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Friday Voter ID and MVR Update

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WEEKLY HIGHLIGHT

Constance McHugh, the Cedarburg [Wisconsin] clerk, said she and local voters were happy with rules requiring IDs from voters and allowing local officials to open only one office for early in person voting in each municipality.

"There have mostly been positive comments that (voters) are glad or relieved that we are finally accepting photo ID," she told the court.

[Suburban clerks testify in favor of voter ID](#)

City clerks testified in support of Wisconsin's voter ID law and other election-related laws in federal court on Tuesday.

Taking the stand for the state's defense in an ongoing federal trial on state election laws, city clerks Constance McHugh, of Cedarburg, and Susan Westerbeke, of Port Washington, said changes including a limit on the number of locations for absentee voting and the elimination of special registration deputies have actually simplified some things for them.

[Clerks: Voter ID Law Has Helped, Not Hurt Wisconsin Elections](#)

STATES

ALABAMA

Colbert County has been selected as one of 11 locations where the Alabama Secretary of State's Office will hold voter registration and ID drives next month.

[*Voter registration, ID drive set for June 7 in Leighton*](#)

MISSOURI

Missourians will vote Nov. 8 on the Legislature's proposed constitutional amendment to let the state require voters to have a photo ID, Gov. Jay Nixon said Monday.

[*Voter ID on Nov. 8 ballot*](#)

Voters will decide the fate of a constitutional amendment requiring Missouri residents to show photo identification at the polls in the November election. In action Monday, Gov. Jay Nixon set the Nov. 8 general election as the date for the ballot measure that was approved by lawmakers during the recently completed legislative session.

[*Nixon sets voter ID question for November ballot*](#)

NORTH CAROLINA

All of that leaves elections officials eyeing a potential last-minute scramble if one court or the other changes the rules for the November election through an unexpected ruling. For the time being, backers of the voter ID requirements say data from the March primary is evidence that North Carolina's reasonable impediment safety valve work and most voters are able to comply with voter ID rules.

[*First election with voter ID offers lessons, anxiety*](#)

The group sent 700 volunteers to monitor polls in more than 50 counties during the March primary. Among problems cited in the brief, Hall said poll workers failed to allow certain voters who did not have photo ID to fill out a reasonable impediment declaration. Instead, he said they were given regular provisional ballots that were not counted.

[*Advocacy Group Crying Foul Over Voter ID Law Ahead Of Congressional Primary*](#)

Another pending legal challenge to North Carolina's voter identification

requirement is still swimming around in state court, where a judge Friday heard arguments on whether a trial should be scheduled soon or more delays are the proper course.

[State judge weighs whether to schedule voter ID trial](#)

TEXAS

As a federal court heard a challenge to Texas' strict voter identification law Tuesday, the congressman leading the charge against it launched a group aimed at pressuring fellow lawmakers to update the Voting Rights Act.

[Blasting Texas' voter ID law, Fort Worth congressman launches group focused on voting rights](#)

Arguments before the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals are set for Tuesday morning. The full court agreed to rehear the issue after a three-judge panel ruled last year that the law violates the Voting Rights Act.

[US Appeals Court Revisits Texas Voter ID Law](#)

The Texas Attorney General's Office today defended the state's Voter ID law before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. Texas Solicitor General Scott Keller presented arguments on behalf of the State of Texas before an en banc panel of all circuit judges

[AG Paxton: Voter ID Essential to Elections Integrity](#)

VIRGINIA

The Democrats behind a lawsuit challenging Virginia's voter ID law will appeal last week's loss in district court to the U.S. Court of Appeals, the lead attorney said Thursday.

The group filed its notice of appeal Wednesday, and will ask for an expedited review by the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals, based in Richmond.

[Virginia Democrats to appeal voter ID case](#)

MANDATORY VOTER REGISTRATION

NATIONAL

Opponents of automatic voter registration have concerns that the government should not be in the business of telling citizens what to do or that they have to be registered to vote. They may see automatic voter registration as an infringement upon the First Amendment right to free speech.

They question whether Oregon's opt-out form that is sent and received through the mail, in the electronic age, is sufficient to ensure an individual can decline to register. Fraud is also a concern, as some have questioned whether the process can adequately filter out noncitizens who are able to obtain state identification cards legally.

[*National Conference of State Legislatures: Automatic Voter Registration*](#)

CONNECTICUT

An agreement between Secretary of the State Denise Merrill and Department of Motor Vehicle Commissioner Michael Byzdra to develop an automatic voter registration system is an unnecessary and expensive proposition. That was the message from four Republican lawmakers who held a press conference Wednesday at the Legislative Office Building in Hartford to criticize the decision.

[*Republicans Critical of Automatic Voter Registration Agreement With DMV*](#)

The Republican proposal is an alternative to the costly 'automatic' motor voter registration system proposed by the Secretary of the State. Instead of pursuing the automatic computer system, which failed to garner legislative approval and was initially met with opposition by the DMV due to its cost and customer service challenges, Republicans are proposing the DMV and Secretary of the State work together to enforce the current motor voter registration system with new protocols.

[*CT Republicans: DMV Cannot Handle More Burdens*](#)

ILLINOIS

After the Senate easily approved it, the House is poised to take up a proposal in the coming days making the State Board of Elections the clearinghouse for automatically registering voters. By Sept. 1, the board would have to conduct a

voter file update with state agencies' data going back a year. The whole plan would be in place by 2018.

[State election board questions automatic voter registration](#)

Southern Illinois State Sen. Kyle McCarter questioned whether Sen. Andy Manar's automatic voter registration bill would safeguard against illegal immigrants voting. Chicago Democrat Martin Sandoval took exception.

[Racism Accusation in Voter Registration Debate](#)

NEW JERSEY

By a vote of 52-21-1, the full Assembly on Thursday approved legislation (A-1944) sponsored by Assembly Democrats Craig Coughlin, Gary Schaer, Tim Eustace and Joann Downey that would require the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission (MVC) to automatically register or update a person's voter registration as part of the process of applying for or renewing a driver's license.

[Bill Creating Automatic Voter Registration through MVC Gains Assembly Approval](#)

NEW YORK

For example, Gov. Andrew Cuomo recently implemented a system of online voter registration available through the Department of Motor Vehicles. For the first time ever, residents can now use the Internet to register — something that people dwelling in 31 states can do — but only those residents who are existing DMV customers. Owning a car is essential in many Republican-dominated parts of upstate, but not as common in the most liberal pockets of New York City. As a result, Cuomo's fellow Democrats have resisted a plan to create a system of automatic registration through the DMV, as this would seemingly tilt the balance of power in the state's voter rolls away from New York City.

[New York election laws lead to plenty of ballots but little innovation](#)

OREGON

However, the turnout rate was lower than in the presidential primary eight years ago and it was unclear what impact the state's new automatic voter registration system had on the election results. Oregon has several hundred thousand more registered voters than eight years ago.

[Oregon voter turnout tops 1 million](#)

Compiled by Andrew Bennett. If you have an item for a future voter ID update, please email lawyersdf@gmail.com. For the latest news on election integrity issues, check the [LDF website](#) or [LDF Twitter feed](#).

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Lawyers Democracy Fund
56295 Little Moniteau Road
California, MO 65018
Phone: 202-441-5487

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