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LEAD STORY

In Gerrymandering Case, Supreme Court Rules It's a Matter for Lawmakers, Not Judges

In a new decision, the Supreme Court determined partisan gerrymandering disputes are a political question, not something federal courts should be deciding. In a 5-4 ruling Thursday, the high court decided in a pair of cases regarding gerrymandering—which is the practice of state legislatures drawing up districts for congressional and state legislative seats to benefit one party over another after the census. The justices decided on two cases merged, one about a congressional district in Maryland benefiting Democrats and another about a congressional district in North Carolina benefiting Republicans. The high court vacated lower court rulings that each state had to redraw the maps.

<https://www.dailysignal.com/2019/06/27/in-gerrymandering-case-supreme-court-rules-its-a-matter-for-lawmakers-not-judges/>

NATIONAL

Breitbart: 'Only Matter of Time Before Illegal Alien Voting Is Expanded'

Elected Democrats will soon attempt to expand voting rights in deep blue states for illegal aliens, an election fraud expert says. Last week, Democrats in New York state approved and signed into law a plan to give driver's licenses to illegal aliens with the backing of the business lobby. The law allows for the state's 725,000-strong illegal alien population to be eligible for the same driver's license that American citizens are afforded. Already, state officials have said the law will effectively give illegal aliens the ability to vote as Government Accountability Institute (GAI) Director of Research Eric Eggers exclusively told Breitbart News that the new law in New York indicates that it is "only a matter of time" before elected Democrats in states like California, New York, Massachusetts, Oregon, and Maryland expand voting rights for illegal aliens. New York registers citizens to vote at state Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) offices. "This is the first step towards the expansion of a number of things that normalize the rights of illegal aliens," Eggers said. "It's only a matter of time before we see the expansion of illegal alien voting in state elections and eventually the Left pushing for illegal alien voting in federal elections," Eggers continued.

<https://www.breitbart.com/politics/2019/06/23/expert-matter-time-illegal-alien-voting-expanded/>

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Fox News: Census Should Ask About Citizenship—but Supreme Court Fails to Resolve Issue

The Supreme Court's fractured and fragmented decision on whether the Commerce Department can reinstate a citizenship question as part of the 2020 census was a partial victory and a partial loss for the Trump administration. Now a giant question mark hangs over whether the census form will include a question asking people if they are U.S. citizens. Trump administration officials must throw the legal equivalent of a Hail Mary pass and hope they make it into the end zone. The game isn't over, so we'll all have to wait and see what comes next.

<https://www.foxnews.com/opinion/hans-von-spakovsky-census-should-ask-about-citizenship-but-supreme-court-fails-to-resolve-issue>

Heritage Foundation: Why the Supreme Court Got It Right on Gerrymandering

In a much-awaited decision, the Supreme Court held on Thursday in a 5-4 decision that partisan gerrymandering is a political question beyond the reach of the federal courts. This should come as no surprise, since it's the same conclusion the court reached the last time this issue was before it in 2004 in a case out of Pennsylvania, *Vieth v. Jubelirer*. This time, plaintiffs in both Maryland and North Carolina challenged congressional redistricting maps, claiming they discriminated against Republicans in Maryland and Democrats in North Carolina. They argued that such partisan redistricting (i.e. engaging in politics when drawing legislative district lines to benefit candidates of one political party) violated the First and 14th Amendments, as well as the elections clause and Article 1, Section 2 of the Constitution. District courts in both cases ruled in their favor. However, the Supreme Court, in an opinion written by Chief Justice John Roberts and joined by the other (generally) conservative justices, concluded that this is a nonjusticiable political question for which there

is a lack of discoverable and manageable standards. The chief justice noted that “partisan gerrymandering is nothing new,” and neither is “frustration with it.”

<https://herit.ag/2Jirde3>

Daily Signal: Faithless Electors Who Break Their Promise Rightly Can Be Punished

They formed a national alliance shortly after the 2016 election designed to manipulate the Electoral College by persuading and pressuring electors not to vote for Trump when members of the Electoral College met to cast their votes on Dec. 19, 2016, but to vote for an alternative candidate. As we all know, they were not successful. But what happened to the small handful of electors who broke their pledges? There were seven nationwide, including four in the state of Washington. Are there any consequences when an elector changes his vote? Can states punish faithless electors? According to a recent decision by the Washington state Supreme Court, the answer is “yes.”

<https://dailysign.al/2YtuqxG>

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The Hill: States Removed 17 Million from Voter Rolls in Past Two Years, Federal Report Finds

States struck more than 17 million people from their voter rolls between the 2016 and 2018 elections, according to a report from the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) released Thursday. The figure is about 2.5 million more voters than were removed from 2013 to 2014 under the National Voting Rights Act. The law requires states to allow increased voting and registration opportunities as well as to continually update voting rolls. Under the act, reasons for removal from state voter rolls include not voting, moving to different voting districts, death, criminal convictions or a finding of “mental incapacity.” The EAC also found nearly 80 million voter registration applications were received between the 2016 and 2018 elections, and more than 211 million people were reported as registered and eligible to vote in the 2018 midterms, an increase of more than 10 percent compared with the 2014 midterm elections.

<https://thehill.com/blogs/blog-briefing-room/news/450749-federal-report-finds-states-removed-17-million-from-voter-rolls>

STATES

Arizona: Colorado City Election Fraud Investigation Underway

The private investigator tasked with looking into alleged voter fraud in Colorado City, Arizona, started his investigation Monday. The Mohave County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved \$8,000 to hire private investigator Gary Engels in April. County Attorney Matt Smith requested the funds after residents voiced concerns regarding voter fraud during various 2018 elections. Smith said the allegations were based on nonresidents and past residents voting in the 2018 election in order to help the polygamous group, the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, retain control of the town council. Residents also came forward to report that mail-in ballots had been intercepted and filled out by

individuals who did not live at the specified residences. “Obviously, you have to live in a jurisdiction and establish residency to vote in that area,” Smith said.

<https://www.stgeorgeutah.com/news/archive/2019/06/22/arh-colorado-city-election-fraud-investigation-underway/#.XRfp1uhKjD4>

Indiana: New Law Brings Changes to Absentee Ballot Counting

Senate Enrolled Act 560 will bring big change to this year’s election. Not only will it mean more hands on the ballot but getting the results may take some time. New requirements with Indiana House Bill 560 will make absentee ballot counting longer than usual. “Another portion of the law is we can’t run those ballots until 6:00 in the morning on election day. Whereas, before you had the electronic ballot that had already been inserted the OVI machine and then counted,” said Brad Newman, Vigo County Clerk. The law also requires initials on every ballot... Which means more hands on deck. “Every ballot is going to be touched again by a different set of people... Republican and Democrat. Essentially it’s going to be a pretty substantial cost because we have to hire two people at every voting center.”

<https://www.mywabashvalley.com/news/local-news/new-indiana-law-brings-changes-to-absentee-ballot-counting/>

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Indiana: Scott Election Board Turns Austin Voter Complaints Over to Prosecutor

Two complaints of election violations in the recent Austin Primary Election have been referred by the Scott County Election Board to the Scott County Prosecutor. A complaint of candidate ineligibility was filed by Dillo Bush, current Austin Mayor, against Jonathan White, the winner of the Republican Primary for mayor. In his complaint Bush contends that White does not live at the address claimed, 20 S. 1st Street. A second complaint of voter ineligibility was filed by Lonnie E. Noble against Joseph and Karen Payne. Noble, a candidate for mayor in the Republican primary, wrote the election board that the Paynes while claiming Payne Law Office at 377 W. Main Street as their residence, they actually live at 80 West Cutshall Road. “Given these facts and others which would be presented, I do not believe that the presumption of residence created by IC 3-5-5-6(b) could be overcome in a court of law by either the civil standard of ‘preponderance of the evidence’ or the criminal standard of ‘beyond a reasonable doubt’,” Dove concluded. Explaining the election board’s decision to refer the matter to the prosecutor, County Clerk Missy Applegate said, “We had no choice.” She cited IC 3-14-5-3(b) “...each county election board shall report a violation of this title as a felony or misdemeanor to the appropriate prosecuting attorney and the alleged violator.” In Indiana law “*shall* means we must,” said Applegate.

<http://crothersvilletimes.com/?p=9574>

New Jersey: Former Hoboken City Council Candidate Convicted of Conspiring to Use Mail to Promote Voter Bribery Scheme

A former candidate for the Hoboken City Council was convicted today of conspiring to promote a voter bribery scheme by use of the mail, U.S. Attorney Craig Carpenito announced. Francis Raia, 67, of Hoboken, New Jersey, was a candidate for

Hoboken City Council in 2013. He was convicted of one count of conspiracy to violate the federal Travel Act for causing the mails to be used in aid of voter bribery, contrary to New Jersey state law, during that election. The jury deliberated for one day, following a five-day trial before Senior U.S. District Judge William J. Martini in Newark federal court. “The defendant in this case tried to rig a Hoboken municipal election by voting multiple times, both for himself and for a ballot question that he supported,” U.S. Attorney Carpenito said. “He did so by deploying his loyal foot soldiers to buy votes from people who he thought were in need of money, and then creating a phony cover story to conceal his tracks. Fortunately, neither federal law enforcement nor the jury was fooled. Today’s verdict underscores this Office’s continued dedication to uncovering, investigating and prosecuting acts of corruption at every level of New Jersey government.”

<https://www.justice.gov/usao-nj/pr/former-hoboken-city-council-candidate-convicted-conspiring-use-mail-promote-voter-bribery>

REDISTRICTING

SCOTUSblog: Janus-Like Judicial Restraint in Political Gerrymanders

Observers studying the partisan-gerrymander cases on the last day of the Supreme Court’s term would have at least two takeaways: First, this is the Roberts Court in every sense of the word. Second, the judicial restraint central to the political-gerrymander cases was nowhere to be found in the census case.

<https://www.scotusblog.com/2019/06/gerrymandering-symposium-janus-like-judicial-restraint-in-political-gerrymanders-and-the-census/>

(more)

***Free Beacon*: Obama-Holder Group Dealt Blow with SCOTUS Gerrymandering Decision**

The U.S. Supreme Court's gerrymandering decision dealt a blow to liberal activist groups, including one founded by former attorney general Eric Holder and backed by President Barack Obama. The Court ruled 5-4 on Thursday that federal courts must stay out of partisan gerrymandering cases involving state-drawn congressional maps. The decision was a major setback for groups such as the National Democratic Redistricting Committee (NDRC), an organization backed by former President Obama and founded by former attorney general Holder.

<https://freebeacon.com/issues/high-court-rejects-obama-holder-effort-to-toss-maps/>