



Fighting for Voting Rights and a Democratic United States

DEMOCRATIC LAW BRIEFS

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VOTING RIGHTS NEWS

VOTER PURGES

Lansing, MI - The state of Michigan has agreed to permanently end two practices that illegally removed people from the state list of qualified voters. According to a settlement filed in the U.S. District Court in Detroit, the state of Michigan will no longer automatically cancel the voter registration of people who receive driver's licenses in other states. It will also stop removing people from the voter rolls when their voter ID cards are returned due to problems with the mail. Read more here: <http://michiganmessenger.com/39093/secretary-of-state-agrees-to-end-voter-purge-programs>

VOTE PROTECTION

New York, NY - In a *New York Times* editorial, the slow process by the State of New York in replacing its voting machines is derided. In the editorial, the *Times* states that "It took far too long – and the threat of withholding federal money – to get the state to replace its big, clunky machines (some a half-century old) with new, smaller, clunky machines." Read the editorial here: http://www.nytimes.com/2010/07/06/opinion/06tue4.html?_r=2&ref=opinion

VOTER ID

Columbia, SC - A bill requiring South Carolina voters to show a photo ID and also allowing them to cast a ballot early has died for the year. After months of wrangling, House and Senate members failed to agree on a compromise Tuesday before adjourning. Read more here about this dead but not likely to be forgotten bill:

<http://www.wistv.com/Global/story.asp?S=12731273>

Indianapolis, IN - The Indiana Supreme Court has found constitutional the State's new voter ID law. The Court, however, found only that the law is facially constitutional and left open the possibility of an as applied challenge depending on whether plaintiffs can show that the law infringes any voters' actual rights to vote. Read the opinion here:

<http://www.in.gov/judiciary/opinions/pdf/06301001bd.pdf>

PRISONER CENSUS

Dover, DE - Last week, Delaware became the second state in the country to pass registration that would adjust U.S. Census data to count incarcerated people as residents of their home addresses for redistricting purposes. It is awaiting Gov. Jack Markell's signature. Read the details here:

<http://www.progressivestates.org/node/25292>

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

What city surrendered to a future President on July 4th, 1863?

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION

What year did Congress first make the Fourth of July a federal holiday?

ANSWER

The U.S. Congress made Independence Day an unpaid holiday for federal employees in 1870. 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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