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July 1, 2019

ACRU Election Integrity Bulletin

LEAD STORY

Americans Weigh In on How to Improve Democracy

In a new NBC News/*Wall Street Journal* poll, Americans were asked about potential changes that could occur within U.S. democracy. The most popular answers are added up by those who said the changes would improve democracy “a lot” or “just some.” Term limits for members of Congress: 71 percent. Non-partisan commissions drawing congressional/state legislative districts: 66 percent. Election Day as a national holiday: 66 percent. Automatic voter registration for every adult citizen: 65 percent. Term limits for Supreme Court justices: 60 percent. Eliminating the Electoral College to decide Presidential elections: 56 percent. Federal funding of congressional campaigns: 54 percent. Eliminating the filibuster: 44 percent. Of course, there are significant partisan differences on these fixes: 81 percent of Democratic respondents said abolishing the Electoral College would improve democracy a lot/somewhat, versus just 32 percent of Republicans who agreed. But the one fix where there’s bipartisan support is congressional term limits, with 81 percent of Republicans, 68 percent of independents and 67 percent of Democrats who think it would improve the U.S. democracy.

<https://www.nbcnews.com/card/americans-weigh-how-improve-democracy-n1020186>

NATIONAL

Washington Times: Trump-Aligned Group to Spend \$20M on Voter Registration

America First Policies, a nonprofit that supports President Trump’s agenda, will launch a \$20 million campaign Tuesday to register voters in four states that could determine whether the President gets a second term. It will start by registering people who attended Mr. Trump’s 2020 kickoff rally at the Amway Center in Orlando, Florida. The group believes there are 9 million unregistered, eligible voters up for grab in the vital swing state. Besides Florida, it is looking to register voters in Pennsylvania, North Carolina and Georgia—electoral vote-rich states Mr. Trump won in 2016 and will likely need again to defeat whoever emerges from the crowded Democratic primary field.

<https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2019/jun/17/trump-aligned-group-spend-20m-voter-registration/>

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STATES

Florida: DeSantis Announces Plan to Root out Election Security Problems Before 2020 Primaries

Flanked by Secretary of State Laurel Lee and several county supervisors of elections, Gov. Ron DeSantis today announced a partnership between the three groups to scrutinize their election systems for potential security breaches in the run-up to the 2020 elections. Also, DeSantis said, \$2.3 million that wasn't spent last year will be added to the \$2.8 million the Legislature appropriated this year, for a total of \$5.1 million for election security. The announcement came nearly a month after DeSantis asked Lee on May 22 to initiate a review of the election system security throughout all 67 counties in Florida to ensure the state's election infrastructure is secure.

<https://bit.ly/2LcGU93>

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. 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. The mailers typically have arrived in June for at least 15 years. And in the past, residents and elections officials in Florida and other states have said the notifications were sent to deceased relatives, their under-aged children and their dogs and cats. But the effort, according to Leon County Supervisor of Elections Mark Earley, seems to create more confusion each year than increase new voters. "We get more complaints than we do new

registrations as a result of these mailers," said Earley about the alerts sent out by the Voter Participation Center and the Center for Voter Information.

<https://bit.ly/2Y6cqcE>

Illinois: Complaint Alleges Illegal Electioneering, Poll Access in East Chicago

The Lake County Board of Elections is looking into allegations of illegal electioneering and improper access to a polling place in East Chicago during last month's primary election. At a public meeting Tuesday, board members took up a formal complaint from Bert Flores, the Democratic precinct committeeman in EC-7. Flores alleged a wide range of misconduct at the polling place at McKinley Elementary School, including electioneering just outside the entrance, an apparent violation of state election law. He claimed Beverly Armenta, the Democratic Party-appointed site leader, refused to enforce a rule requiring electioneers to stay at least 50 feet away from an entrance to a polling place.

<http://bit.ly/2WZTo6m>

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Indiana: Howard Co. Election Board Forwards Voter Fraud Allegations to Prosecutor

The Howard County Election Board on Thursday voted unanimously to forward to prosecutors a possible voter fraud case involving Kokomo businessman Allen Wilson. The situation kicked off May 6, one day before Election Day, when Wilson became the focus of an email sent to the Howard County Election Board describing his “fraudulent vote” cast in the Democratic primary election. The email alleged Wilson illegally changed his voter registration on April 2 to his business’ address, 1101 S. Apperson Way, inside city limits, in order to vote in this spring’s municipal primary election. It is illegal in Indiana to register to vote at a place of business. Knowingly submitting a fraudulent application for registration can be charged as a crime, according to Indiana state code.

<http://bit.ly/2WX5sVO>

Maine: Bill Would Allow Ranked-Choice Voting in Presidential Elections

A new bill would let Mainers choose their next President through ranked-choice voting. This means that ballots would have Mainers rank the candidates from first choice to last choice, and if a candidate doesn’t win by a large majority, the ballots would be recounted, and would eliminate candidates one by one based off of everyone’s rankings. Another bill on the governor’s desk could also impact this one, which would institute a primary election for Presidential candidates in Maine.

<https://wgme.com/news/local/bill-would-allow-ranked-choice-voting-in-presidential-elections>

Maine: Governor Signs Automatic Voter Registration Bill into Law

Gov. Janet Mills on Wednesday signed an automatic voter registration bill into law. Maine joins at least 17 states that automatically register voters. Maine will automatically register voters who do business with the Bureau of Motor Vehicles by

2022 under the bill, which has a one-time cost of \$140,000 in federal funds. Maine’s Secretary of State could also allow certain groups like private colleges to help automatically register voters. The National Conference of State Legislatures says 17 states have automatic voter registration. The bill also allows 16-year-olds to conditionally vote and enroll in a political party—down from 17. An amendment requires individuals to be notified that they can opt out, and for registrars of voters to determine eligibility.

<https://bit.ly/2WR05aR>

Massachusetts: Same-Day Voter Registration Could Be Coming to the State

State lawmakers are considering a proposal that would allow you to register to vote on Election Day. Twenty states currently allow residents to register to vote on Election Day, and public officials want to make Massachusetts number 21. The Joint Committee on Election Laws is considering a proposal to give Massachusetts residents the option to register to vote on Election Day. In an effort to get more people to the polls, Massachusetts lawmakers are also considering a proposal to allow 16 and 17-year-olds the opportunity to vote. The Election Laws Committee didn’t make any decisions on the bills on Thursday, but many people are hopeful to see voting laws change before the 2020 election.

<https://bit.ly/2Xr6bmw>

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Michigan: FBI, DHS Contacted Over Stealth Dem Effort to Gain Voter Data

A massive effort to obtain Michigan voter data spearheaded by powerhouse Democratic group Priorities USA was so “unusual” that top officials in the state contacted the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Department of Homeland Security over the matter, internal emails provided to the *Washington Free Beacon* show. Michigan clerks began receiving “mystery” Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests last year from an opaque limited liability company, the United Impact Group LLC, seeking a large assortment of voter data from across the state, including ballots cast in the 2016 elections. The efforts were later linked to the Priorities USA Foundation, the separate but affiliated nonprofit arm of Priorities USA Action, the largest outside liberal super PAC.

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

New Hampshire: Madison Man, 80, Latest to Be Charged with Voting Twice in 2016 Election

An 80-year-old resident of Madison has been charged with voting in more than one state in the last Presidential election, New Hampshire authorities announced Wednesday. Charles Eugene Cartier Jr., 80, is the third elderly person and fifth person overall to face voter fraud charges stemming from the Voter Crosscheck Program, a multi-state database that compares voter information in different states to detect double voting. Dozens remain under investigation, all involving the 2016 Presidential election, according to officials. The first two arrested on Crosscheck-identified voter fraud were Hampton residents John and Grace Fleming, who are both in their early 70s. Cartier’s arrest on a Class B felony was announced Wednesday by Attorney General Jane Young, whose office investigates and brings charges related to voter fraud.

<http://bit.ly/2L9kqWI>

New Jersey: State Senator Uses Nomination Hearing to Highlight Voter Fraud Cases

Republican state Sen. Gerald Cardinale’s attempts to tie the Bergen County Democratic chairman to voter fraud were not enough to derail the chairman’s nomination to the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority. Cardinale was the only committee member to vote against Stellato’s nomination. Monday’s 30-minute hearing was dominated by Cardinale’s grilling of Stellato. The Republican senator referred to two cases in the last decade in which Superior Court judges overturned municipal election results in Bergen County because voters cast ballots in towns where they do not live. In both cases, the judges overturned results that had initially favored Democrats. “We have a very lax attitude about people voting out of places where they do not live,” Cardinale said. “There were many, including me, who believe that Mr. Stellato is part of the architecture of that plan.”

<https://njersy.co/2X1MQJb>

New York: Automatic Voter Registration is One Step Closer to Becoming Law

A bill that would automatically register New York residents to vote upon interaction with various state and local government agencies passed in the State Senate on June 19, bringing it one step closer to becoming law in New York and potentially removing a significant barrier to voter registration. The legislation, sponsored by Western Queens State Sen. Michael Gianaris, would work to boost voter turnout in the state, which has one of the lowest voter turnout rates in the country. Agencies like the Department of Motor Vehicles, the Office of Children and Family Services, the Department of Health, Department of Veterans Services and Military Affairs, the Department of Labor and more will be able to automatically register residents that use their services to vote, unless the resident specifically opts out.

<https://queenseagle.com/all/automatic-voter-registration-is-one-step-closer-to-becoming-law>

New York: Albany DA Advises Caution Over Absentee Ballots

Would you allow someone with a credit card application to come to your door, take all your information and promise they'd be back with a credit card for you? No? Keep that in mind when it comes to those campaigning for elected office showing up with an absentee ballot application, helping you fill it out and promising to bring back a ballot they'll then deliver to the elections board. "The best and safest way is to take an absentee ballot, fill it out appropriately and then mail it yourself, and not allow for that chance where your vote can be suppressed or tampered with," said Albany County District Attorney David Soares, less than a week away from Tuesday's primary election. Amid increased concerns of yet another election season in Albany County seeing a spike in absentee ballots, Soares cautioned voters to be vigilant and report any malfeasance or possible illegal activity at the polls or at any time in the election process. Soares said he's recently received several calls from local campaigns expressing concerns about absentee ballot fraud. He stressed that those applying to vote absentee must have a valid reason to do so. *The Times Union* first reported about the renewed concerns June 15 where people feared applications could be filled out by the candidate, or voters could be persuaded to vote a certain way.

<http://bit.ly/2Ru2d7b>

New York: Clerk Stands Ground on Not Giving Licenses to Illegal Immigrants: 'This Could Be About Voter Fraud'

A patriotic court clerk from New York clerk who has vowed to not comply with a new law that grants illegal aliens the right to obtain a driver's license explained Thursday that his decision is rooted in his oath to support and defend the U.S. Constitution and his concerns about voter fraud. "Under the 1986 Conflict Immigration Reform and Control Act, it's illegal to hire people who are here illegally," Erie

County Clerk Michael Kearns said on FNC's "Tucker Carlson Tonight." "And the memo of the sponsors of the bills state one of the reasons why they want to grant illegal immigrants a license is to get them to and from work. I took an oath of office to support and defend the Constitution. I'm not going to violate federal law."

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

New York: Single Typo in State Bill Would Have Automatically Registered Non-Citizens to Vote

A typo in the state's automatic voter registration bill would have forced non-citizens to register despite their ineligibility—but lawmakers vowed it would be fixed. The bill directs designated state agencies such as the Department of Motor Vehicles, State Board of Elections and Department of Social Services to automatically enroll residents who fill out any paperwork with their agencies. An "opt-out" box would let people choose not to enroll. But sloppily written instructions specifically directed ineligible non-citizens to not check the box. The instructions were actually supposed to tell them to check the box, so they wouldn't inadvertently be registered. The Assembly is supposed to vote on the bill Thursday. The Senate already passed the measure—typo included—Wednesday by a 43-to-19-vote margin. But Assembly Republicans seethed because the intended vote comes three days after Gov. Cuomo signed the controversial "Green Light" bill granting driver's licenses to illegal immigrants. The Board of Elections has said that the sole requirement for registering to vote is a driver's license. "It's a blatant attempt to allow voter fraud to fester," said Assemblywoman Nicole Malliotakis (R-Staten Island) who brought up this precise fear during Monday's vote.

<https://nyp.st/31RTRLg>

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Oregon: House Approves Licenses for Undocumented Immigrants

The Oregon House Tuesday passed legislation that would once again allow the state to issue driver's licenses to undocumented immigrants and others who can't prove they are legal residents. It now heads to the Senate. In 2014, Oregon voters rejected a measure to create a separate driver's card for people without proof of legal residence. But the bill House members approved Tuesday would allow people who can't prove they're in the country legally to get the standard license now offered by the DMV after Jan. 1, 2021. By that time, the federal government will no longer accept standard licenses as valid identification for boarding an airplane or entering secured federal government facilities. Next year the state will begin issuing Real ID-compliant licenses, documents that meet stricter federal standards and require recipients to prove their residency status.

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

West Virginia: House Vote Paves Way for Automatic Voter Registration

After years of delays, automatic voter registration is closer to reality thanks to spending authority granted by the House of Delegates to Secretary of State Mac Warner. The House voted 87-9 on Tuesday on Senate Bill 1015. The bill gives the Secretary of State's Office the authority to spend \$1.5 million for technology improvements for the state's 55 county clerks to be able to process the expected deluge of voter registrations once the state Division of Motor Vehicles is able to start automatic voter registration at DMV locations across the state.

<http://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/local-news/2019/06/house-vote-paves-way-for-automatic-voter-registration/>

REDISTRICTING

ACRU's Ken Klukowski Talks Gerrymandering

On this episode of "Examining Politics," Larry O'Connor checks in with American Civil Rights Union Senior Fellow and SCOTUS analyst Ken Klukowski on latest orders and decisions regarding religious liberty, double jeopardy, and racial gerrymandering.

<https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/videos/examining-politics-june-17-2019-thomas-homan-joe-grogan-and-ken-klukowski>