



*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.

### **IN CASE YOU MISSED IT**

#### **ELECTION PROTECTION IN THE AGE OF OBAMA: WHY IT STILL MATTERS” - ONLINE**

If you missed the Democratic Convention workshop on Election Protection, you can view it [here](#).

On Saturday, June 12th, as a part of the DC Democrats' State Convention, national and local leaders convened to discuss what we have accomplished, where we are going, and how you can get involved.

The Democratic National Committee has considered voter protection to be critically important for many years, and the 2008 presidential election saw an unprecedented effort to ensure that every eligible citizen could cast their ballot. This work is equally important in 2010 and beyond, in part because many of the President's supporters belong to those populations that are typically disenfranchised: young voters, mobile voters, minority voters, older voters, and inexperienced voters. Midterm elections are especially significant, because lower turnout means that every vote can make more of a difference, and because maintaining control in Congress helps supports President Obama's agenda. Expanding access to voting and making voting easier and more reliable for all will continue to be a systemic focus of the national party into the future.

## VOTING RIGHTS NEWS

### DISABLED VOTERS PROTECTED

**Washington, DC** - The Justice Department announced on July 14, 2010 a court-approved consent decree which resolves a lawsuit against the state of New York and its public university systems for their failure to provide voter registration services at offices serving students with disabilities at each public university and college campus in New York State. Read more here:

<http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/2010/July/10-crt-803.html>

### HOUSE NUMBERS PROTECTED

**Mississippi** - A U.S. District Judge has granted summary judgment to the US government in a law suit filed by several states. The Plaintiffs had argued that the Constitution requires an increase in the number in order to reduce the disparity in population among the districts in different States. In the Ruling the judge wrote "Plaintiffs here seek judicial entry into the exact area of decision-making that was reserved for Congress. The Constitution allows Congress to set the number of House members. Mathematics do not control. The Convention and the early Congresses rejected all proposals that would have made increases inexorable with increases in population." Read the full decision here:

<http://www.ballot-access.org/2010/DistrictCourtOpinion.pdf>

### VOTER REGISTRATION

**Ohio** - Project Vote reports that Ohio agencies have now reported an average of 17,000 voter registration applications in each of the first five months of 2010: nearly 10 times the monthly average from before the law suit was filed. Overall, more than 84,000 Ohio residents have applied to become registered voters at public assistance agencies so far this year, with more than 20,000 applying in March alone. Read the details here:

<http://www.projectvote.org/blog/?p=673>

## 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

News of this former General's death reached Washington, DC around the Fourth of July. Who was this former General? Where and when did he die?  
Hint: Many movies have been made about this former general.

## LAST WEEK'S QUESTION

What city surrendered to a future President on July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1863?

## ANSWER

On July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1863 Vicksburg, Mississippi surrendered General Grant. We had correct answers from Jesse Carlson and Kevin Kingston. 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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