



August 5, 2019

ACRU Election Integrity Bulletin

LEAD STORY

How Google Can Win the Next Election

Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Constitution:
James Madison University Sociology Professor
Testimony.

<https://www.c-span.org/video/?c4808016/google-win-election>

NATIONAL

Free Beacon: Soros Pours \$5.1 Million Into New 2020 PAC

Liberal billionaire George Soros poured \$5.1 million into a new political action committee that was quietly established earlier this year for the 2020 election cycle, filings show. In early January, a statement of organization was filed to the Federal Election Commission to establish the Democracy PAC. Now, new semi-annual filings reveal that the financier pushed \$100,000 into the Democracy PAC on Feb. 13 and \$5,000,000 more into the committee on June 2. Soros is the only donor to the PAC as of June 30. During the first half of the year, the Democracy PAC disbursed \$6,620.17 to the Perkins Coie law firm and \$600 to NGP Van, a voter database and consulting company. An individual familiar with the PAC told Politico Wednesday evening that Soros plans to use the entity to fund other liberal groups and organizations.

<https://freebeacon.com/politics/soros-pours-5-1-million-into-new-2020-pac/>

Trump Calls for Voter-ID Laws, Use of Paper Ballots as Backup

President Trump threw his support behind laws requiring valid identification to vote, arguing that such a move would ensure the “safety and sanctity of our voting system.” Mr. Trump also called for using paper ballots as a backup, tweeting Tuesday afternoon that the method is “old fashioned but true!” He sent the tweet after giving a speech in Virginia. The President has repeatedly claimed, without evidence, that large numbers of people have voted illegally in U.S. elections. There is no indication that voter fraud has occurred on a broad scale. Opponents of voter-ID measures say efforts to enact identification requirements represent a veiled effort to suppress votes by creating hurdles for people who lack IDs, many of whom advocates say are disproportionately lower-income and people of color.

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/trump-calls-for-voter-id-laws-use-of-paper-ballots-as-backup-11564510206>

(more)

STATES

Alabama: Merrill Rebutts SPLC Claim That Voter Fraud is ‘Non-Existent’—Cites Six Recent Alabama Convictions

After the Montgomery-based Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) on Tuesday sent out a press release claiming “voter fraud” has “consistently proven to be non-existent,” Alabama Secretary of State John Merrill in an interview with *Yellowhammer News* pointed to specific, confirmed cases of recent voter fraud in the state, rebutting the SPLC’s assertion. The SPLC release was in reference to a tweet by President Donald Trump earlier that day supporting voter identification requirements.

<https://bit.ly/2TbRL59>

Colorado: Activists Submit Record Number of Signatures to Overturn Electoral Vote Law

Colorado voters could decide in the 2020 election to void a controversial new law that would award the state’s nine Electoral College votes to the presidential candidate who wins the popular vote nationwide if enough states pass similar legislation. The law’s opponents submitted more than 227,000 signatures on a referendum petition to the Secretary of State’s Office on Thursday, far more than the 124,632 needed to get the question on the ballot. The office has about a month to validate the signatures, plus 30 days to allow for protests or challenges to the petition.

<https://bit.ly/2KqS87T>

Florida: Dems Man Up for Recount; GOP Looks to Boost Voter Ranks

Election Day in November 2020 is still more than a year away, but Florida Democrats are already lining up their poll watching, legal and—just in case—recount teams while state Republicans look to drive registrations higher. Brandon Peters, the state party’s voter protection program director, says he told Democratic activists at the state party’s Leadership Blue 2019 meeting in June that they should assume

another recount will occur in 2020. He hopes to recruit as many as 15,000 lawyers and volunteers by July of next year. Among the controversies associated with the recounts were challenges to ballots that had not been filled out correctly, or in which the voter’s signature did not match records, among other maladies. Given the state’s history of narrow election results—the races for the U.S. Senate, governor and a state Cabinet post were decided by votes totaling fractions of a percent last year—how problem ballots are “cured,” or reconciled, could determine who wins a contest. The Republican Party of Florida isn’t sitting on its hands, either. The party has already trained over 3,000 local organizers to help with voter registration, officials say.

<https://bit.ly/2M0Kapq>

Georgia: Elections Chief: Paper Ballots Will Settle Election Disputes

Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger said Tuesday that “there won’t be any doubts” about election results once the state installs its new \$107 million voting system, which includes a paper ballot to check the accuracy of vote counts. The addition of paper ballots to Georgia’s elections will help increase voters’ confidence—and reduce complaints—about voting results, he said. Raffensperger praised the new touchscreen-and-paper voting system after Georgia officials awarded a contract Monday for 30,000 new voting machines to Dominion Voting, the nation’s second-largest elections company. The voting system will be used by Georgia voters statewide during the March 24 presidential preference primary. “With the paper ballot, you can hold it in your hands, take a look at it and make sure your selections are right,” Raffensperger said during an interview with *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*. “The people in the campaigns will have to learn to accept the results because there won’t be any doubts or that sense of uncertainty.”

<https://www.ajc.com/news/state--regional-govt--politics/georgia-elections-chief-paper-ballots-will-settle-election-disputes/8v2aB4gaXBdc31Kzau3KXJ/>

(more)

Mississippi: Canton School Board Member Guilty of Voter Intimidation

A member of the Canton School Board has been convicted of voter intimidation. Courtney Rainey was found guilty Wednesday, but it was a hung jury on the voter fraud charge. Rainey is one of at least five people charged with trying to influence the 2017 Canton municipal election. Prosecutors said Rainey is accused of bribing voters with Walmart gift cards and cash, and improperly helping people fill out absentee ballots. Rainey is running as an independent for justice court judge in Madison County.

<https://www.wapt.com/article/guilty-verdict-in-canton-voter-fraud-trial/28570533>

New Hampshire: Out-Of-State College Students Sue New Hampshire Over Voter Residency Requirements

Obtaining a license may be a necessary second step to voter registration in New Hampshire under the state's new residency requirements. Specifically, the new law broadens the definition of "resident" as required to register to vote, meaning anyone who registers to vote in New Hampshire is declaring residency in the state. That registration could subsequently trigger motor vehicle registration laws, according to the *Concord Monitor*, including the state's requirement that any new residents to obtain a New Hampshire license within 60 days. Two Dartmouth students are suing the state over the requirement, with the help of the American Civil Liberties Union, and had a good news/bad news week in court.

https://blogs.findlaw.com/law_and_life/2019/07/out-of-state-college-students-sue-new-hampshire-over-voter-residency-requirements.html

New Hampshire: Sununu Vetoes Democratic-Passed Voting Bills, Says Election 'Integrity' to Remain in Place

Gov. Chris Sununu on Monday vetoed two Democratic-passed election law bills that would have repealed prior Republican-backed laws to tighten the state's voting registration requirements and require

that people who vote in New Hampshire take steps to become residents of the state. Sununu vetoed House bills 105 and 106, which were the responses of the 2019 Democratic legislative majority to the passage of Senate Bill 3 in 2017 and House Bill 1264 in 2018, when Republicans were in the majority. "In fact, in the 2018 general election, the state law recorded turnout in many towns with high populations of those voters," the governor wrote. "The lesson is clear: Ensuring integrity in our elections increases voter confidence and increases voter turnout," Sununu wrote. "We should not roll back Senate Bill 3's improvements to our election process."

<https://www.wmur.com/article/sununu-vetoes-democratic-passed-voting-bills-says-election-integrity-to-remain-in-place/28543142#>

North Carolina: Convicted Felons Charged with Illegally Voting in Hoke

Four convicted felons have been charged with illegally voting in the 2016 elections in Hoke County. Treqwon Covington, Lanisha Bratcher, Richard Daniels Jr. and Tullous Burrow all face a felony charge of voter fraud. All were on probation or parole in 2016 for felony convictions, which in North Carolina and many other states disqualifies a person from voting. If convicted, they face up to two years in prison.

<https://www.wral.com/convicted-felons-charged-with-illegally-voting-in-hoke/18545541/>

(more)

North Dakota: Appeals Court Ruling Favors Voter ID Law Said to Discriminate Against Native Americans

In a Wednesday opinion, an appeals court delivered a blow to Native American plaintiffs who say North Dakota's voter identification requirements are unconstitutional and discriminatory. The 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in favor of North Dakota's voter identification law, canceling a lower court's opinion that sided with the Native American plaintiffs. The plaintiffs, each from the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa, sued North Dakota Secretary of State Al Jaeger in January 2016, alleging that the state's voter ID requirements create a burden for Indigenous people. The suit claimed some plaintiffs were refused the right to vote in November 2014 because their tribal ID didn't list a current residential address.

<https://www.westfargopioneer.com/news/government-and-politics/4048181-Appeals-court-ruling-favors-ND-voter-ID-law-said-to-discriminate-against-Native-Americans>

Ohio: Voter Registration Reset List Distributed by Secretary of State

In a first-of-its-kind effort to reach inactive and abandoned voter registrations, Ohio Secretary of State Frank LaRose has implemented a new initiative—the Registration Reset List. Both state and federal law require Ohio to maintain accurate voter records. The Registration Reset list consists of registrations identified by county boards of elections as registrations that have been inactive for six years, or at least 12 elections.

https://www.richlandsource.com/news/voter-registration-reset-list-distributed-by-ohio-secretary-of-state/article_777adccc-b488-11e9-88c2-8bbaabe3056d.html

Texas: Case Against Men Charged with Illegal Voting Moves Forward

The cases against four Starr County men who were arrested last year on illegal voting charges will move forward after a grand jury issued indictments against them last week. The four men—Rigoberto Vela, 49, Oscar Ivan Peña, 24, Reynaldo Moreno, 49, and Rogelio Garcia, 44—were each indicted on a charge

of illegal voting for allegedly casting votes during elections held in 2016 despite being on felony probation. Vela allegedly cast a ballot on Feb. 20, 2016 as part of the March 2016 Democratic Primary, Peña is accused of voting on Oct. 25, 2016 in the November 2016 elections for the city of Escobares, Moreno is accused of voting on Nov. 1, 2016 in the November 2016 city of Roma elections, while Garcia is accused of voting on May 18, 2016 in a runoff election for the 2016 Democratic Primary. Their indictments were signed on July 24 and all were issued a \$5,000 bond except for Garcia, who was issued a \$1,000 bond.

<https://www.themonitor.com/2019/07/29/case-men-charged-illegal-voting-moves-forward/>

Washington: Dozens of King County Voters, Living and Dead, Get Duplicate Ballots

Several dozen King County voters have reported getting two ballots in the mail. The director of King County Elections attributes that to glitches in Secretary of State's new VoteWA voter registration system. State officials say the off-year primary is the ideal timing. King County said in some cases the state's new voter registration system has created two registrations for a single person, because they have two versions of their name, with and without an apostrophe for example, or a middle name. King County Elections Director Julie Wise said typically when voters update their records after a change of address, the county may send a second ballot, but both are tracked as single registration. "Those aren't uncommon, what's uncommon is for us to have true duplicate records," she said. Wise said 73 people have contacted them saying they received two ballots.

<https://www.kuow.org/stories/dozens-of-king-county-voters-living-and-dead-get-duplicate-ballots>