



*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](mailto:signup@democraticlawyers.org). We'll happily add you to the list.

### **VOTING RIGHTS NEWS**

#### **RAISE YOUR VOTE**

**Washington, DC** - The Democratic National Committee on Thursday launched "Raise Your Vote," a massive voter registration drive aimed at recruiting new voters in an effort to replicate the "Obama effect" of 2008. Raise Your Vote will use online and offline tools to register new voters in what a DNC official calls "an unprecedented effort in a midterm year on the part of a national party, not just in terms of money, but in terms of technology and manpower." Read more here:

<http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0610/38656.html#ixzz0r6rXcdxX>

#### **VOTER ID AND EARLY VOTING**

**Columbia, SC** - South Carolina senators have ended a filibuster on a voter ID bill by refusing to accept a House compromise they say limits voters' ability to cast ballots early. The South Carolina House approved a compromise Tuesday that would require voters to show a photo ID at the polls and allow limited early voting, while senators balked at giving in to House GOP demands. The House voted 69-47 largely along party lines to accept the compromise reached by a conference committee two weeks ago, which neither of the two Democrats signed. The Senate is to resume debate Wednesday on what is arguably the session's most contentious issue. The bill will die if the legislature can't agree by week's end. Read the details here:

<http://www.thesunnews.com/2010/06/16/1535146/sc-house-oks-photo-id-bill.html>

<http://www.carolinalive.com/news/story.aspx?id=471758>

## JUSTICE DEPT TO MONITOR ELECTIONS

Washington, DC - The Justice Department announced that it will monitor the municipal election on June 19, 2010, in Galveston, TX, to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. The Act prohibits discrimination in the election process on the basis of race, color or membership in a minority language group. In addition, the act requires certain covered jurisdictions, including Galveston County, to provide language assistance in Spanish during the election process. Galveston County is also subject to a court order entered in 2007 that requires the jurisdiction to comply with the minority language requirements of the Voting Rights Act. Details here:

<http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/2010/June/10-crt-715.html>

Washington, DC - The Justice Department announced that it will monitor the municipal election on June 15, 2010, in the village of Port Chester, NY, to ensure compliance with the Voting Rights Act of 1965. The Act prohibits discrimination in the election process on the basis of race, color or membership in a minority language group. In addition, the act requires certain covered jurisdictions to provide language assistance during the election process. Port Chester is required to provide assistance in Spanish. Details here:

<http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/2010/June/10-crt-692.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](mailto: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

The legal separation of the American Colonies from Great Britain occurred on what day?

### LAST WEEK'S QUESTION

What state celebrates Flag Day as a state holiday?

## ANSWER

Pennsylvania is the only state in the nation that celebrates Flag Day as state holiday. Imagine my surprise when I tried to enter the courthouse with a client last Monday. We did not have any correct answers last week. Good Luck this week.

## 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. The lesson learned from the recount debacle in 2000 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 in 2004. 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 to assure that every citizen who showed up to vote, was able to do so.

Since then, our members have been involved in priority federal and state and local elections across the nation. DC DLC members served in volunteer and leadership capacities in support of the election of President Obama and federal, state, and local Democratic candidates in 2008 and volunteered for the 2009 off-year elections. Now, we are gearing-up to protect the vote so that we can grow our majorities in the House and Senate during the 2010 mid-term elections

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](mailto:editors@democraticlawyers.org). We reserve the right to use, not use, edit, paraphrase, or otherwise play with your submissions.

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