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Voting
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Institute

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ACRU Election Integrity Bulletin

LEAD STORIES

***The Hill*: Ginsburg Calls Proposal to Eliminate Electoral College ‘More Theoretical Than Real’**

Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg on Monday called eliminating the Electoral College more “theoretical than real” due to the difficulty of amending the Constitution. “It’s largely a dream because our Constitution is ... hard to amend,” Ginsburg said at the University of Chicago, according to the *Chicago Sun-Times*. “I know that from experience.” Ginsburg, one of the court’s liberal justices, has previously said she would support getting rid of the Electoral College.
<https://thehill.com/regulation/court-battles/460680-ginsburg-calls-proposal-to-eliminate-electoral-college-more>

NATIONAL

Why the Electoral College Still Matters

Let’s take a closer look at the foundational principles enveloped by the Electoral College before we seek to eradicate it. “Federalist Paper no. 68” shows us that above all, the founders sought to counter the threat of mob rule. Nearing the end of the 18th century, rule by the masses equated to rule by large, slaveholding states like Virginia. The Electoral College upheld the principles of federalism and sovereignty during a period of United States history in which unification was a choice, and the diverse interests of each state served

as a potential impediment to an independent nation. While Alexander Hamilton recognized the massive power bestowed upon the U.S. president, he actively involved individual states in the election process to ensure the executive acted on their behalf. In the context of our rapidly dissolving federalist system, the Electoral College is imperative now more than ever.

<https://www.cavalierdaily.com/article/2019/09/lawson-why-the-electoral-college-still-matters>

Project Veritas: The ACORN Sting, 10 Years Later

One Beltway reporter described “The stunning, total defeat of ACORN” as “truly an extraordinary series of events.” It was “an important moment in the development of alternative media sources, and official Washington responded before most of the establishment press did.” President Obama, signed the bill stripping ACORN of federal funds passed by a Democratically controlled House and Senate. I’m not even sure the Republicans have the will do that either then, or now.

<https://www.projectveritas.com/2019/09/10/the-acorn-sting-10-years-later/>

(more)

Barrow News Journal: The Left Throws Integrity Overboard

Why in the world would an American citizen who enjoys the benefits of living in America support voter fraud? We live in one of the few countries in the world where a citizen has the right to vote for the person they wish to elect or to vote for critical issues that affect our daily lives. How quick we forget that it was less than 100 years ago the Democratic left was trying to prevent American citizens from exercising the right to vote as authored by the United States Constitution. Now, we see that same left working hard by fighting voter identification laws and fighting jurisdictions that try to clean up their voter rolls. If the left had their way, they would dismantle our election system, giving illegal aliens, non-citizens and criminals the right to vote.

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

STATES

California: Legislature Votes to Make Election Day Registration Available at Every Polling Site

Today, the California Legislature approved SB 72, legislation by State Senator Thomas J. Umberg (D-Santa Ana) that will allow all eligible Californians to register to vote and cast a ballot at polling sites on Election Day. SB 72 now heads to Governor Newsom for his signature. If signed by the governor, Election Day registration would be available at all polling sites in California in 2020, making California the 12th state, along with the District of Columbia, to allow Election Day registration.

<https://bit.ly/2khkSa6>

California: Bill to Lower Voting Age to 17 Delayed Until 2020

A bill seeking to lower California's voting age from 18 to 17 passed the State Assembly in August and was recently sent to the Elections and Constitutional Amendments committee in the State Senate. Since the bill was not sent to the governor's desk by the deadline of Sept. 13, it will have to wait until 2020 to be revived.

<https://bit.ly/2koTUh1>

Colorado: Voters Get Final Say on National Popular Vote

With their majority in both houses of the state legislature and the office of governor, Democrats exploited their monopoly on state government to ram through a measure that commits Colorado to a nationwide plot to subvert presidential elections. It's called the National Popular Vote (NPV) Compact. The above-board way to abolish the Electoral College would be to amend the US Constitution. But that requires ratification by three-fourths of the states. Enough low population states, understandably, would block that. So, the NPV Compact is the Democrats' cynical attempt to distort the original intent of the Electoral College and guarantee the election of Democrat presidents forever. If a majority of Coloradans, including independents, vote "NO," on NPV in November 2020, we'll be withdrawn from the NPV Compact and Coloradans—not New Yorkers or Californians—will determine which presidential candidate gets our state's nine electoral votes. Now that would be truly exciting.

<https://bit.ly/2kO8EWI>

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Connecticut: Bridgeport Absentee Ballot Count Raises Eyebrows, Leads to Call for Probe

Mayor Joe Ganim's reliance on absentee ballots to win the Democratic Party primary is raising eyebrows over how the votes shifted the election. State Sen. Marilyn Moore, who beat the incumbent in votes cast in person but lost big on absentees, said the state must investigate possible impropriety in the absentee ballot process. The election results show Moore beat Ganim on the voting machine count, winning by about 4 percent. But Ganim took 75 percent of the absentee ballot vote, enough to hand him the election. Absentee ballots accounted for 12 percent of the 10,290 votes cast during the mayoral primary—a percentage political observers say is high for typical elections.

<http://bit.ly/2lQ39XQ>

Florida: Citizen Audit Group Forms in Broward Ahead of 2020 Election Cycle

It's time for Florida voters to step up—before the 2020 elections. So say Jamie Friend and George Navarini, who co-chair Citizens Audit, a new bipartisan coalition whose aim is to bring oversight and accountability to the election process in Broward County. Citizen Audit organizers are working with app developers to implement technology that will meet some election reform needs. At the moment, Citizens Audit is reaching out to organizations and clubs in what Friend calls the “coalition building stage.” So far, the group includes 12 organizations—they range from casual clubs to professional activists, and come from both the Democratic and Republican parties—and more groups are expected to join the effort.

<https://www.browardpalmbeach.com/news/broward-groups-form-citizen-audit-to-oversee-2020-elections-process-10335964>

Georgia: Brad Raffensperger: A Tale Full of Sound and Fury, Signifying Nothing

The reality of elections in Georgia could not be further from the misinformation spread by Stacey Abrams and her affiliated groups. Georgia has record voter registration and record voter participation. And contrary to Ms. Abrams' allegations, state policies and decisions have directly led to those record numbers. Voters of all demographic groups turned out in record numbers for the 2018 midterm elections, with total turnout nearly matching turnout in the 2016 presidential election. The voting eligible population turnout rate for 2018 was 55 percent, significantly higher than the 2014 midterm (38.6 percent) and the 2010 midterm (40.6 percent). In 2018, African American voter turnout increased 32.5 percent compared to the 2014 midterm. Hispanic voter turnout increased 97.7 percent, and Asian American voter turnout increased 98.2 percent. Ms. Abrams has claimed even higher increases, claiming that African American participation increased by 40 percent between 2014 and 2018 and that Hispanic and Asian-American turnout tripled. She claims these numbers are “more accurate than census data.”

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

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Kentucky: Jury Finds Jerry Lundergan and Dale Emmons Guilty of Campaign Finance Crimes

A jury on Thursday found Jerry Lundergan guilty on all 10 felony counts in the federal case accusing him of conspiring to conceal illegal corporate donations from his company to the Senate campaign of his daughter, Alison Lundergan Grimes. The jury also found co-defendant Dale Emmons, a consultant paid by Lundergan's company to provide services for Grimes' campaign, guilty on all six felony counts. The jury delivered its verdict after deliberating for less than three hours. Lundergan and Emmons will remain free until their sentencing hearing on Jan. 22. Federal prosecutors alleged in the indictments and five-week trial that Lundergan conspired with Emmons to direct illegal corporate contributions from his companies to the 2014 U.S. Senate campaign of Grimes and to falsify campaign records to cover up more than \$218,000 of those contributions.

<https://www.courier-journal.com/story/news/politics/2019/09/12/jury-finds-jerry-lundergan-dale-emmons-guilty/2300035001/>

New York: Election Administration Accountability Vacuum—'Bad Choices at Every Step'

After each election cycle, New York elected officials, government insiders, and interested members of the press and public gather at City Hall and in other hearing rooms for a bit of political theater. The protagonist is the electorate, or the democratic process, itself; the one cast as villain is Michael Ryan, the executive director of the New York City Board of Elections, who is there to respond to questions about how voting went that year. The New York City Board of Elections is governed by state law, which gives power to the City Council to appoint commissioners, but the Council must make the appointments from lists selected by political party leaders at the county level. "Every step along the way the board makes bad choices and they are never held accountable for

it," said Susan Lerner, executive director of good government group Common Cause New York, in testimony at the City Council oversight hearing on last year's elections.

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

North Carolina: In Wake of Fraud Scandal, Voting by Mail Dropped by Two-Thirds in 9th District

Nearly a year after voters went to the polls in North Carolina's 9th Congressional District race, they will finally send a congressman to Washington, D.C., after Republican Dan Bishop's defeat of Democrat Dan McCready Tuesday night. But how voters cast their ballots for the special election looks far different than it did ahead of last November's midterms. The rate at which voters used mail-in absentee ballots—the voting method at the heart of an election fraud scandal that triggered the do-over election in the 9th District—fell by more than two-thirds across the district, according to the latest data from the State Board of Elections.

<https://bit.ly/2mgjjd7>

Ohio: Frank LaRose Defends Latest Voter Registration Purge

Ohio's top elections official paid a visit to Richland County Monday as his office just three days earlier proceeded with the scheduled removal of thousands of registrations from the state's voter rolls that have been deemed "inactive." Ohio Secretary of State Frank LaRose's office sent last-chance notices to about 235,000 voters in July, telling them they had until Friday to respond to the notice or update their registrations. Voters who have not cast a ballot for six years or have failed to respond to address confirmation letters are subject to be removed, or purged, as critics of the process describe it, from the state's voter rolls.

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

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Oregon: What's Behind the Drop in Registered Voters for Oregon Democrats and the GOP?

Oregon data shows a declining number of registered voters who identify with either of the two major political parties. It's a trend that the data shows steadily trickling downward since at least 2016. Statewide, there's a 2 percent drop in people who've registered as "Democrat" or "Republican" since November 2016. By contrast, "non-affiliated" voters shot up 28 percent in the same period.

<https://bit.ly/2IUP633>

Pennsylvania: State to Let Voters Apply Online for Absentee Ballots

Pennsylvanians who will not be able to vote in person this fall can apply online for absentee ballots for the first time, officials announced Monday. The Wolf administration said voters can begin next week to use the new process to obtain absentee ballots for the Nov. 5 election. Voters will still have to mail or hand-deliver completed ballots to elections offices by 5 p.m. Friday, Nov. 1. Applicants will need a PennDOT driver license or ID number, although that is expected to change next year.

<https://bit.ly/2klb1td>

Texas: More Arrests in Texas Voter Fraud Scheme

Charges filed last week against two more South Texas voter fraud suspects, including a city official, brings the total to 22 accused of participating in an illegal voting scheme prosecutors say was coordinated by a local mayor. Authorities arrested Edinburg City Secretary Ludivina Leal and Alyssa Cano of Pharr on September 3, charging each with one count of illegal voting in Edinburg's November 2017 mayoral election.

<https://texasscorecard.com/local/more-arrests-in-south-texas-voter-fraud-scheme/>

Wisconsin: 'Exposure to Risk:' Audit Finds Problems in Milwaukee Voter Registration Process

Wisconsin law requires voters to show "proof of residence" during the registration process. The audit says election workers were consistently collecting the required information, but some were not correctly recording it.

<https://fox6now.com/2019/09/12/exposure-to-risk-audit-finds-problems-in-milwaukee-voter-registration-process/>

REDISTRICTING

North Carolina: House Passes New Legislative Maps After Grueling Debate

One down. One to go. The House passed a new district map, and it's on its way to the Senate. It was a grueling week. After a three-judge Superior Court panel handed down its ruling last week in *Common Cause v. Lewis*, the General Assembly had two weeks to pass new maps addressing partisan outliers—that is, county groupings the court said, were gerrymandered to give Republicans an extreme partisan advantage. The House passed a map Friday, Sept. 13. Among the 14 county groupings requiring changes, House members passed 13 of them in a 68-42 vote. The 14th—and most controversial—passed 60-50. Earlier in the day, the court dropped an unanticipated announcement. First, it gave the General Assembly until Thursday, Sept. 19—a day longer than expected—to submit its maps.

<https://www.laurinburgexchange.com/news/29082/house-passes-new-legislative-maps-after-grueling-debate>