



Fighting for Voting Rights and a Democratic United States

DEMOCRATIC LAW BRIEFS

A Publication of the DC Chapter of the National Lawyers Council

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WELCOME TO DEMOCRATIC LAW BRIEFS, the official newsletter of the DC Chapter of the National Lawyers Council. If you would like to be on our mailing list, please sign up at <http://www.democraticlawyers.org/join.php> or e-mail your name, title, company, addresses, and phone numbers to signup@democraticlawyers.org. We'll happily add you to the list.

FROM THE DNC



I'm writing to share a few quick updates about our voter protection work. First, we had an exciting meeting here in Washington last Saturday. We were pleased and honored to hear remarks from DNC Chairman Governor Tim Kaine and DNC Vice Chair for Voter Registration and Participation Donna Brazile, and to have the opportunity to hear from many of you. For those of you who weren't able to attend, we hope to see you very soon.

At Saturday's meeting, we announced the creation of [voter protection working groups](#), which we hope will serve as a venue to continue sharing best practices as we move toward the congressional midterm elections. We initiated six working groups - voter education, voter registration, legislation and election reforms, building active local chapters, recounts and canvassing, and voter protection technology - but we're open to establishing additional working groups as needed. We encourage you to sign up to participate in one or more of these groups by going here: <http://my.democrats.org/ndlcworkinggroups>.

We also announced at Saturday's meeting that we will be hiring law students this summer to serve as [voting rights research fellows](#). Our spring fellows have done terrific work on a variety of voting rights and election administration issues, and we look forward to hiring talented Democratic law students for the summer. A link to the application is also available here:

<http://my.barackobama.com/page/s/vpfellows>. Applications are due next Wednesday, May 5.

Lastly, in case you missed it, Governor Kaine was on the Rachel Maddow Show on MSNBC earlier this week. See [here](#). He was asked about the DNC's 2010 plan and our efforts to protect minority voters. It's not every day that voter protection work is recognized on cable TV, so I thought you might be interested. The relevant exchange is just over one minute into the interview. The clip is also available at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kRjEN8baeWI>.

Thanks,
Will
Will Crossley
DNC Director and Counsel for Voter Protection

EVENT

DC VOTING EQUIPMENT DEMONSTRATION: MAY 6

The DC Board of Elections and Ethics will be a featured presenter at the DC Democratic State Committee's general meeting on May 6, 2010. Board officials will begin with a demonstration of the District's new voting equipment and discuss new voting procedures including early voting, election day registration and new voter registration requirements.

What: DC BOEE presentation of new voting equipment and procedures

Where: DC Democratic Party General Meeting, John Wilson District Building (13th and Pennsylvania NW), Fourth Floor Council Chambers

When: Thursday, May 6, 7:30 p.m.

VOTING RIGHTS NEWS

PRE-REGISTRATION

Annapolis, MD - On April 12, the Maryland General Assembly passed a bill to allow 16-year olds to preregister to vote. If signed by the governor, Maryland will join Florida, Hawaii, North Carolina, and Rhode Island in enacting this important reform. Read more here:

<http://www.fairvote.org/universal-voter-registration>

VOTER ID

Boise, ID - A new Idaho bill, signed into law on April 8, will require Idahoans to prove identity at the polls by either presenting photographic identification or signing an affidavit. Read more here:

<http://www.spokesman.com/blogs/boise/2010/mar/01/voter-id-passes-house/>

VOTER REGISTRATION

Orlando FL - Project Vote, one of the nation's leading voter engagement organizations, has teamed up with Orlando-based advertising agency Echo Interaction Group to revolutionize how community organizations conduct voter registration drives. Using cutting-edge technology, Echo's team is developing a user-friendly, mobile-based application that provides an ideal electronic alternative to what was previously a tedious and archaic paper-based process. The application is slated to make its official debut this May.

<http://www.projectvote.org/newsreleases/475-vr-drives-go-paperless-with-new-software-for-ipad-a-other-mobile-devices.html>

DC DLC BRAIN TEASERS

DC DLC BRAIN TEASERS - Each week we have a puzzle or a brain teaser or a trivia question for you to answer. You can e-mail your answers to editors@democraticlawyers.org. Please put "Brain Teaser" in the subject line. We will run the names of all those who get the right/best answer in the following issue.

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

Who is the only woman to appear on US currency?
(Looking for a real woman not any of the allegorical women such as Liberty)

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION

Who was the first President to appear on a coin?

ANSWER

Abe Lincoln was the first present to appear on a coin. He first appeared on the 1909 minted one cent coin which we all know as the Lincoln penny.

WHO ARE WE?

The DC Democratic Lawyers Council (DC DLC) is a group of Democratic lawyers, affiliated with the National Lawyers Council of the Democratic National Committee, volunteering their legal skills to strengthen the democratic process. We work to ensure that every eligible citizen is allowed to vote and that every vote cast in every election is counted. The DC DLC was formed out of a concern that voting rights are increasingly under attack in our country and an understanding that now is the time to put the skills of Democratic attorneys to work to ensure that every citizen's right to vote will be upheld in future elections. Our activities include advocating for better laws and regulations and initiating litigation when necessary to guarantee the fairness of and the widest participation in the U.S. electoral process.

The Democratic Lawyers Council was founded by attorneys who have served on the front line of election law for the Democratic Party in numerous elections, including the 2000, 2004, and 2008 presidential elections. The lesson learned from the recount debacle was that post-election day litigation will hardly ever fix any election injustice. Given that, many of the recount lawyers, particularly those based in Florida, engineered a comprehensive voter protection program to confront and deal with voter and election issues before Election Day. One aspect of this effort was the recruitment of 3200 lawyers who, after receiving specialized election law and procedures training, worked inside the polls in key precincts in Florida on Election Day to assure that every citizen who showed up to vote, was able to do so.

Our mission statement is simple:

We are a coalition of lawyers and others dedicated to fostering universal participation and trust in the electoral process by ensuring that:

- All eligible persons can register to vote easily;
- All registered voters are able to vote simply, fairly, and without intimidation; and
- All votes are counted accurately and all voting systems are open and reliable.

We encourage you to send us an e-mail if you would like more information or are interested in becoming a part of our organization.

Please e-mail us at [erika @ democraticlawyers.org](mailto:erika@democraticlawyers.org).

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GOT NEWS?

If you have news for Democratic Law Briefs, we'd love to get it. E-mail your news, ideas, rumors and thoughts to Paul Roath and Arielle Harry-Bess at editors@democraticlawyers.org. We reserve the right to use, not use, edit, paraphrase, or otherwise play with your submissions.

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