. Gideon's bill is backed by Secretary of State Matt Dunlap, a Democrat whose office would administer the program through the Bureau of Motor Vehicles. It will be similar to most automatic registration programs in the U.S., according to the National Conference of State Legislatures.

<https://wgme.com/news/local/maine-democrats-advance-bill-to-establish-automatic-voter-registration-by-2022>

## New Jersey: Elections Officials Find Three More Ballots in a Bag

The Union County Board of Elections just found three more provisional ballots in a bag for the Democratic primary in Roselle that were not counted on Friday. "We found three provisional ballots in the supply bag for Roselle 5-2, two of which should have been counted on Friday; the third voter was not registered." The newly-found ballots do not change the results for the contested county committee seats in Ward 5, District 2.

<https://newjerseyglobe.com/local/elections-officials-find-three-more-ballots-in-a-bag/>

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## North Carolina: Three Eastern Carolina Residents Charged with Voter Fraud

Three Eastern Carolina residents have been arrested for voter fraud. The SBI says two people from Goldsboro and another from New Bern used fake addresses to vote in the May 2018 primary and one voted twice. Terrell Graham, 31, of Goldsboro, and David Williams, 55, also of Goldsboro, have been charged with corruptly taking the oath prescribed to voters. Keymonti Winn-Hocutt, 19, of New Bern is charged with corruptly taking the oath prescribed to voters and double voting. The Wayne County Board of Elections notified state election officials about possible election violations during early voting, and the SBI then began to investigate.

<https://www.witn.com/content/news/Three-Eastern-Carolina-residents-charged-with-voter-fraud-511202711.html>

## Oregon: Gov. Kate Brown Signs National Popular Vote Compact

Oregon Gov. Kate Brown signed Wednesday a bill to join the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact, bringing to 16 the number of jurisdictions that have joined the accord to bypass the Electoral College. In doing so, Oregon became the 15<sup>th</sup> state and 16<sup>th</sup> jurisdiction—the District of Columbia has also signed on—to enter the compact, bringing the total to 196 electoral votes, 74 shy of the 270 needed for the agreement to take effect.

<https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2019/jun/12/gov-kate-brown-makes-oregon-latest-blue-state-join/>

## REDISTRICTING

### Virginia: Supreme Court Upholds New Virginia Legislative Maps

Virginia's legislative elections this year will happen under new court-ordered maps, after the Supreme Court ruled Monday that the GOP-led House of Delegates can't step in and independently appeal a case the state's attorney general has given up. Democrats believe the new maps, with lines more favorable to black voters' political power, give them a leg up as they try to win control of the state House for the first time in two decades. The ruling came on procedural grounds, with the five-justice majority saying the state's GOP-led House doesn't have the ability to step in and pursue a court case if the attorney general, a Democrat, has surrendered. The decision comes as Virginia gears up for momentous state legislative elections. Democrats say the new maps pave the way for the House, currently at 51 Republicans and 49 Democrats, to turn. Attorney General Mark Herring accepted the court's ruling, but the GOP-led House, which had participated in the lower court as intervenors, wanted to appeal. The high court on Monday said it didn't have standing to do so. The new maps were already used for last week's primaries, and now will be the battleground for the general election in November.

<https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2019/jun/17/supreme-court-upholds-virginia-legislative-maps/>