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Friday Voter ID Update

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WEEKLY HIGHLIGHT

THE PRESUMPTIVE DEMOCRATIC NOMINEE'S POSITION ON VOTER ID

Repairing the Voting Rights Act. Congress should move quickly to pass legislation that would fix the damage done to the Voting Rights Act by the Supreme Court and restore the full protections American voters need and deserve. These protections are crucial for young and minority voters, seniors, and other underrepresented groups disproportionately affected by harmful Republican efforts to restrict voting.

[We should be making it easier to vote, not harder.](#)

VOTER ID - NATIONAL

"Voter ID can prevent and deter impersonation fraud, voting under fictitious voter registrations, double voting by individuals registered in more than one state, and voting by illegal aliens," Don Palmer, a former election official in Virginia and Florida, wrote in a Heritage Foundation report.

[US Voter ID Laws Balance Risk of Fraud, Barring People From Polls](#)

This year more states than ever will require potential voters to show photo ID

in order to vote in the election. Here's why this is so controversial.

[*The two sides to the voter ID law debate \[Video\]*](#)

VOTER ID - STATES

KANSAS

Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach contends massive voter confusion will occur if an appeals court doesn't block a lower court's order to register thousands of state residents for November's presidential election.

[*Kris Kobach predicts massive voter confusion in November in seeking stay of voter ID injunction*](#)

LOUISIANA

Louisiana college students will be able to use their university ID cards to vote in state elections in 2019.

Gov. John Bel Edwards' office announced this week that the governor signed the proposal into law this week.

[*Edwards signs bill to let students use college IDs to vote*](#)

MISSOURI

In a few months Missouri voters will have a chance to influence whether photo identification will be required for voting, but local election officials say that the issue is still shrouded in ambiguity.

[*Amendment would pave way for voter ID laws*](#)

NORTH CAROLINA

North Carolina's controversial voter identification law will stay in place after a ruling by U.S. District Judge Thomas Schroeder at the end of April.

The 2013 law calls for North Carolina voters to bring photo identification when casting their ballots, eliminates same-day registration and ends "out-of-precinct" voting. Supporters—including Republican governor Pat McCrory, who signed the bill into law—claim that it helps protect against voter fraud.

[*North Carolina voter ID law generates controversy*](#)

OHIO

Judge Algenon L. Marbley of U.S. District Court in Columbus ruled that state officials violated the U.S. Constitution's guarantee of equal protection under the law and the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965. The Democratic appointee's decision today echoes that of GOP appointed Judge Michael H. Watson late last month on a separate case that restored a "Golden Week" of early voting Republicans had eliminated.

[*Ohio Loses another Voting Rights Case, This Time Over Absentee Ballots*](#)

The institutional Left knows that controlling election process rules is the first step to controlling policy. Conservatives and Republicans usually pay more attention to the policy, and not to the process. Ohio was a rare exception, and some sought to clean up the process. But now federal courts are undoing the cleaning and bringing back the mess just in time for November.

[*The Coming Ohio Election Mess*](#)

WISCONSIN

Those challenging Wisconsin's voter identification law in federal court say they will soon be asking that people having trouble getting the required ID be allowed to vote in the August primary.

[*Voter ID law challengers to seek injunction*](#)

Groups advocating for voting rights said they will soon ask a federal judge to allow people to vote in Wisconsin's August primary election if they are having trouble getting a required ID.

The request comes even as attorneys for the state Department of Justice are trying to put the case on hold.

[*Groups to ask judge allow some people without IDs to vote*](#)

A federal judge will not put a lawsuit over Wisconsin's voter identification law on hold while another similar challenge is pending in a different court.

[*Judge denies request to put voter ID on hold*](#)

The Legislature's budget-writing committee was to vote on a request from the

state's election board to spend \$250,000 on educating voters about the photo identification law.

[*Legislature's budget committee to consider voter ID money*](#)

MANDATORY VOTER REGISTRATION

ILLINOIS

Illinois lawmakers couldn't agree on a budget, but May 31 they did pass a measure to enable the state to register more people to vote.

[*Governor Considers Automatic Voter Registration*](#)

NEW JERSEY

Two bills to drive voter turnout advanced in committee Thursday, and will go on to the Senate floor. The first, originally sponsored by Assemblyman Andrew Zwicker (D-16) in the lower house, would allow 17 year-olds to vote in primaries when they are on the cusp of reaching eighteen before the general election. While that bill cleared committee in a unanimous vote, a second to offer automatic voter registration with new and renewed driver's licenses passed by a narrower 3-2 margin.

[*Bills to Increase Voter Turnout Clear Senate Committee*](#)

OREGON

Oregon plans to launch the second phase of the state's automatic voter registration program Friday, signing up people who've done business with the DMV as early as 2014 in a move that could add more than 145,000 voters. In some counties, that could translate to a 10 percent increase in active registered voters, according to the Oregon Secretary of State's office.

[*Renew your license in 2014? Not a voter? You might be soon.*](#)

Starting Friday, the Oregon secretary of state will implement the second of two phases of the state's pioneering Motor Voter program. It will give roughly 145,000 Oregonians who had qualifying interactions at the DMV in 2014 or 2015 the opportunity to become automatically registered to vote.

[145,000 Oregonians to get automatic voter registration letters](#)

Compiled by Andrew Bennett and Lisa Dixon. 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](#).

Lawyers Democracy Fund is organized under section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code. It is dedicated to promoting the role of ethics and legal professionalism in the electoral process.

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