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ACRU Election Integrity Bulletin

LEAD STORY

Preventing Google, Facebook and Twitter from Manipulating the US Election

Robert Epstein proposes a plan to limit Google, Facebook and Twitter from manipulating up to 15 million votes in the United States. Epstein is not a conservative. He has been center/center-left his whole adult life and supported Hillary Clinton in 2016. NOTE—The 15 million votes is based on each voter voting a complete election ballot of about 17 votes each. This means getting 1 million democratic voters out on election day would be an additional 17 million votes for Democrats. There were 87.7 million voters in the 2016 election. Epstein calculated that an additional 0.57 percent or 500,000 voters voted based upon a Get Out to Vote message from Google. This was to only Google's audience which leans a little left. If Google did some targeting using the data they have on people, they could easily get only likely Democrat voters to see the "Get out to Vote" message.

<https://www.nextbigfuture.com/2019/08/preventing-google-facebook-and-twitter-from-manipulating-the-us-election.html>

NATIONAL

Liberals Try to Derail Census Case with Fake News

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. They are relying on the kind of false claim that President Trump would call fake news, arguing government lawyers "lied" about the reasons for reinstating the citizenship question on the census. 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. The circumstances under which lawyers for the plaintiffs got hold of this study and other possibly privileged documents are highly questionable from an ethical perspective. *The New York Times* wrote the estranged daughter of Hofeller gave lawyers his computer files after he passed away last year.

<https://bit.ly/2YJ7jU6>

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***The Blaze*: Booker Blamed Russians and GOP Voter Suppression for Hillary's 2016 Loss in Michigan—*WaPo* Calls Out the Lie**

Cory Booker said during Wednesday night's Democratic primary debate that Hillary Clinton lost Michigan in 2016 because of Russian interference and Republican voter suppression—a claim *The Washington Post* called out as totally untrue. “We lost the state of Michigan because everybody from Republicans to Russians were targeting the suppression of African American voters,” Booker said. Clinton lost Michigan to President Donald Trump by an extremely close margin of just over 10,000 votes. Booker's claims about the reason for that, however, are not based in fact. “Election experts say they see little or no evidence that the activities by the Russians and the Trump campaign actually swayed the election in Michigan,” fact checker Glenn Kessler wrote.

<https://www.theblaze.com/news/booker-blamed-russians-and-the-gop-voter-suppression-for-hillarys-2016-loss-in-michigan-wapo-calls-out-the-lie>

Daily Signal: How Red Tape and Bad Policy Make Way for Voter Fraud

Two years ago, I thought voter fraud was a rarity in the United States. I figured that such crimes took place only in nations with corrupt and broken governments—not in “the land of the free.” I was wrong. The first person to open my eyes to the amount of voter fraud in America was Hans von Spakovsky, a senior legal fellow at The Heritage Foundation, where I work. The Heritage Foundation's voter fraud database cites nearly 1,200 proven cases of voter fraud in America. Each case is documented in the course of nearly 400 pages. I recently had a conversation with Logan Churchwell, CEO of Public Interest Legal Foundation, a 501(c)(3) public interest law firm dedicated entirely to election integrity. “Seven times out of 10 when someone is illegally registered to vote as a noncitizen, they did not go and try to get registered,” Churchwell told me. “They signed the

wrong form that was put in front of them as they engaged with a driver's license office, or even filling out a community college application. They did not know that the community college application doubled as a voter registration form.” Poor bureaucratic oversight and red tape has led to estimated thousands of noncitizens unknowingly registering to vote, he said: The voter registration system is broken, and one key component of this brokenness is the national “motor voter” law. Anytime you go to the DMV to apply for a license, you are asked if you would like to register to vote. Churchwell notes that “the immigrant who is here, has a visa, needs a driver's license because they've got a work visa.” Voter fraud, intentional or unintentional, is a crisis compromising the freedom and fairness of all American elections. It is time for widespread reforms, such as voter ID laws suggested by Heritage's von Spakovsky. It is time to ensure the safety of free and fair elections.

<https://www.dailysignal.com/2019/08/07/how-red-tape-and-bad-policy-make-way-for-voter-fraud/>

STATES

Alabama: New Law Requires Photo ID with Absentee Ballot Application

Alabama's law on absentee voting has changed in several ways, including a new requirement to provide a copy of a photo ID when applying for an absentee ballot. Secretary of State John Merrill outlined the changes in a press release today. They took effect Aug. 1. Merrill said the requirement for a photo ID will help election officials verify the identity of those applying for absentee ballots. The change was included in a bill sponsored by Sen. Rodger Smitherman, D-Birmingham, that passed with bipartisan support and without a dissenting vote.

<https://www.al.com/news/2019/08/new-alabama-law-requires-photo-id-with-absentee-ballot-application.html>

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Arizona: Nearly 1,000 Tucson Voters Sent Incorrect Ballots

Hundreds of voters were sent the wrong party's ballots for Tucson's primary election, and nearly 2,000 more ballots were mailed to outdated addresses. While the voter registration deadline was July 28, city officials used voter lists from a month before that to print the ballots that were mailed out on August 2 for the all vote-by-mail election. That means 928 voters across the city who switched their political party registrations were sent ballots that may be wrong. There were 230 voters who changed their registrations from a political party to PND—"party not designated" or so-called "independent" voters—between the June 28 cutoff that the city used to prepare the mailings and the July 28 registration deadline, City Clerk Roger Randolph said. Those voters can pick a ballot from among the four political parties with ballot access, he said. "These individuals are being sent a pick-a-party postcard asking them which ballot choice they would like," he said. Because the city used the earlier list to produce the ballots to be mailed, those nearly 700 other voters who changed between parties—including this reporter—were mailed ballots that don't correspond to the party they were registered with at the deadline.

http://www.tucsonsentinel.com/local/report/080719_tucson_ballots/nearly-1000-tucson-voters-sent-incorrect-ballots/

California: Are You Confused by DMV Voter Registration? You're Not Alone, Report Finds

California investigators released a 113-page report Friday afternoon highlighting a range of issues with the state's efforts to automatically register people to vote when they visit the Department of Motor Vehicles. Voter registration prompts are confusing, and customers do not understand why they are asked to register to vote when they are there to do business involving their vehicles, findings from the Ernst & Young audit showed. Elements of the application "are not intuitive to the public, creating confusion and uncertainty for the customer when completing the application," the report says. "The

language used in the options does not provide a clear choice to maintain voter registration, as is, without being removed from their current voter roll." A group of 35 workers involved in the Motor Voter program, meanwhile, told auditors "there was no clear decision maker on the project as a whole" and a lack of "active engagement" from DMV executives and senior leadership.

<https://www.sacbee.com/news/politics-government/capitol-alert/article233716427.html>

California: Audit Finds Problems with State's 'Motor Voter' Program

The California DMV's new voter registration program is confusing to voters and full of technical difficulties, leading to hundreds of thousands of discrepancies in voter registrations sent to the secretary of state, according to an audit released Friday. None of the discrepancies in roughly 3 million voter records reviewed by auditors resulted in major voter registration errors, such as putting someone in the wrong political party or allowing someone to vote who should not have, officials from the state Department of Finance said. But the audit only examined a set of registrations between April and September 2018 and did not rule out the possibility of major errors in other registrations. Last year, DMV officials said one error may have prevented nearly 600 people from voting and another may have allowed about 1,500 people, perhaps including noncitizens, to incorrectly register to vote.

<https://sacramento.cbslocal.com/2019/08/09/audit-finds-problems-with-california-motor-voter-program/>

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California: Nearly 84,000 Duplicate Voter Records Found in Audit of California's 'Motor Voter' System

California's ambitious effort to automate voter registration at Department of Motor Vehicle offices produced almost 84,000 duplicate records and more than twice that number with political party mistakes, according to an audit released Friday by state officials. The analysis covered just the first five months of the new "motor voter" program, which was launched in April 2018. It found a wide array of problems with the rollout of the DMV system, including a limited amount of testing as well as inconsistent and confusing lines of communication between the state agencies involved in its creation. Many of the findings align with documents discovered by the *Los Angeles Times* in an investigation earlier this year of the motor voter program. Auditors reviewed more than 3 million voter registration files, comparing records from both DMV and California's secretary of state. They found 83,684 duplicate voter registrations; a mistake attributed to inconsistencies in what was listed for voters' political party preferences.

<https://lat.ms/33nhkF3>

Connecticut: Would You Trust Your 16-Year-Old in a Voting Booth?

When Concord-Carlisle High School senior Una Oljaca visited the State House last spring, she and fellow senior Gretchen Carr had a chance to see where legislators voted, the hearing room where several bills are brought up each day and some of the offices where representatives work. But the day was about much more than simply taking a tour. Oljaca and Carr were there to testify alongside state Rep. Tami Gouveia, D-Acton, in support of a bill to allow 17-year-olds to vote in municipal elections in Concord. The issue is complicated, with engaged teens on one side wanting a place at the table when it comes to electing local and national leaders and adults on the other side not so sure a 16-year-old is experienced enough to make such an important decision.

<https://bit.ly/2TvsO50>

Florida: DeSantis Wants Felon Voting Rights Case Tossed, Saying It Belongs in State, Not Federal, Court

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis and Secretary of State Laurel Lee are asking a federal judge to dismiss a challenge to a new law about restoring the voting rights of felons who have completed their sentences, arguing that the case belongs in state—not federal—court. The request from attorneys for the state came as voting-and civil-rights groups asked the judge to block provisions of the law from going into effect while the case works its way through the courts. The Legislature passed the law this spring to carry out a November constitutional amendment designed to restore the voting rights of felons. DeSantis and Lee argue that U.S. District Judge Robert Hinkle should dismiss the case. "State courts should say what state law is," lawyers for the state argued in court filings Friday. "Florida courts should resolve the meaning of the state Constitution before these cases proceed."

<https://flaglerlive.com/140023/desantis-wants-felon-voting-rights-case-tossed-saying-it-belongs-in-state-not-federal-court/>

Mississippi: Canton Alderman Pleads Guilty to Voter Fraud, Immediately Resigns

A Canton alderman entered a guilty plea Monday in a voter fraud case, court officials said. Andrew Grant pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit voter fraud and was sentenced to five years in prison, which the judge suspended, meaning he likely will not serve any time in jail. Grant immediately resigned as Canton's Ward 7 alderman immediately after the sentencing. Grant is one of five people charged in the investigation. Canton School Board member Courtney Rainey was convicted Wednesday of voter intimidation.

<https://www.wapt.com/article/canton-alderman-pleads-guilty-to-voter-fraud-immediately-resigns/28609097>

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New York: AOC-Backed Candidate Tiffany Cabán Concedes Defeat in Queens DA Race

Queens district attorney candidate Tiffany Cabán conceded defeat Tuesday night—six weeks after the Democratic primary election that pitted her against the establishment-backed Queens Borough President Melinda Katz. In a back-and-forth race that saw both candidates declare victory, the insurgent lawyer fought to the very end challenging dozens of invalidated affidavit ballots in court that she said were improperly excluded. But after several attempts to claw back—including at a judicial hearing earlier Tuesday—she bowed out after it became clear she'd be unable to erase the 60-vote gap separating her and Katz.

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

New York: Niagara County Will Challenge 'Green Light Law,' Fearing Illegal Voting

The Niagara County Legislature voted unanimously Tuesday to file a lawsuit to overturn the state's new "Green Light Law" because lawmakers said allowing immigrants who enter the country illegally to obtain driver's licenses could enable them to vote in elections. The five-page resolution, written by County Attorney Claude A. Joerg, presents a detailed legal argument for the law's unconstitutionality. The Legislature has an 11-4 Republican majority, but the Democrats went along with Joerg's argument, too. Kearns argues that the law usurps the federal government's sole authority to make immigration law and that it contradicts federal law by in effect instructing county clerks to shield immigrants living illegally in the U.S. from detection by immigration authorities. The Green Light Law orders clerks to inform holders of driver's licenses if federal immigration authorities seek their license information. But Joerg's argument emphasizes the possibility that such immigrants might use their driver's licenses as a way of registering to vote. The state constitution says that only U.S. citizens are allowed to vote

<https://bit.ly/2YJ9yqu>

North Carolina: GOP Aims to Stop Harvesting of Absentee Ballot Requests

State Rep. David Lewis of Harnett County has amended a bill to stop political operatives from harvesting absentee mail ballot request forms. State Rep. David Lewis wants to prohibit the mass collection of absentee mail ballot requests. Lewis's substitute bill would require absentee mail ballot request forms to be completed by the voter, near relative or guardian. It would also prohibit outside groups from collecting mail ballot request forms. The N.C. Board of Elections in February ordered a new election in the state's 9th Congressional District after investigators said a Bladen County political operative illegally collected completed mail ballots on behalf of Republican Mark Harris. While it's illegal to collect, or harvest, absentee mail ballots, it's legal to encourage people to fill out mail ballot request forms, and for third parties to collect as many as they can. In Bladen County, groups working for Democratic and Republican candidates turned in mail ballot request forms by the dozens.

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

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North Dakota: Voter ID Opponents Lose Again. This Time in North Dakota.

Opponents of election integrity lost the latest in a long string of cases recently when a three-judge panel of the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals reinstated North Dakota's voter ID requirement and tossed out an injunction that had been issued by a lower court. In *Brakebill v. Jaeger*, Judge Steven Colloton, writing for the 2-to-1 majority, concluded that the supposed burden of obtaining an ID by the less than 0.5 percent of all eligible voters who do not already have one did not justify a statewide injunction that prevented the state from implementing the ID requirement. North Dakota is the only state in the Union that does not require citizens to register to vote. You can show up on Election Day and vote in North Dakota—as long as you show identification.

<https://dailysign.al/31C8XUC>

Washington: Same-Day Registration Added 3,029 Voters for Primary. One Tri-Cities Race Too Close to Call

Washington's experiment with same-day voter registration added 3,029 voters to the rolls statewide on election day. The Washington secretary of state said turnout for Tuesday's primary topped 28 percent statewide. In Mid-Columbia elections, the Benton and Franklin county auditors updated results Wednesday after a second batch of ballots were counted. There were no changes in race leaders any of the contests from the results that were released after Tuesday night's first count. The auditors will continue to count ballots that were postmarked by election day. Results will be certified on Aug. 20.

<https://www.tri-cityherald.com/news/politics-government/election/article233638212.html>

REDISTRICTING

New Hampshire: Governor Vetoes Bipartisan Bill to Ward Off Gerrymandering

New Hampshire Gov. Chris Sununu, a Republican, vetoed a bipartisan bill Friday that would have created an independent redistricting commission to draw the state's voting maps. The bill would have asked a commission made up of 15 citizens—five Republicans, five Democrats, and five unaffiliated members—to draw the maps used for legislative, congressional, and executive council districts. Politicians would still vote to approve those maps, but they wouldn't be allowed to draw the lines themselves, according to *The Union Leader*.

https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/2020-election/new-hampshire-governor-vetoes-bipartisan-bill-ward-gerrymandering-n1041001?cid=public-rss_20190809