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ACRU Election Integrity Bulletin

LEAD STORY

PJ Media: Poll: Opposition to Eliminating Electoral College Grows

Opposition to the Electoral College has been a growing movement for some time, but Trump's victory over Hillary Clinton, despite her besting him in the national popular vote, has seemingly rejuvenated efforts by the movement to get states to agree to give their Electoral College votes to the winner of the national popular vote instead of the winner in their state. According to National Popular Vote, fifteen states (all blue states) have already passed such bills, with nine other states having had one legislative chamber pass it. The National Popular Vote Compact will only take effect when it has been enacted by enough states to accumulate 270 or more electoral votes. By their count, they need 81 more votes. While this is troubling to people who respect the Constitution and understand the importance of the Electoral College, there is a glimmer of hope. According to a Rasmussen poll released Tuesday, "most Americans still understand the reason the Founding Fathers established the Electoral College and are increasingly opposed to efforts to get rid of it."

<https://pjmedia.com/trending/poll-opposition-to-eliminating-electoral-college-grows/>

NATIONAL

Breitbart: 'If Democrats and the Left' Kill Electoral College, 'We Can Never Win Another Election'

Charlie Kirk, founder and executive director of Turning Point USA, explained a political push from Democrats and the broader left to circumvent the electoral college and determine Presidential elections via the popular vote. The National Popular Vote is a campaign to evade the electoral college via an interstate compact wherein partner states—via their own statewide legislation—agree to cast their electoral votes based on the national popular vote, regardless of how their own state's citizens voted. "Few people actually realize that Democrats and the left have done this in 15 states, already," began Kirk. "This is called the National Popular Vote Compact—an interstate compact—where essentially states have agreed to send their electoral votes to the winner of the popular." Kirk warned, "If Democrats and the left pull this off, forget about it. We'll have a less than five percent chance of ever winning another election again. This is exactly what the Founding Fathers tried to prevent, which is the tyranny of the mob of the inner cities."

<https://www.breitbart.com/radio/2019/05/28/charlie-kirk-if-democrats-and-the-left-kill-electoral-college-we-can-never-win-another-election/>

(more)

Real Clear Politics: Using the Big Lie to Delegitimize Election Results

The Big Lie is back in style. Wikipedia tells us that the term was invented by Adolf Hitler to describe what others did—though he was the biggest liar of all. “The broad masses of a nation,” he wrote in *Mein Kampf*, “more readily fall victims to the big lie than the small lie.” No one on the political scene in this country or any democratic nation is a monster comparable to Hitler. But some have resorted to the Big Lie in their attempts to override clear decisions of the people, at the risk of delegitimizing the nation’s democracy. Presidential candidate Kamala Harris told the Detroit NAACP, “without voter suppression, Stacey Abrams would be the governor of Georgia. Andrew Gillum is the governor of Florida.” This is nonsense. Voter turnout was up 54 percent in Georgia and 38 percent in Florida from 2014 levels, and the “voter suppression” people complained about was standard procedures, required by a 1994 federal law. The suggestion that this amounts to the kind of voter suppression blacks experienced before the 1965 Voting Rights Act—suppression by unfair laws, threats of violence and murder—is preposterous. Perhaps Abrams hopes to convince the many blacks moving to Georgia that it’s run by white segregationists. But she and those who echo her charges are saying that America is moving backward on basic civil rights. That’s a Big Lie, one that stokes racial mistrust and hatred.

https://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2019/05/24/using_the_big_lie_to_delegitimize_election_results_140418.html

STATES

California: New Lawsuit Over Voter Registration Errors

California is facing a new lawsuit over errors in its voter registration system. One America’s Pearson Sharp spoke with Mark Meuser, an election

attorney, who said the Secretary of State is violating federal law by opening the door for non-citizens to vote.

<https://www.oann.com/calif-facing-new-lawsuit-over-voter-registration-errors/>

Connecticut: Legislator’s Voter Data Improvement Concept Approved by House

One of the final bills taken up by the House of Representatives last week was State Rep. Bill Buckbee’s (R-67th) proposal to study the use of blockchain technology to collect voter information. Blockchain is most commonly known as the technology used in the trading and securing of cryptocurrency. The State of West Virginia, according to West Virginia’s Secretary of State Mac Warner, had successfully implemented blockchain to facilitate the voting of 144 members of the military, spread over 24 different countries, in the 2018 election. “With growing concerns of voter fraud and lack of voter participation, it’s important to consider how blockchain could be used to remedy those issues,” he said. “It’s a step in the right direction toward helping voter data, stored by the Secretary of the State’s Office, to be kept in an accurate and secure fashion,” Buckbee said. The bill makes its way to the State Senate.

<http://bit.ly/2wD8JyJ>

Florida: Action, Not Rhetoric, Needed to Fight Voter Fraud

Gov. Ron DeSantis has ordered a security review of voting systems. But the state fails to take basic steps to protect the integrity of elections. It would seem to go without saying, but Gov. Ron DeSantis said it anyway last week. He directed the state’s top elections official to review the security of the state’s voting systems in advance.

<http://www.tampabay.com/opinion/editorials/editorial-action-not-rhetoric-needed-to-fight-voter-fraud-20190526/>

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Florida: Andrew Gillum Hit with Federal Subpoena for Campaign Records

Florida Democrat Andrew Gillum, whose failed gubernatorial bid against Gov. Ron DeSantis (R) turned him into a darling among progressives, is the “focal point of a recently issued” federal subpoena, according to a report. *The Tampa Bay Times* reported Thursday that a federal grand jury is seeking information regarding his campaign, along with matters related to a non-profit and a wealthy donor. The subpoena reportedly requests information on Donald Sussman, who contributed \$1.5 million to Gillum’s campaign, and Sharon Lettman-Hicks, the CEO of African-American LGBTQ-rights organization National Black Justice Commission.

<https://www.breitbart.com/politics/2019/05/30/andrew-gillum-hit-with-federal-subpoena-for-campaign-records/>

Nevada: Gov. Steve Sisolak Vetoes National Popular Vote Bill

Nevada Gov. Steve Sisolak surprised onlookers Thursday by vetoing a bill to join the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact, saying it would reduce the influence of low-population states like his in Presidential contests. The agreement, he said, would upset the framers’ balance between small and large states and “could leave a sparsely populated Western state like Nevada with a greatly diminished voice in the outcome of national electoral contests. For these reasons, and in the best interests of the Great State of Nevada, I veto this bill and return it without my signature or approval,” Mr. Sisolak said in his signing statement. The Democratic governor becomes the first this year to reject the National Popular Vote, which would require electors in states that join the compact to vote for the Presidential candidate who wins the popular vote, instead of the candidate who captures the state vote.

<https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2019/may/30/steve-sisolak-vetoes-national-popular-vote-bill/>

New Hampshire: Senate Votes to Undo Voter Registration Changes

New Hampshire Democrats continued their push to expand voting rights Thursday, passing bills to reverse a recent voter registration law and to allow anyone to request absentee ballots. The state Senate on Thursday voted 14-10 along party lines to pass a bill to essentially repeal a 2017 law requiring additional documentation from voters who register within 30 days of an election.

<https://www.concordmonitor.com/Senate-votes-to-undo-voter-registration-changes-25922646>

New Jersey: Feds Get Another Guilty Plea in Hoboken Cash-for-Votes Scheme

A third person charged in the cash-for votes scheme allegedly run by a Hoboken developer has pleaded guilty, federal authorities announced Thursday. Dio Braxton, 43, admitted in federal court Wednesday that he conspired with developer Frank “Pupie” Raia and others to use the mail to run a voter bribery scheme during Hoboken’s municipal election in 2013, U.S. Attorney for New Jersey Craig Carpenito said.

<https://www.nj.com/hudson/2019/05/feds-get-another-guilty-plea-in-hobokens-cash-for-votes-scheme.html>

(more)

REDISTRICTING

Supreme Court Tees up Redistricting Cases in Swing States

The Supreme Court weighed in on redistricting fights in crucial 2020 Presidential swing states, blocking four lower-court decisions on Friday, as the justices prepare to decide how much unelected judges can intervene regarding politicians' drawing legislative district lines. The Fourteenth Amendment and Fifteenth Amendment to the Constitution empowers Congress to make laws to stop racial discrimination by state governments, especially regarding voting and elections. One of these laws is the Voting Rights Act of 1965, wherein Section 2 forbids drawing legislative districts that reduce the voting power of racial minorities. The Supreme Court has been split on the issue for decades. But with Justice Brett Kavanaugh's replacing swing-vote Justice Anthony Kennedy, legal conservatives are hopeful that they might have a majority to finally get a clear ruling acknowledging the common-sense idea that there is no neutral legal basis upon which judges can make politicians give up politics when making an inherently political calculation—which is what redistricting is.

<https://www.breitbart.com/politics/2019/05/27/supreme-court-tees-redistricting-cases-swing-states/>