
From: Hawkins, Amelia
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Out of State SOS News:

Secretary of state makes changing gender on ID easier

By: Jennifer Chambers, The Detroit News

After being sued by six transgender Michigan residents, Secretary of State Ruth Johnson has changed her department's policy on requiring an amended birth certificate to change an individual's gender on a state driver's license or state ID.

The new policy allows U.S. passports or passport cards to be used to change gender on IDs and means a transgender individual would no longer be required to undergo gender confirmation surgery, according to the Michigan Attorney General's Office, which represents Johnson in the case.

Johnson changed her own policy on March 10, according to court records, amending it to require a valid U.S. passport or passport card, a court order changing the sex of the individual or a certified birth certificate for any applicant who wants to change his or her gender on state ID.

Johnson's office declined to explain the decision behind the change in policy. Johnson also has declined comment.

Prior to the change, the Secretary of State's Office required an amended birth certificate to change gender. An amended birth certificate is only obtainable to people in Michigan by undergoing gender confirmation surgery, said attorney Jay Kaplan with the American Civil Liberties Union, which is representing all six plaintiffs in the case.

Kaplan said the recent policy change is a positive step forward that will allow more transgender people to obtain accurate ID — but it's not enough.

"It's still not a model policy. It's still not a policy that other states have adopted to make sure transgender individuals can obtain ID. We are continuing with our lawsuit," Kaplan said.

The federal government does not require surgery to change gender on a U.S. passport or on Social Security records. But not everyone can afford or needs a passport, Kaplan said.

As far as allowing court orders, Kaplan said Michigan courts have not made rulings on the issue and there is no case law to examine.

"Michigan courts have never taken jurisdiction in adjudicating gender nor do we think its a good idea. How does a court decide what gender is? Courts have not done that in Michigan," Kaplan said.

State laws vary in terms of whether and how individuals can amend the gender on their birth certificates, ACLU officials said.

Some states refuse to amend it without a court order; some states refuse to change the gender on a birth certificate unless an individual has undergone gender confirmation surgery; some states allow the change without requiring either surgery or a court order and some states do not allow the gender on a birth certificate to be corrected under any circumstances.

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“Michigan courts have never taken jurisdiction in adjudicating gender nor do we think its a good idea. How does a court decide what gender is? Courts have not done that in Michigan,” Kaplan said.

Several of the plaintiffs suing Johnson said they do not want to have surgery to change their gender or cannot afford it. In their lawsuit, filed in May 2015, they alleged the policy violated their Constitutional rights including their rights to privacy, freedom of speech and equal protection.

Johnson’s attorneys are asking for the case to be dismissed, saying there is “no reasonable likelihood that she will return to the previous policy” and the policy change was implemented “in the ordinary course of business.”

“Defendant Ruth Johnson has remedied any alleged constitutional violation by voluntarily abandoning the requirement to provide a certified birth certificate as proof to change to an individual’s sex designation on his or her DL or PID,” the motion filed by the Attorney General’s Office states.

The Michigan Attorney General’s Office previously denied the original policy violated due process, First Amendment or privacy rights and refused to change it. The state has argued in court filings the policy helped promote effective law enforcement and ensured that individuals’ state records were consistent.

Under former Michigan Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land, surgery was still a requirement but a statement by a physician was sufficient. Johnson changed it to an amended birth certificate in 2011. It is not clear why.

John Knight, from the ACLU’s national LGBT project, said that 3 percent of transgender people face assault or physical injury when showing a license with the wrong gender on it and 40 percent face hostility, including being asked to leave the premises of businesses.

The case is before U.S. District Judge Nancy Edmunds. Johnson is scheduled for deposition in the case on Thursday.

Georgia News:

Super Bowl tax break gains final passage

By: Dave Williams, Atlanta Business Chronicle

The General Assembly agreed Tuesday to pony up the tax break on ticket sales the National Football League requires for cities that want to host a Super Bowl.

The Georgia Senate voted 38-14 to grant the tax break. Since the state House of Representatives already had passed the bill, it heads to Gov. Nathan Deal for his signature.

That’s a virtual guarantee, as Deal’s legislative floor leaders carried the bill through the House and Senate.

Supporters argued the projected economic impact of hosting a Super Bowl, conservatively projected at \$400 million for Atlanta, dwarfs the \$10 million Georgia could expect to lose by exempting Super Bowl ticket purchases from the state sales tax.

"It's the biggest event in the world," said Sen. Butch Miller, R-Gainesville, one of the governor's Senate floor leaders.

Senators defeated a series of amendments to the bill brought by opponents, including an amendment proposed by Sen. Josh McKoon that would have required the city of Atlanta to reimburse the state for the lost tax revenue.

"Where's the return for the rest of the state?" said McKoon, R-Columbus. "We should not be creating winners and losers with our tax policy."

McKoon also tried unsuccessfully to strike the Super Bowl tax break from the rest of the bill, which extends the state's popular back-to-school and energy-efficient products sales tax holidays.

Atlanta is bidding to host the Super Bowl at the new Falcons stadium in 2019 or 2020.

Georgia pedestrian deaths spike; Macon-Bibb review board plans strategy

By: Liz Fabian, The Telegraph

The number of pedestrian deaths across the country increased about 10 percent between 2014 and 2015, but Georgia's numbers went up about 21 percent.

Georgia is likely the leader in the increase in pedestrian crash deaths, attorney Bob Dallas told the Macon-Bibb Pedestrian Fatality Review Board during its monthly meeting Tuesday.

"What that tells us is a lot more people are walking. There is more exposure and the risks associated with being a pedestrian, obviously as the most vulnerable user, is high," said Dallas, who served as Gov. Sonny Perdue's director of the Governor's Office of Highway Safety.

Dallas is advocating the national Vision Zero approach to reducing fatal traffic accidents to none.

He believes a six-prong approach will help communities save the lives of walkers, runners, cyclists and motorists.

Engineering better roads, educating the public, enforcing laws and the life-saving skills of emergency medical services have been touted nationally to reduce fatalities, but Dallas adds two more: evaluating risks and problem areas and the equitable distribution of resources.

"If we do things the way we did before, when we construct our roads, then we can expect the same results," Dallas told the board at the Macon-Bibb Government Center. "We also have to stop blaming the victim. ... Sometimes it is behavior, and we've got to deal with that behavior."

For example, if there is a high concentration of bars in a community, safety fences could keep intoxicated patrons from getting into the street, he said.

Committee member Violet Poe is developing a Cross the Walk campaign that will focus on teaching youths and adults to use crosswalks.

Working with a \$5,000 grant, Poe is designing mascots that will visit schools, summer camps and other community gatherings.

She will be looking for volunteers --at least 21 years old -- who would be willing to make public appearances to promote pedestrian safety.

Poe surveyed people walking on the street and learned that many of them either didn't see a crosswalk or didn't feel like walking extra steps to it. She has been recruiting businesses to help spread the word.

"People are really interested in partnering with us on this," Poe told the board Tuesday.

In the area of evaluation, Brad Belo, a planner with the Macon-Bibb County Planning & Zoning Commission, has mapped the 950 incidents with vehicles and pedestrians or cyclists between 2003 and 2015.

The computer mapping program highlighted "hot spots" on Pio Nono Avenue, Anthony Road, Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. and Shurling Drive.

In the coming weeks, the board will study those areas and develop plans to enhance safety in those corridors.

On June 17, the Macon campus of Middle Georgia State University will host a statewide summit with Pedestrians Educating Drivers on Safety, which works to bring about pedestrian friendly policies, plans and street designs. A speaker at the conference also will conduct a safety assessment of downtown Macon.

Colorado company buying up Georgia farms

By: David Allison, Atlanta Business Chronicle

A Colorado company is buying up tens of thousands of acres of U.S. farm land, including thousands of acres in Georgia.

Denver-based Farmland Partners Inc. (NYSE: FPI) reported March 14 that in the fourth quarter of 2015 it bought three farms in Georgia totaling 1,367 acres for a total of \$4.9 million. Also during the quarter, the real estate investment trust entered into contracts for the acquisition of 121 farms in Georgia, Michigan, Texas, and Illinois totaling 25,057 acres for an aggregate purchase price of \$205.9 million, all of which have now closed.

In addition, the company said it has recently bought two farms in Georgia and Illinois totaling 248 acres for \$1 million, and it has contracts to buy three more farms in Illinois and Georgia totaling 567 acres for an aggregate purchase price of \$2.2 million, all of which are expected to close in the first quarter of 2016.

In total, Farmland Partners said it closed on \$143.4 million of U.S. farm acquisitions totaling 27,782 acres during 2015. On March 3, the company announced that it had closed its previously announced acquisition of 118 farms totaling over 22,100 acres near Paris, Ill., for a total price of \$50 million.

Its portfolio now totals 258 farms with a total of 108,163 acres (including five farms totaling 8,591 acres under contract) in Arkansas, Colorado, Georgia, Illinois, Kansas, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Nebraska, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas and Virginia.

The company is paying for its deals with \$34.6 million it raised in a public stock offering last July and \$197 million raised through the sale of limited partnership interest in the company's operating partnership.

"In 2015, we effectively doubled our portfolio by closing on nearly 28,000 acres and, in November, putting under contract the 22,100 acres near Paris, Illinois, which recently closed," said Paul Pittman, CEO of Farmland Partners, in a statement. "By entering into four new states, acquiring our first permanent crop farm, increasing our tenant base, and starting other initiatives such as the FPI Loan Program and the volume purchasing program, we continued a growth trajectory that we believe has made us one of the largest landowners in the United States."

Pres. Obama to announce Supreme Court pick today

By: Brett Rosner, WSB-TV

WASHINGTON DC —He's made his decision: President Barack Obama will announce his pick to replace Antonin Scalia on the Supreme Court.

The announcement will be made at 11 a.m. in the Rose Garden.

Here is what Pres. Obama said in a release:

"Today, I will announce the person whom I believe is eminently qualified to sit on the Supreme Court.

As President, it is both my constitutional duty to nominate a Justice and one of the most important decisions that I -- or any president -- will make.

I've devoted a considerable amount of time and deliberation to this decision. I've consulted with legal experts and people across the political spectrum, both inside and outside government. And we've reached out to every member of the Senate, who each have a responsibility to do their job and take this nomination just as seriously.

This is a responsibility I do not take lightly. In considering several candidates, I held each to three principles that reflect the role the Supreme Court plays in our democracy.

First, a Justice should possess an independent mind, unimpeachable credentials, and an unquestionable mastery of law. There is no doubt this person will face complex legal questions, so it is imperative that he or she possess a rigorous intellect that will help provide clear answers.

Second, a Justice should recognize the limits of the judiciary's role. With a commitment to impartial justice rather than any particular ideology, the next Supreme Court Justice will understand that the job is to interpret the law, not make law.

However, I know there will be cases before the Supreme Court in which the law is not clear. In those cases, a Justice's analysis will necessarily be shaped by his or her own perspective, ethics, and judgment.

Therefore, the third quality I looked for in a judge is a keen understanding that justice is not about abstract legal theory, nor some footnote in a dusty casebook. It's the kind of life experience earned outside the classroom and the courtroom; experience that suggests he or she views the law not only as an intellectual exercise, but also grasps the way it affects the daily reality of people's lives in a big, complicated democracy, and in rapidly-changing times. In my view, that's an essential element for arriving at just decisions and fair outcomes.

I'm confident you'll share my conviction that this American is not only eminently qualified to be a Supreme Court Justice, but deserves a fair hearing, and an up-or-down vote.

In putting forward a nominee today, I am fulfilling my constitutional duty. I'm doing my job. I hope that our Senators will do their jobs, and move quickly to consider my nominee. That is what the Constitution dictates, and that's what the American people expect and deserve from their leaders.

President Barack Obama"

Kirby Smart on the practice plan for UGA QBs (and if one is still punting)

By: Marc Weiszer, Athens Banner-Herald

Let the quarterback competition begin at Georgia.

Yet again.

The starting gate for on the field was spring practice number one on Tuesday.

Five-star freshman Jacob Eason from Lake Stevens, Wash., will get a chance at a position that returns starter Greyson Lambert and backup Brice Ramsey.

"There's no such thing as being given a job, especially in spring football in the SEC," junior tight end Jeb Blazevich said. "Everybody's job is up for grabs. It's a great competitive atmosphere and I think it draws the best out of every guy in this program."

The day one plan, coach Kirby Smart said, was for Lambert to work with the starting unit, Ramsey with the No. 2 offense and Eason with the third unit.

"From there, we're going to decide each day how we do the reps," Smart said. "We have a lot of reps in practice the way we structure the practice. So each guy will get to throw with all the receivers the way the practice is structured. But we have to obviously have a guy going with each group. We're going to evaluate those guys each day and we're going to encourage them to worry about each day getting better and not worry about the results of each day."

Smart said he's talked in depth with offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach Jim Chaney about how the quarterbacks will practice.

"There's no timetable for the quarterback group," Smart said. "Y'all are more concerned about who is going with what group. That's not as important to us. It's what each guy is doing within his group that is more important."

Ramsey ended last season as Georgia's punter and will still be a factor. Signee Marshall Long arrives this summer.

Ramsey "will continue to be a part of our punting program," Smart said. "During punt periods, he'll come over there and kick. We're going to find out if he'll continue to do that. Obviously, we signed a punter and we're going to find out this spring who does the best job of punting until Marshall comes."

Rodrigo Blankenship and William Ham will be competing at kicker this spring.

“We’re going to give these guys every opportunity to be involved, to do the job and then we’re going to challenge them hopefully in the fall with some guys we bring in. That’s the direction we’re headed.”

Ramsey will be pulled away from the quarterbacks for just one practice period to work on punting, Smart said.

Trump, Kasich victorious, while Rubio quits; Clinton wins 3

By: Julie Pace and Thomas Beaumont, The Augusta Chronicle

CLEVELAND — Hillary Clinton triumphed Tuesday in the Florida, Ohio and North Carolina presidential primaries, putting her in a commanding position to become the first woman in U.S. history to win a major party nomination. Donald Trump strengthened his hand in the Republican race with a big win in Florida but fell in Ohio to that state’s governor, John Kasich.

Florida Sen. Marco Rubio ended his once-promising campaign after his devastating home-state loss, so the GOP primary is now down to three candidates: Trump, Kasich and Texas Sen. Ted Cruz.

Trump also picked up wins in North Carolina and Illinois, and was locked in a close race with Cruz in Missouri.

The billionaire businessman told a victory rally, “This was an amazing night.”

Trump is the only Republican candidate with a realistic path to the 1,237 delegates needed to clinch the nomination before the July convention. But his loss in Ohio kept hope alive for mainstream Republicans dismayed by his candidacy and suggesting the real estate mogul can still be stopped in a convention fight.

“The campaign goes on,” Kasich declared at a victory rally. Now thrust into the center of a campaign that has been biting personal, Kasich vowed to “not take the low road to the highest office in the land.”

A confident Clinton pivoted quickly to November during her victory rally, assailing Trump’s hardline immigration positions and support for torture.

“Our commander-in-chief has to be able to defend our country, not embarrass it,” she declared.

Underscoring Republican concerns about Trump, Rubio focused heavily on an implicit critique of Trump in a speech announcing he was dropping out of the race. The senator urged Americans to “not give in to the fear, do not give in to the frustration.”

A favorite of Republican leaders, Rubio is the latest candidate to fall victim to an unpredictable election cycle and Trump’s unmatched ability to tap into the public’s anger with Washington and frustration with sweeping economic changes.

Clinton’s victories in Ohio and Florida were a blow to rival Bernie Sanders and bolstered her argument that she’s the best Democratic candidate to take on the eventual Republican nominee in the general election. Her win in Ohio was a particular relief for her campaign, which grew anxious after Sanders pulled off a surprising win last week in Michigan, another important Midwestern state.

Clinton kept up her large margins with black voters, a crucial group for Democrats in the general election. Democratic voters were more likely to describe Sanders as honest but more likely to describe Clinton's policies as realistic, according to exit polls.

Campaigning Tuesday in North Carolina, Clinton said "the numbers are adding up in my favor." She signaled an eagerness to move on to a possible general election showdown with Trump, saying he's laid out a "really dangerous path" for the country.

Votes were also being counted Tuesday in Missouri, though races in both parties were too close to call. Sanders and Clinton were locked in a close contest in Illinois.

Trump entered Tuesday's primaries embroiled in one of the biggest controversies of his contentious campaign. The GOP front-runner has encouraged supporters to confront protesters at his events and is now facing accusations of encouraging violence after skirmishes at a rally last week in Chicago.

The atmosphere at his events has deepened the concern over his candidacy in some Republican circles. Rubio and Kasich have suggested they might not be able to support Trump if he's the nominee, an extraordinary stance for intraparty rivals.

His closest competition so far has come from Cruz, who has kept relatively close to the businessman in the delegate count and has been urging other candidates to drop out so he can take Trump on one-on-one.

After another good night for Trump, some Republicans were struggling to come to grips with the prospect of him becoming the nominee and desperate to find long-shot ways to stop him.

A group of conservatives planned to meet Thursday to discuss options including a contested convention or by rallying around a third-party candidate. While such no candidate has been identified, meeting participants planned to discuss ballot access issues, including using an existing third party as a vehicle or securing signatures for an independent bid.

House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., did not rule out the idea of being drafted by the party at the convention.

"People say, 'What about the contested convention?'" Ryan said in an interview with CNBC. "I say, well, there are a lot of people running for president. We'll see. Who knows?"

Despite concerns from party leaders, Republican voters continue to back Trump's most controversial proposals, with two-thirds of those who participated in GOP primaries Tuesday saying they support temporarily banning Muslims from the United States.

The exit polls were conducted by Edison Research for The Associated Press and television networks.

Trump's Florida victory brought his delegate total to 619. Cruz has 394 and Kasich 136. Rubio left the race with 167 delegates.

Clinton has at least 1,488 delegates, including the superdelegates who are elected officials and party leaders free to support the candidate of their choice. Sanders has at least 704. It takes 2,383 to win the Democratic nomination.

Lakeview junior Samantha Simonton seeks Olympic spot in shooting

By: Ron Bridgeman, Gainesville Times

Samantha Simonton shot her first deer a month before she was 8 — in part because she wanted to “beat” a buddy of hers who had killed his first deer when he was 8.

“When I first picked up a shotgun, I hated it. I hated it because I sucked at it,” she said bluntly.

In May she will seek to qualify for the final spot on the U.S. Olympic shooting team.

Simonton is a junior at Lakeview Academy, and one determined girl. She will shoot in Nicosia, Cyprus, at the International Shooting Sport Federation World Cup Shotgun to add more points toward her Olympic team qualification score.

She also will compete at the ISSF Junior World Cup rifle, pistol, shotgun in Suhl, Germany, in late April.

Simonton is one of three girls on the U.S. team for the event. She ranks No. 2 among the junior girls in the country.

“I’ve always liked challenges. I’ve always wanted to be the best I can be,” she said calmly. “I want to be my own boss. I want to call my own shots.”

Simonton has been the Georgia girls’ state champion in skeet shooting for three straight years.

At the Georgia Independent School Association state championships in Savannah this past fall, she was the highest overall girl scorer and state champion in skeet, sporting clays and trap shooting. She also was first team all-state.

She plans to attend the University of Georgia after high school and become a surgeon.

Her parents, Mary Alice and Fred Simonton, are an anesthetist and surgeon, respectively.

She began shooting international skeet in January 2015.

The international skeet competition is “almost twice as fast” as American skeet, Simonton said.

“It’s a whole lot harder,” she said.

Competitors start with the gun low and may have up to a three-second delay from the time they call “pull” until the target comes out.

The height above sea level, the wind and rain can all be factors. She noted Colorado Springs, Colo., is 9,000 feet above sea level. Watkinsville, where she practices regularly, is about 900 feet.

She expects to be the youngest competitor at the Olympic Trials — she was 16 in December and is preparing for her driver’s license test this week.

She said one girl is six months older, but she has been competing for five years.

Simonton said she recognizes the odds are long she will make the Olympic team.

“It’s slim to none that I’ll make the Olympic team, but the fact that I’m that close...” Samantha said. “2020 is my goal. That’s what I’ve written down.”

In international competition, she shoots three rounds of 25 targets each — a total of 75.

“I shot a 71 yesterday,” Simonton said, “in the wind.”

At the Olympic Trials, which will be in Tiller, Ark., she explained competitors will shoot two rounds — each 125 targets.

Samantha practices in Watkinsville, where her family has set up a range.

She also trains with Craig Hancock at Hancock Shooting Academy, outside Eatonton. He is the father of Vince Hancock, two-time men’s Olympic champion.

She shoots in Eatonton nearly every weekend, she said.

She said she shoots “at least” a case of shells a day — about 10 rounds.

“It’s kind of like shooting free throws — get your reps in,” she said.

In addition to traveling to Europe, Simonton covered much of the U.S. in the summer of 2015. She said she was in 26 states.

“I came home four days,” she said.

Simonton said shooting is mostly mental.

“Anybody can lift a 7-pound gun hundreds of times a day,” she said.

Focusing on the process is the critical part, she said.

She said she can see the target spin — “I can count the ridges on it.”

Simonton said, “I just get intense and everything else goes away.”

Trendsetters: The Return of the Oyster

By: Christy Simo, Georgia Trend

If you’ve perused a restaurant menu lately looking for Georgia-grown oysters, you’ve been out of luck. But now, thanks to the University of Georgia Marine Extension Service, local oysters on the half-shell will be a reality by next winter.

“Everybody is trying to get back in touch with where their food comes from,” says Tom Bliss, director of the extension’s Shellfish Research Lab, which has found a way at its Skidaway Institute to convince local oysters that usually attach to each other in clusters to go it alone. “We get calls from restaurants wanting to know where they can find Georgia oysters.”

Wild oysters grow throughout 157,000 acres of intertidal saltwater marshes along the coast. The Georgia Department of Natural Resources limits harvesting of wild bivalves to fewer than 20 licensed oystermen to maintain quality. The oyster shells vary in size and are hard and brittle, so while they are often sold locally for private roasts, restaurants don’t typically put them on the menu.

“People in the coastal area just love their clumped oysters, but being able to provide single oysters opens up additional markets for our growers,” Bliss says.

Oysters are nothing new here; in fact, the state was a hotbed of oyster cultivation in the early 1900s. Back then, canned oysters were hugely popular, and the state harvested more oyster meat than anywhere else in the country – some 8 million pounds a year.

However, there were no regulations on the industry, so in the attempt to meet diners' appetites, local oysters were plucked from the water one too many times and the industry dried up.

"They did overharvest certain areas, and then interest in canned oysters started to tail off. So it was a two-fold thing," Bliss says. By the 1960s, the last of the shucking houses along the Georgia coast were gone.

Off the coast of Skidaway Island, researchers have now established a hatchery that "sets" oyster larvae – called spat – so that they will grow one by one rather than in clumps. Then researchers give them to local oystermen, who carefully tend their crops for the next 15 months before harvesting and selling them to seafood distributors. In return, the oystermen share their experiences and data with the scientists to continue to perfect the system.

"It takes more labor to [grow single oysters], but the value of the oyster goes up considerably," Bliss says. While wild oysters sell for \$35 to \$60 for a bag of several hundred, a single oyster can be sold for anywhere between 35 cents and \$1.

This year, the hatchery provided 300,000 to 600,000 spat. By 2018, when the hatchery is well established, it will be producing between 5 million and 6 million spat per year – about \$1.6 million worth. Eventually, the hope is that a commercial hatchery will set up shop and grow the industry to an even larger capacity.

Much like the way the dirt grapevines are grown in affects the flavor of a wine, how oysters taste is in part determined by the water they live in.

So while Moon Shoals oysters grown along Cape Cod have a citrusy, almost vanilla-like flavor and Miyagi oysters from the West Coast have a buttery and mineral taste, Georgia's oysters tend to be salty and almost sweet with what some locals describe as a hint of lemongrass.

"Oysters take on the flavors of the waters that they're in, and Georgia oysters are always a little bit saltier," Bliss says, adding that the single oysters can be sold far beyond Georgia's state lines. "There's a lot of people who like tasting that regional difference. Some of the higher-end raw bars, they might carry 12 varieties and each one is from a different location."

When Dave Snyder, owner and executive chef of St. Simons Island restaurants Halyards and Tramici, is asked if he would put single Georgia oysters on the half-shell on his menu, his reply is an enthusiastic "Heck yeah.

"There's nothing comparable when you have something coming out of the ocean that's only one or two days old," Snyder says. "That's worth paying for." – *Christy Simo*

No backpacks allowed at Chamblee High School while Police continue investigating threats of violence

By: Brookhaven Post

Chamblee, GA, March 14, 2016 – The Post Reports – In an abundance of caution, Chamblee Charter High School (CCHS) will not allow students to carry backpacks on campus while DeKalb Schools Police continue their investigation into social media threats and vandalism on the school.

“We continue to interface with law enforcement regarding the ongoing investigation into the anonymous threats towards our school that emerged on March 4 and March 7, 2016, via bathroom vandalism and social media outlets,” CCHS Principal, Dr. Norman Sauce wrote in a letter to the school community.

“The person/s responsible will be held accountable to the highest extent of the law.”

On March 4th and 7th, images emerged on social media and messages were scrawled on walls in a school restroom threatening violence. This prompted School Administrators to ask the community last week to have their students keep backpacks and larger purses and bags at home last week. This week, that “ban” continues.

“Students will not be permitted to bring backpacks to school during the week of March 14, 2016,” Dr. Sauce says. “We will continue to monitor the situation and make a determination at a later date on the feasibility of backpacks at school beyond the week of March 14, 2016.”

Other precautions include:

- Student-athletes who have athletic equipment in athletic bags may check their athletic bags in at the main office lobby as they arrive to school, and retrieve them at the end of the day
- Student-musicians may bring their instruments to the band/orchestra room at the beginning of the school day
- Students may carry purses/personal item bags at school as long as they are small enough that a standard-sized text-book COULD NOT fit inside their purse/personal item bag. Any purse large enough to fit a textbook-sized item will not be permitted permanently at Chamblee Charter High School

“We expect additional law enforcement personnel to be visible at Chamblee Charter High School this week, and as needed,” Dr. Sauce continues. “Going forward, School Administrators will partner with law enforcement to conduct random canine searches on campus.”

The school says they will continue to remind students and staff of school-wide safety procedures and expectations. “We have made some adjustments to our safety and supervision practices within the building during the school day,” says Dr. Sauce. “We continue to request students and staff to report any suspicious activity or behavior whatsoever to an administrator or other staff member.”

School Administrators say they will remain aware and cognizant of their surroundings as the school continues to engage in normal teaching and learning practices.

“We are proud of the high quality learning environment and positive school climate we have at Chamblee Charter High School,” Dr. Sauce explains. “We maintain high expectations of conduct,

character, and achievement. These added measures only serve to enhance those outcomes. We will keep the school community apprised of any new information that emerges related to these and other matters.”

The school says they will continue updating the school community on the possibility of students bringing backpacks to school after the week of March 14, 2016, later this week.

“As always, we have no greater priority than the safety of our students and staff. Thank you for your support of Chamblee Charter High School,” Dr. Sauce adds.

Baywatch needs Savannah moms, hippies, servers, circus folk, more for roles in movie

By: Josh Rayburn, Savannah Morning News

Rose Locke Casting, heading up the casting of local extras for the “Baywatch” movie, has released a list of more than 20 different types of people they need to fill roles in the film.

Tops on their list are Kitchen Staff/Servers (men and women between the ages of 18 and the 40s) and Delivery Workers (men only, between the ages of 18 and 40s). The roles will work this Friday in Savannah.

Business people, joggers, stroller moms and someone with a baby face are needed for work on Monday.

If you are available, then please email Beach@RoseLockeCasting.com

Include 3 pics (head, body and profile) along with your age, height, weight and all contact info. Use the appropriate SUBJECT. Please include any experience with the role.

Get information on all the roles [HERE](#)

Other roles they are looking to fill include:

- * Lifeguards
- * Surfers
- * Fishermen
- * Bicyclists
- * Frisbee Players
- * Hippies
- * Police/Military
- * Experienced Swimmers
- * Coast Guard

- * Stand Up Paddle Boarders
- * Brazilian Drum Group
- * Yoga Women
- * Beach Volleyball Players
- * More Beach Bodies (Previous casting call slideshow #1; slideshow #2)
- * Mimes, Jugglers, Circus Folk

“Baywatch” is currently filming in Savannah and on Tybee Island. Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson, Zac Efron, Priyanka Chopra and Kelly Rohrbach star in the film that is set to be released May 19, 2017.

Tip Sheet: A fireworks bill turned into a last-minute chance for MARTA rail expansion

By: Jim Galloway, AJC

It’s Day 38 of the 40-day legislative session. There’s plenty of huddling going in the chambers and hallways. Last-ditch efforts are being made, and the tradition of “Christmas tree” bills is back. (Remember the name comes from the fact that other bills can hang on them.)

Both the House and Senate convene at 10 a.m.

The Senate has on the calendar a boat-load of bills, including HB 238. That bill has become a vehicle for Senate Finance Committee chair Judson Hill’s big income tax plan. A resolution has already been approved for a related constitutional amendment this fall,

The goal of Hill’s proposal would be to cut the state maximum income tax rate from 6 percent to 5.8 percent over a few years if revenue continues to rise and the state has 8 percent of the previous year’s tax collections in reserve. That amounts to about \$1.9 billion.

But the real bill to watch will be SB 369, a former fireworks bill that has become the repository for House Speaker pro tem Jan Jones’ effort to resolve the rail/road debate that separates north Fulton from much of the rest of the county.

The Milton lawmaker says she hopes to have the re-fashioned bill on the House floor today.

On This Day in History: March 16th

March 16, 1976

Jimmy Carter Won Illinois Primary

Jimmy Carter’s presidential race was buoyed with a decisive victory in the Illinois Democratic Primary, proving to be his largest win to date in the 1976 presidential primary campaign.

Legislative Session Day Number: 38

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Subject: June is National GLBT Pride Month | Save 25% off Transgender Persons and the Law, 2E

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Protection Under the Law

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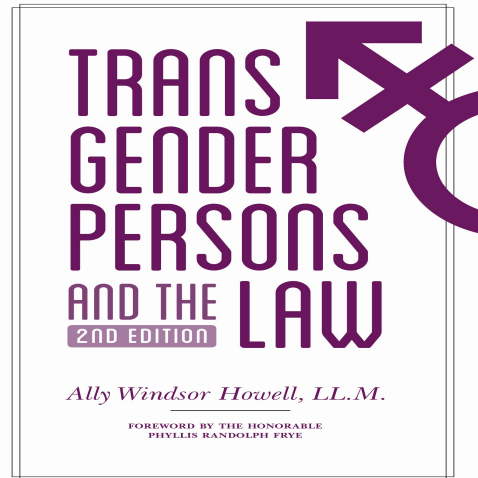
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- Identification documentation
- **Public facilities accommodations**
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Transgender Persons and the Law, 2E

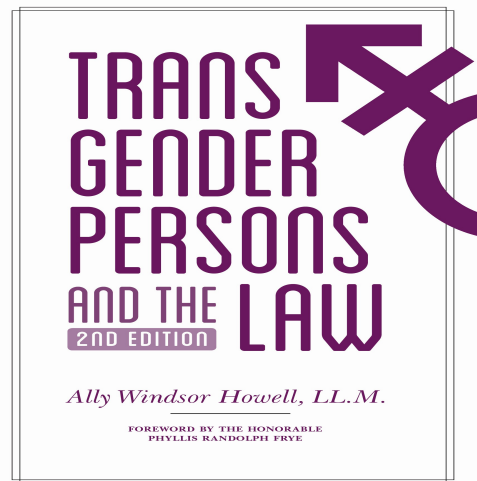
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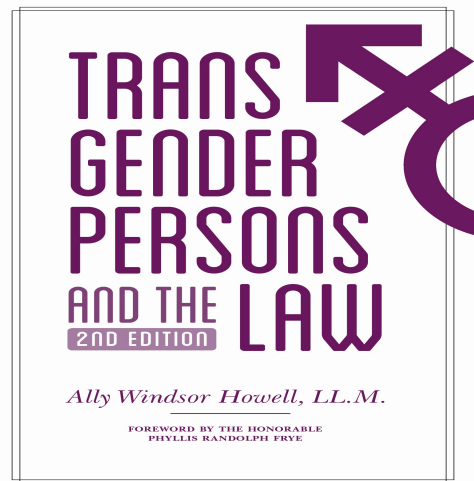
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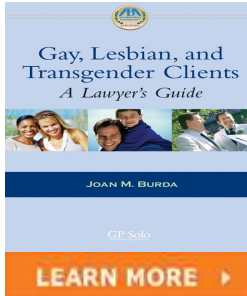
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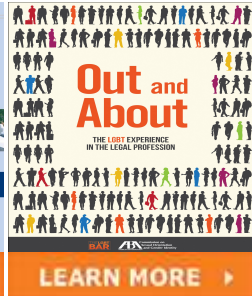
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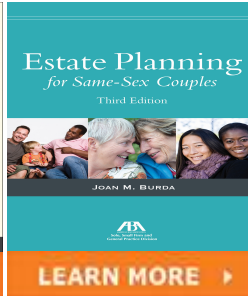
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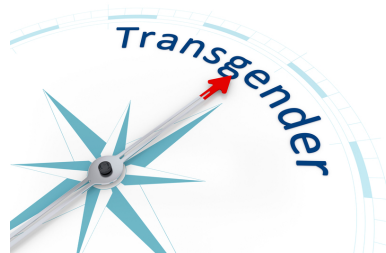
Do You Have a Plan for Employees in Gender Transition?

By Kate McGovern Tornone

Topic: [HR Policies & Procedures](#)

Employers that create a support plan in the event that employees begin transitioning their gender can benefit by being ahead of the curve. Playing catchup reactively can cost you in a discrimination lawsuit or make things more difficult than they need to be.

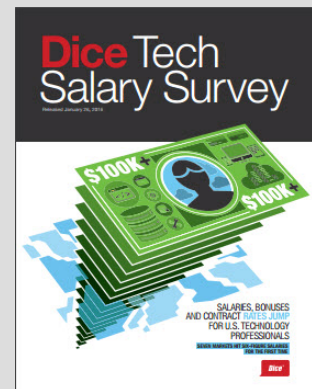
Eva Breslin and Keith Epstein of Intel shared the company's experience with assisting its transgender workers; it has about four to six employees transition per year, they said. Their presentation, given June 21 at the SHRM event in Washington, D.C., also offered best practices for ensuring that employees have the support they need.



Make a Plan Now

Breslin and Epstein recommended that employers get a plan in place now instead of waiting for employees to announce their plan to transition.

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They said Intel lost time by trying to figure out how to approach the situation every time an employee came to them. Both the company and the employee were unsure where and how to begin the process.

Now, Intel has formed a support team that includes human resources, legal, managers, and other transgender employees, among other participants.

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Initial Steps

Once an employee informs the employer that he or she intends to transition, the team can establish a timeline, draft a communication plan, and identify “back-office” changes that need to be made.

Timeline: The first thing the team should do is establish a timeline that works for both the employee and the employer.

Generally, when employees inform the employer about an upcoming transition, they're ready to make the change, Breslin and Epstein said. But the company needs time to ensure the workplace transition is successful and that the employees receive the best response possible, the speakers said.

Also, an employee may want to take time off and then return to work. Intel offered the example of an employee who requested permission to work from home while he grew out his facial hair. He was uncomfortable with dressing as a woman while growing a beard and Intel chose to grant that request.

Communication plan: The team's next step is to draft a communication plan. The Intel representatives said they generally defer to employees' preferences. Some individuals want to inform their work group themselves because they want to gauge reactions. Others have opted to stay out of the meeting so that coworkers can ask questions without them present. Alternatively, the employee may wish to inform coworkers on an individual basis.

If the employee is making the announcement, either in person or via e-mail, it is important that the employer know in advance what information the employee intends to share. The speakers offered the example of an employee who drafted an e-mail that happened to disclose a medical condition. In that case, you need to work with the employee; you probably don't want a medical condition disclosed in an e-mail announcement, they said.

The team—and HR specifically—also needs to ensure that managers react appropriately. A seasoned manager may not need any coaching ahead of time. But if you're dealing with someone who is new and/or inexperienced, HR may want to take that manager aside and provide him or her with relevant company policies. You need to ensure they understand your expectations and have the opportunity to ask questions, Breslin and Epstein said.

It also is important to consider the employee's preference with respect to customers and employees outside his or her immediate work group. An e-mail or a telephone conversation may be appropriate in those cases.

Crafting an individual communication plan each time an employee transitions may take

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some time but it will be worth it; taking the time to fine tune the plan will set you up for success, the speakers said.

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Back-office changes: Intel's support team also assigns transitioning employees a representative to help navigate all of the "back-office" changes that need to take place.

A transition involves a lot of paperwork and coordination among various departments. An employee may need to change his or her e-mail address, identification badge, benefits, and more. Intel also offers to amend archived information; for example, it will go back and change names and pronouns in old performance reviews. Breslin and Epstein acknowledged that such a task involves a lot of work, but they said that Intel believes it is important to do.

Intel also set up a section on its intranet called "Gender Transition" to help employees complete these changes. It is housed with other "Life Events" such adding or dropping dependent benefits coverage or changing names or addresses.

Tomorrow, we'll look at how to prepare for pushback and the benefits of staying in touch. Plus, an introduction to HR.BLR.com.

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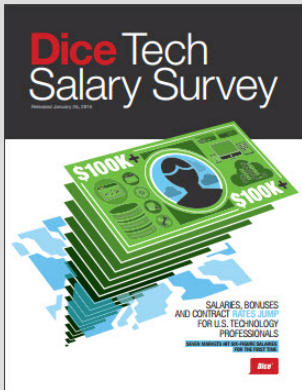
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To: Broce, Candice
Subject: [QUAR][MKTG] Voter ID and Mandatory Voter Registration Update October 7
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Friday Voter ID and MVR Update

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WEEKLY SPOTLIGHT

In a special America’s Town Hall at the Chicago Cultural Center in Chicago, Illinois, debaters tackle the issue of voter identification requirements. [T]he participants: Atiba Ellis of the West Virginia University College of Law, and Hans von Spakovsky of the Heritage Foundation. The moderator is Jeffrey Rosen, president and CEO of the National Constitution Center.

The live audience voted before and after the debate on this motion:

“Resolved: State voter ID laws are unconstitutional.” Before the debate, 53% voted in favor, 47% against; after, 46% voted in favor, 54% against. Hans von Spakovksy, arguing against the motion, was declared the winner, with a 7% shift in his favor.

[*Video: Are state voter ID laws unconstitutional?*](#)

VOTER ID - NATIONAL

Marc Elias, a partner at the Washington D.C.-based law firm Perkins Coie, originally filed the lawsuit against Wisconsin's voter ID law on behalf of the One Wisconsin Institute in 2015. Elias is Hillary Clinton's top campaign lawyer and has led the push challenging voter ID laws in numerous states. Elias is working on the challenges in his capacity as an attorney at Perkins Coie and separately of the Clinton campaign, although the Clinton campaign has publicly backed the effort.

[*Top Clinton Lawyer Quietly Continues Voter ID Challenges Before Election Day*](#)

“A transgender voter may show up at the poll with a valid ID, however if they have not been able to update the gender marker or photo on that ID, a poll worker may be confused and refuse them a ballot,” said Arli Christian, spokeswoman for the National Center for Transgender Equality (NCTE).

[*Voter ID Laws May Keep Transgender Voters From The Polls*](#)

VOTER ID - STATES

KANSAS

A U.S. appeals court has upheld a lower court ruling requiring Kansas to allow thousands of people who registered to vote at motor vehicle offices to stay on election rolls, despite not showing proof of citizenship as mandated by a state law.

[*Appeals court says U.S. 'motor voter' law preempts Kansas ID rules*](#)

Thousands of prospective voters in Kansas who did not provide citizenship documents will be able to vote in the November election under a federal appeals court ruling late Friday that upheld a judge's order.

[*Appeals court rules against Kansas in voting rights case*](#)

MISSOURI

A “yes” vote will amend the Missouri Constitution to state that voters may be required by law to verify their identity, citizenship, and residence by presenting identification that may include valid government-issued photo identification. Exceptions to this identification requirement may also be provided by law. A “no” vote will not amend the Missouri Constitution regarding elections.

[*Voter ID On The Ballot This November in Missouri \[Auto-play video\]*](#)

“There’s an entire political party that wants to shatter the Missouri Constitution.” — Robin Smith, the Democratic candidate for Missouri secretary of state, talking about the Republicans and their interest in passing a constitutional amendment requiring that voters show a photo ID before casting ballots.

Smith said she would talk to her lawyers about pursuing legal action against the proposal if it passes and she becomes secretary of state.

[*TheChat: Democratic candidate says the GOP seeks to ‘shatter’ the Missouri Constitution*](#)

Ashcroft pushed back against the largely Democratic contention that a recently-passed photo identification requirement to vote would disenfranchise 200,000 Missourians who lack the government-issued ID mandated by the state law. The law will go into effect only if voters approve a constitutional amendment authorizing such a measure.

[*Politically Speaking: Jay Ashcroft gears up for secretary of state general election*](#)

NEW MEXICO

I support Voter ID. It's common sense. The U.S. is almost alone in the world in not requiring ID to safeguard the most sacred component of representative democracy. Opposition to ID is a fake issue developed by "progressives" like George Soros — and his clients, like my opponent — to make this into a wedge issue. My opponent belittles and insults Hispanics and minorities by saying they don't have the intelligence or ability to get an ID.

[*Secretary of State \(R\) – Nora Espinoza*](#)

I will support any legislation that improves the security and integrity of our elections, but not at the expense of diminishing access to the polls or restricting the right to vote. I support our current identification law and will work closely with the Legislature to make improvements as necessary to meet the needs of voters in New Mexico.

[*Secretary of State \(D\) – Maggie Toulouse Oliver*](#)

TEXAS

Voters who possess photo identification still need to show it when casting a ballot, but those without it still can vote. He said if a voter has one of the seven accepted forms of photo identification, then nothing changes. Those forms are: a state driver's license or ID card, a concealed handgun license, a U.S. passport, a military ID card, a U.S. citizenship certificate or an election identification certificate. If somebody cannot "reasonably obtain" one of these seven forms of ID, they now have an option to sign what's called a declaration of reasonable impediment, or affidavit, and check off why one of the photo ID's wasn't obtained.

[*Texas Secretary of State Explains Voter ID, Encourages Turnout in*](#)

[November Election](#)

Texas Secretary of State Carlos H. Cascos visited the Wichita County Courthouse Tuesday morning with a simple message — voting during this coming election is easier and more important than ever before.

Cascos and a handful of his staff have spent the past year promoting voting information. They will continue to tour the state through Election Day, Nov. 8. He especially wants to inform people about new voter ID laws.

[Texas Secretary of State visits Wichita County, discusses voter ID](#)

This election, voters can use seven forms of photo IDs. However, if a registered voter can't obtain any of those, they have to execute a reasonable impediment declaration and present other forms of identification.

[Officials prepare for Election Day](#) [Auto-play video]

It's going to be easier for some populations to vote this year because of recent court-ordered changes to the voter ID law. One group is the state's homeless population, which typically faces many hurdles casting a ballot.

[What It's Like To Vote If You Don't Have An Address](#)

WASHINGTON

That's why [Snohomish County auditor Carolyn] Weikel backs Secretary of State Kim Wyman's call for Washington to comply with a federal law known as REAL ID that requires state-issued driver's licenses and identification cards have security enhancements and be given to those who can prove they're legally in the United States.

Washington is the only state where one can get a standard driver's license or I.D. card without showing proof of legal presence in the U.S.

[County auditor backs call for proof of citizenship for voters](#)

WISCONSIN

A federal judge will consider next week a request to temporarily block Wisconsin's voter ID law following reports that the state may have violated a previous court order related to the administration of free identification cards. U.S. District Judge James Peterson has scheduled a hearing for Oct. 12 to consider a motion filed late Tuesday by the liberal group One Wisconsin Institute.

[Federal judge to consider request to suspend Wisconsin's voter ID law next week](#)

Gov. Scott Walker says the state Department of Justice found problems with how Wisconsin's voter ID law was being administered during spot checks at Division of Motor Vehicle driver's license stations.

Walker said Friday that the DOJ "had concerns" with what they found, but that the DMV has responded. He did not specify what those concerns were.

[Wisconsin governor: Voter ID issues found at DMV offices](#)

A federal judge on Friday ordered the state to investigate an incident in which a voter received incorrect information on getting an ID from three Division of Motor Vehicle workers, saying the state may have violated an order he issued in July.

[Judge orders DMV to investigate voter ID incident](#)

"This evidence makes clear that the State does not have — and is incapable of implementing — a functioning safety net for its strict voter ID law," they wrote in their motion asking Peterson to block voter ID. But Peterson upheld

Wisconsin's voter ID law in an earlier court decision this summer, and court watchers suggest he probably won't reverse course now.

[*Experts Say Judge "Unlikely" To Change Voter ID Law This Close To Election*](#)

Democratic lawmakers in Wisconsin are asking the U.S. Department of Justice to investigate reports that Division of Motor Vehicles employees gave inaccurate information to would-be voters seeking identification cards.

"With less than 35 days until the election, we are requesting that your department immediately investigate these claims and, if merited, take appropriate legal action to ensure Wisconsin electors hoping to vote in the upcoming election are able to do so," reads a letter to U.S. Attorney General Loretta Lynch signed by 28 Assembly Democrats.

[*Wisconsin Democratic lawmakers request federal investigation of voter ID implementation*](#)

Wisconsin Department of Transportation officials told state lawmakers Tuesday they're training employees in response to reports that they misinformed people seeking voter IDs at Division of Motor Vehicles locations throughout the state.

It was the latest effort by Gov. Scott Walker's administration to assure lawmakers and the public that no one who's eligible to vote will be barred from doing so because of the state's voter ID requirement.

[*DOT brass defend voter ID process amid reports DMVs gave false info*](#)

Workers at seven Division of Motor Vehicles stations across Wisconsin provided inaccurate or incomplete information about the availability of IDs for voting, newly released recordings show.

[DMV workers at 7 more stations give wrong voter ID info](#)

Lashing out at Gov. Scott Walker and other Republicans, U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders said Congress should strengthen voting rights in response to voter ID laws passed in Wisconsin and other states in recent years.

[Sanders hits Walker on voter ID](#)

The Dane County Clerk's office and the University of Wisconsin Political Science Department are partnering up to conduct the study. The goal is to find out who is most affected by new voter ID Laws and who will need additional help getting to polling locations, McDonnell said. The study will focus on non-voter and student voting experiences.

[UW Study Hopes To Find Effect of Wisconsin Voter ID Laws](#)

MANDATORY VOTER REGISTRATION - STATES

ALASKA

In Alaska right now, if you decide that you want to participate in an election within 30 days, it's too late. You've missed your chance to vote in that election," said Heckendorn. "In a world of PFD [Alaska Permanent Fund dividend application] automatic voter registration — Ballot Measure 1 — that problem goes away. People will be registered as a result of their PFD application."

[Alaska Voter Registration Deadline Fast Approaching Amid Efforts To Simplify Process](#)

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

[D.C. Council member Charles] Allen, a Democrat representing Ward 6, is the author of "The Automatic Voter Registration Amendment Act of 2015,"

which automatically registers residents to vote when they fill out an application for identification at the D.C. Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). Allen said this legislation, if it becomes law, will make it easier for District residents to have the chance to cast a ballot.

[*Allen Pushes Automatic Voter Registration Through DMV*](#)

INDIANA

The Indiana Democratic Candidate for Governor has promised to push for automatic mandatory voter registration. Past legislation has failed in the Indiana legislature.

[*Automatic Mandatory Registration Becomes Issue in Indiana Governor's Race*](#)

MONTANA

Secretary of State Linda McCulloch is asking state lawmakers to pass an automatic voter registration bill in the next legislative session.

[*Secretary of state calls for automatic voter registration*](#)

She said the state also lacks automatic voter registration, the system that allows people with driver's licenses who are eligible to vote to be placed automatically on the voter rolls.

[*MT Secretary of State: Registering to Vote Could be Easier*](#)

WASHINGTON

Secretary of State Kim Wyman and county election officials are calling for citizenship checks and automatic voter registration in light of questions raised earlier this week about the citizenship and voting record of Cascade Mall shooting suspect Arcan Cetin.

[Secretary of State proposes citizenship checks, automatic voter registration](#)

[Auto-play video]

Wyman, joined by county election leaders, announced the proposal in Spokane. The package would also allow for automatic voter registration for people who present citizen verification when they get their license, as is done in Oregon.

Voters in Washington would be able to opt out of automatic registration under the proposal. Wyman called her proposal “long overdue.”

[Citizen check proposed for Washington voter registration](#)

Compiled by Janelle Reid 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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From: Lawyers Democracy Fund <info=lawyersdemocracyfund.org@mail44.atl91.mcsv.net> on behalf of Lawyers Democracy Fund <info@lawyersdemocracyfund.org>
Sent: Friday, October 14, 2016 4:58 PM
To: Broce, Candice
Subject: [QUAR][MKTG] Voter ID and Mandatory Voter Registration Update October 14
Importance: Low

Friday Voter ID Update

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WEEKLY SPOTLIGHT

Not realizing he was being recorded, he broke with his own party's position that voter ID requirements hurt the poor and minorities.

[Democrat Board of Elections Commissioner Alan] Schulkin said he backed the IDs to prevent rampant fraud. . . . The videographer asked point-blank, "You think they should have voter ID in New York?"

Schulkin responded, "Voters? Yeah, they should ask for your ID. I think there is a lot of voter fraud."

[*Elections official caught on video blasting de Blasio's ID program*](#)

VOTER ID - NATIONAL

Shirley Anne Conners, aka Faragalli, was arrested last week. A Canadian citizen living in this country illegally, she had voted in more than 20 elections

— including the April presidential primary in New York.

She could not have done that if New York had in place common sense election integrity measures such as requiring photo ID for in-person and absentee voting and citizenship verification for those registering to vote. Absent such protections, your vote can be easily voided — and elections stolen — by illegal votes.

[The war on election integrity](#)

Last month in Virginia, for instance, a James Madison University student and Democratic activist named Andrew Spieles admitted to filling out voter registration forms for deceased people to register them as Democrats. A nonpartisan group following up on Spieles' case found that eight counties in Virginia had registered more than 1,000 noncitizens for voting. It's illegal for people who aren't American citizens to vote. . . .

Many want to dismiss these cases as overblown. Consider the cavalier attitude of Virginia House Minority Leader David Toscana, a Democrat, who maintained of Spieles, "There was no voter fraud — they caught him." Voter fraud may not be as widespread as some conservatives who have pushed for more restrictive voter identification laws claim, but that doesn't mean we should not be vigilant in preventing it.

[Editorial: It's important to maintain the integrity of our elections](#)

VOTER ID - STATES

INDIANA

Indiana law requires voters to show government-issued identification, such as a driver's license, at the polls. But some transgender people may have names, genders or photos on their IDs that don't match their gender identity. In other words, they may look different from the photo on their ID, or they may go by

a different name.

[*Indiana voter ID law may pose obstacle for transgender people*](#)

IOWA

In a Sept. 22 editorial, The Sioux City Journal editorial board called for Iowa to pass a voter ID law. While we're sure that the editorial was written with the best of intentions, it was simply wrong about voter ID. Voter ID would be a disaster for Iowa.

[*OTHER VOICES: Voter ID would be 'a disaster' for Iowa*](#)

KANSAS

A federal court clerk entered a default judgment Tuesday against Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach for failing to file a timely response to a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of a state law requiring prospective voters to prove they are U.S. citizens.

Late Tuesday, an attorney for Kobach filed a formal answer, but it's not clear whether U.S. District Judge Julie Robinson will accept Kobach's filing.

Attorneys challenging the law's constitutionality said judges often do.

If the judgment stands it would apply to all voters in all federal, state and local elections — effectively ending the state's proof-of-citizenship requirement.

[*Kobach files answer after court enters default judgment in Kansas voting rights case*](#)

MISSOURI

"You can't cash a check without an ID," said Missouri Rep. Shamed Dogan, a Republican from Ballwin. "You can't fly on a plane without an ID. So, this will help to bring these people into the mainstream of society." . . .

"What's really unique about Missouri is that it not only provides for a state-issued photo ID that the state will pay for," Dogan said. "But it also provides for underlying documents like birth certificates, marriage licenses, all those other types of identity documents you need to get an ID, which is really helpful for the people who don't have those documents right now because they're not participating fully in our society."

[Missouri GOP Says Voter ID Plan Is Generous; Activists Disagree \[Autoplay video\]](#)

Berry, like many proponents of voter ID, said showing a photo ID is necessary for other things and the requirement should be applied to voting. "The goal here is integrity of our system," Berry said. "We have got to have that because our right to vote is so precious, and showing an ID is something we do all the time. You have to show an ID to cash a check, et cetera."

[Voter ID amendment debated at Columbia forum](#)

The forum began with two presentations about Constitutional Amendment 6, which would require voters to present a photo ID at polling places. The legislature overrode Gov. Jay Nixon's veto of the bill in September, and the bill will go to voters on the Nov. 8 ballot.

Fred Berry, president of the Columbia Pachyderm Club, spoke in favor of the amendment, while Brian Smith from the Missouri Rural Crisis Center spoke against the amendment.

[Voter ID, ethics reform, LGBTQ rights focus of League of Women Voters forum](#)

With only a few weeks left before the Nov. 8 general election, opponents to a voter ID amendment are ramping up appeals to voters they hope will reject

the proposal.

[*Groups opposing voter ID amendment team up to relay concerns to Missouri voters*](#)

[AARP believes] that requiring such identification would create unnecessary and costly burdens for more than 200,000 older voters, people of color, people with disabilities, young people, those who frequently move, individuals with a low-income and persons in large households. To disenfranchise people from exercising their voting rights upends the political system.

[*Voter ID Issue on Nov. 8 Ballot Step Backward For State of Missouri*](#)

NEW YORK

City Council Member Joe Borelli, one of three Republicans in the 51-seat City Council, on Tuesday called for a hearing on voter fraud and said that he supports a statewide voter identification law to combat potential fraud.

Borelli's calls came after the release of a secretly-recorded video that showed a Democratic Commissioner for the city Board of Elections claiming significant voting fraud and criticizing the city's municipal identification program for contributing to it.

[*Election Commissioner's Rant Prompts Dispute Over IDNYC and Voter ID in New York*](#)

OREGON

Avakian, saying there was little voter fraud in Oregon, emphasized breaking down "barriers" to participating in elections and criticized Richardson for proposing laws as a state legislator that would require people to present "burdensome" documents to be able to cast a vote. . . .

Richardson, said that a decade ago the Legislature fixed the “underlying problem” by requiring proof of legal residency to obtain a state driver’s license. The Republican said he wanted to “restore” trust in the state’s election system.

[*Secretary of state candidates lay out positions at forum*](#)

Two measures [Secretary of State candidate Dennis] Richardson supported, House Bill 2583 in 2005 and House Bill 3432 in 2009, would have required eligible voters to provide proof of U.S. citizenship before they could register to vote. While voters currently must attest to their eligibility, the bills would have required them to prove it using a passport, naturalization document or birth certificate.

[*Dennis Richardson supported proof of citizenship laws*](#)

TEXAS

Texans across the state will soon be inundated with TV and radio ads ahead of this year’s presidential election. However, the ads won't be from candidates running for office, but from the state of Texas. The state-funded ads are intended to inform voters of the recent court-ordered changes to Texas' voter ID law.

[*State Election Officials Say Voter ID Change Ads Should Be Airing ‘Any Day Now’*](#)

"Part of our challenge is educating and informing the voters throughout the state about the new rule in terms of voter ID," [Secretary of State Cascos] said.

[*Voter ID court challenges, rule changes complicate voter-education efforts*](#)

VIRGINIA

Virginia Republicans are making the case that this state's voter identification law is different than versions in other states that came and failed before it.

"We like our facts; we have better facts than some of other cases that have struggled in court," said Del. Robert B. Bell, a state Republican legislator.

"That's why we believe this result will be different than the outcome in other states."

[*Why Virginia's 'Reasonable' Voter ID Law Could Survive the Courts*](#)

WISCONSIN

A federal judge on Thursday ordered the state to provide more information to the public about how they could easily get voting credentials even if they don't have birth certificates, but declined to suspend the voter ID law.

[*State must provide more voter ID info*](#)

Peterson ordered the state to update and create new public information materials about a petition process for people who can't easily obtain a state-issued ID for voting. The updates will be a handout given to people who enter the petition process; the new documents will include a one-page explanation of the petition process.

[*Federal Judge Orders State To Expand, Clarify Voter ID Outreach*](#)

Ripping the Division of Motor Vehicles for giving out inaccurate information, a federal judge said Wednesday he would order Gov. Scott Walker's administration to make changes to how it treats people who seek voting credentials but was unlikely to suspend the voter ID law.

[*Judge blasts state over voter ID*](#)

As state attorneys try to persuade a judge to keep the voter ID law intact, Democrats on the Elections Commission are looking for new lawyers.

[*New lawyers sought in voter ID fight*](#)

Two Democratic state election commissioners, in a newly released letter to a federal judge, say the state hasn't done enough to publicize a petition process for people to get temporary credentials to vote in November even if they lack a voter ID and other documents.

[*Democratic election commissioners: State not doing enough public outreach on voter ID*](#)

MANDATORY VOTER REGISTRATION - STATES

ALASKA

U.S. Senators Lisa Murkowski and Dan Sullivan have announced their support for Alaska Ballot Measure 1, the PFD [Alaska Permanent Fund dividend application] Automatic Voter Registration Initiative.

The ballot measure, if approved by voters in the general election on November 8th, would instruct Alaska Division of Elections to automatically register qualified Alaskans to vote when they apply for the PFD.

Applicants would have the option to opt out, and voter information would remain confidential under existing state law.

[*Senators Throw Support Behind Automatic Voter Registration*](#)

CONNECTICUT

Also, a streamlined "motor voter" system at the state Department of Motor Vehicles prompted about 15,000 registrations from Aug. 8 to Sept. 7, more than the combined total of DMV registrations in the previous three years, officials said.

[*CT Voter Totals Rising Fast; New Ways To Register, Clinton-Trump Race Cited*](#)

ILLINOIS

Overturing Governor Bruce Rauner’s August veto of an automatic voter registration (AVR) bill passed by both houses of the Illinois General Assembly is not a sure outcome, despite bipartisan support of the bill (SB250) by both Republican and Democratic legislators.

[*Automatic voter registration veto could be overturned*](#)

OREGON

The Portland area — including Multnomah, Clackamas and Washington counties — has experienced double-digit booms in percentages of voters registered to vote in the Nov. 8 presidential election.

State officials say it will be one of the busiest elections in modern history due to a combination of population growth, “unprecedented interest” and implementation of the new Oregon Motor Voter program.

[*Motor Voter law drives big increases in Portland-area registration*](#)

Oregon’s secretary of state says more than 2.5 million people are registered to vote for the first time in the state’s history and predicted a record participation in the Nov. 8 election.

The state is also on track to add over 250,000 new voters through the Oregon Motor Voter program in time for the election.

[*Washington, Oregon break voter registration records*](#)

Compiled by Janelle Reid 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](#).

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From: Mindy Moretti <mmoretti@electionline.org>
Sent: Friday, February 9, 2018 12:34 PM
To: Rayburn, Kevin
Subject: questions for electionlineWeekly

Kevin,

Hi, I'm reaching out to elections directors in all 50 states and the District for a story for electionlineWeekly about the impact voter registration laws and voter ID laws may have on transgender voters. I have just a few questions for you. My deadline is EOD on Wednesday, February 14.

Thanks in advance for your time.

Mindy

- 1) Does Georgia ask for gender on the state's voter registration forms and if so, is it a required field or optional?
- 2) If the state does ask for gender on the voter registration forms, has it ever been discussed about not asking the question or broadening the options for people to choose?
- 3) If the state does NOT ask for gender on the voter registration forms, why not?
- 4) Georgia requires photo ID in order to cast a ballot. Are you aware of someone's gender identity ever presenting a problem with their ability to vote?
- 5) Does the state provide any guidance to counties to give poll workers on how to deal with voters whose Election Day appearance may not match that of their photo ID?

Any other information that you would like to add would be greatly appreciate.

Thanks again,
Mindy

From: Rayburn, Kevin
Sent: Monday, February 12, 2018 8:39 AM
To: Broce, Candice
Cc: Balcomb, Shawn; Harvey, Chris
Subject: FW: questions for electionlineWeekly

See below questions from Mindy Moretti, who runs Electionline Blog (election news blog). <http://www.electionline.org>
She should be considered press. I think this is related to (or stemming from) the recent news of Alabama being sued over DDS/Voter Registration and gender requirements: <https://www.41nbc.com/2018/02/09/transgender-plaintiffs-sue-alabama-over-state-id-laws/>

Kevin Rayburn
Assistant Elections Director and Deputy General Counsel

Georgia Secretary of State Brian P. Kemp
404.656.2871 (main)
404.654.6004 (direct)

-----Original Message-----

From: Mindy Moretti [mailto:mmoretti@electionline.org]
Sent: Friday, February 9, 2018 12:34 PM
To: Rayburn, Kevin <krayburn@sos.ga.gov>
Subject: questions for electionlineWeekly

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Thanks again,
Mindy

From: electionline <mmoretti@electionline.org>
Sent: Friday, February 16, 2018 6:47 AM
To: Broce, Candice
Subject: [MARKETING] electionlineWeekly — February 15, 2018



February 15, 2018

[Impacts of registration and ID laws on transgender voters](#)

State elections officials strive to accommodate all voters

Voters come in all shapes, sizes, colors, ages and gender. Most of that information, other than age, is irrelevant to a voter's eligibility to register and cast a vote. However, for some voters, the question of gender on a voter registration form can present a problem.

According to a [report](#) from the Williams Institute at the UCLA School of Law, in 2016, an estimated 0.6 percent of adults in the United States, or about 1.4 million individuals identify as transgender. Populations vary by state and by age group.

Hawaii, California, Georgia, and New Mexico all have 0.8 percent of their populations that identify as transgender where as North Dakota, Iowa, Wyoming, Montana and South Dakota have just 0.3 percent of adults that identify as transgender.

More young adults, aged 18 to 24 identify as transgender (0.7 percent) than do those 65 and older (0.5 percent).

“We understand that collecting demographic information can sometimes be helpful, but we are unaware of any compelling reason to include gender in the voter registration process,” said Jay H. Wu, communications manager for the [National Center for Transgender Equality](#).

Electionline reached out to the elections directors in all 50 states and the District of Columbia and heard back from 34 of them and the District. Whether or not states collect gender information on voter registration forms varies with most of the responding states saying they do

Also in this edition:

- [Federal-State Updates](#)
- [Election News This Week](#)
- [Research and Report Summaries](#)
- [Legislative Updates](#)
- [Legal Updates](#)
- [Tech Thursday](#)
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Sent: Friday, August 10, 2018 5:21 PM
To: Broce, Candice
Subject: [MARKETING] Voter ID and MVR Update August 10

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Friday Voter ID & MVR Update

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WEEKLY HIGHLIGHT

“I’ve always been a supporter of voting rights and expanding access to it, but I also saw the need to make sure that our elections were secure,” she said in an interview. [Note: Laura Kelly is now the Democrat Nominee for Governor in Kansas]

[Dem. Gov.-candidate Laura Kelly under scrutiny for backing voter ID](#)

VOTER ID

National

Well over half of trans Americans who have transitioned may be prevented from voting in the November midterms, according to a stunning report released today by LGBTQ think tank the Williams Institute.

Such documentation can present a substantial barrier to transgender people whose appearance may not always align with gender marker or images on their documents.

[Voter ID Laws Could Prevent 78,000 Trans People From Voting In Midterms](#)

Florida

At a rally in support of Florida gubernatorial candidate Ron DeSantis, President Donald Trump ripped what he called a lack of sufficient voter ID laws.

Trump said many Americans need a picture ID to make purchases among other things, but not at the polls.

"It's crazy," he said.

['The Time Has Come for Voter ID': Trump Rips 'Crazy' Voting Rules](#)

Iowa

[T]he Supreme Court in an order released on Friday left in place other parts of the judge's order that temporarily blocked rules requiring an identification number to apply for an absentee ballot and allowing election officials to reject absentee applications and ballots when they determine signatures on those forms don't match voters' signatures on record.

The ruling is part of a court battle over Iowa's 2017 voter identification law, which shortened the early voting period to 29 days from 40 and implemented the other requirements. The requirement to show an ID at the polls or sign an affidavit of identity to vote is not affected. . . .

As part of a gradual rollout of the new law, voters without IDs in 2018 are being allowed to sign an "Oath of Identification" attesting that they are who they say they are.

The oath option will remain available in the November election, which features competitive races for governor and at least two Republican-held U.S. House seats.

[Iowa Supreme Court allows shorter early voting period for 2018 election](#) "

"The data from the June primary suggests that absentee voters are able to vote under this system," attorney Thomas Ogden said in representing Iowa Secretary of State Paul Pate. "The system is working and does not suggest we're going to have a big problem if it goes on ... through the November election."

. . . Ogden said nearly 50 small, special elections and a statewide primary

election have been held since the new law and administrative rules took effect, all without such accompanying problems. He urged the justices to set aside the injunction rather than conduct a mini-trial without evidence.

The plaintiffs “are relying on this idea that these laws are disenfranchising droves of absentee voters and the data simply shows that’s not the case. We have record turnout for absentee voting,” Ogden added. “They have to prove that absent an injunction, the harm to the plaintiffs is clear, great and so eminent that relief is required from the court — and we just don’t have that.”

[Iowa Supreme Court vows fast ruling on voter ID law](#)

Missouri

Greene County voters had no major issues Tuesday — at least none that have been reported — related to Missouri’s new voter ID law.

Schoeller credited the media, social media, election judge training and voter ID guides available at the polls for the lack of voter ID issues Greene County voters had Tuesday.

"We are pleased," he said. "We always want to make sure every eligible voter is able to vote."

[In first major election since voter ID law implemented, Greene County voters had no issues](#)

“Cases of fraud like that are very difficult to uncover. There is not a kind of structured approach,” says Ashcroft. “Prosecutions of vote fraud are done at the local level. There’s no required reporting mechanism through the (Missouri) Secretary of State’s Office. Photo ID really only looks at one aspect of that. One thing that we need to always be doing is looking at how we can protect our elections in every manner while still making sure that if you’re registered, you can vote.”

“This (voter ID) law not only makes it a little bit more difficult to cheat, but it also expands ballot access,” he says. “The best part about the law is that we have had a discreet number of individuals that we can point to that were allowed to vote under this law that would’ve been turned away under the old law.”

Ashcroft says the law was designed so that most people would not see a difference in their voting experience.

“That was something critical to us. We wanted to make it easy,” Ashcroft says.

[Has Missouri’s voter ID law helped to fight against voter fraud?](#)

North Carolina

I suspect there are hidden agendas in these objections to voter ID. Every time I go to a doctor, dentist, or clinic I am asked for a picture ID. I have been required to provide picture ID to deposit a check, register at a gym, enter a government building, get a library card and for a myriad of other purposes.

When I was younger I had to provide picture ID to buy a beer.

None of these things is nearly as important as protecting my right to vote. When a person fraudulently votes for an opponent of a candidate I support, they render my vote null and void.

[”Preventative” Measures](#)

Texas

In a court filing on Wednesday, opponents of the law requiring Texas voters to present photo identification to vote told a federal district judge that the case was settled and that they would not pursue any other remedies or changes to the law they first challenged in 2011 as discriminatory against voters of color.

The filing follows the state’s June request to U.S. District Judge Nelva Gonzales Ramos of Corpus Christi to reconsider previous findings that the state’s voter ID law was enacted to purposefully discriminate against Hispanic and black voters. That request came two days after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that Texas lawmakers did not intentionally discriminate when they signed off on congressional and state House maps in 2013 — a decision that Texas argued “cast irremovable doubt” on previous decisions against the voter ID law. The state contended that, like in the redistricting case, lawmakers should be extended the “presumption of legislative good faith” for working to replace a law that Ramos ruled disproportionately — and intentionally — burdened voters of color who are less likely to have one of the seven forms of identification that the

state required them to show at the polls.

[Plaintiffs Say Texas Voter ID Fight Is Over](#)

MANDATORY VOTER REGISTRATION

Massachusetts

Galvin announced that Gov. Charlie Baker signed into law a bill that would automatically register eligible voters when they interact with the Registry of Motor Vehicles and MassHealth, unless they opt out.

[Automatic Voter Registration In Mass. To Begin By 2020, Galvin Says](#)

Governor Charlie Baker said Friday that he believes the state can install automatic voter registration with a “fairly high degree of integrity” at its Registry of Motor Vehicles. But the Republican stopped short of endorsing legislation that cleared the House and the Senate and could automatically register thousands of new voters in the next few years.

“There are big issues associated with trying to put the laws and the rules associated with the Affordable Care Act together with the laws and rules associated with who gets to vote,” Baker told reporters Friday at the State House.

Baker said a new computer system the Registry installed in March to comply with federal Real ID standards, in which drivers must now produce documents confirming their US citizenship or lawful presence, is a big step toward helping implement automatic voter registration.

Under the bill, a state agency that automatically registers voters must collect “reliable citizenship information.”

[Baker says RMV can handle automatic voter registration](#)

Compiled by LDF Staff. If you have an item for a future update, please email lawyersdf@gmail.com. Unless there is an especially important news story in an “off” week, LDF will send this news update biweekly. The next update will be Friday, August 24. For the latest news on election integrity issues, check the [LDF website](#) or [LDF Twitter feed](#).

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From: Lawyers Democracy Fund <info=lawyersdemocracyfund.org@mail67.atl161.mcsv.net>
on behalf of Lawyers Democracy Fund <info@lawyersdemocracyfund.org>
Sent: Friday, October 28, 2016 5:37 PM
To: Broce, Candice
Subject: [QUAR][MKTG] Voter ID and Mandatory Voter Registration Update October 28
Importance: Low

Friday Voter ID Update

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WEEKLY SPOTLIGHT

Missouri voters are being asked in Amendment 6 whether the state should begin requiring voters to show a government-issued ID in order to vote.

Ashcroft wrote the amendment.

“I think it’s a simple, common-sense way to protect, to make it more difficult for people to cheat,” Jay Ashcroft said. “I am all for every eligible voter voting. I just want to make sure they do it once.”

[*Voter ID amendment hangs over Missouri Secretary of State race*](#)

VOTER ID - NATIONAL

With less than a month to go before Election Day, not all American voters are aware of their states’ voter ID requirements. A new national survey finds that the confusion runs two ways: Some voters live in states that do not require

identification to vote but think it is needed, while others living in states that do require IDs mistakenly believe they do not need one to vote.

About four-in-ten voters (37%) living in states with no identification requirement incorrectly believe that they will be required to show identification prior to voting, according to a survey conducted Sept. 27 to Oct. 10 among 3,616 registered voters on Pew Research Center's nationally representative American Trends Panel. About six-in-ten (62%) in these states know they do not have to produce a photo ID to vote.

[*Many Americans unaware of their states' voter ID laws*](#)

Fear encourages racially biased individuals to support voter identification laws, according to a report published in the October 2016 edition of *Political Psychology* The democratic participants fluctuated from 47 percent in favor of voter identification laws when calm and content to 85 percent in favor when afraid. In comparison, 100 percent of Republicans in the sample supported voter ID laws in a calm state — so that number could not differ between calm and fearful participants.

[*Fear triggers increased support for voter ID laws, UMD study finds*](#)

An unprecedented number of states have put stricter election laws in place since the last presidential race. And in several cases, those laws were overturned by the courts or are still caught up in litigation, creating the potential for widespread confusion. In some states, such as North Carolina, the rules in place during the primary races have changed for the general election.

[*Battleground states still fighting over voting laws, potential Election Day confusion*](#)

VOTER ID - STATES

ARKANSAS

A state statute requires poll workers to always ask for an ID when someone is trying to vote. But state law says you don't have to show one unless you're a first-time voter.

[*Most Arkansas voters won't need to show ID*](#) [Auto-play video]

INDIANA

Michael Pitts, a law professor and dean's fellow at the Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law who has researched in-person voter fraud, said there is little opportunity for people to misrepresent themselves at polling places, especially because of Indiana's voter ID law.

"There is not a lot of evidence of in-person voter fraud, which is related to photo-identification laws. What a photo ID law aims to prevent is voter impersonation fraud — somebody walking into a polling place and impersonating somebody else," Pitts said. "Presumably, if you have a government-issued photo ID, that type of voter impersonation fraud becomes enormously hard, because you seemingly have to create a fake government ID."

[*The truth behind voter fraud in Indiana*](#) [Auto-play video]

MINNESOTA

[Minnesota Majority President Dan McGrath's] biggest victory in that arena was a court ruling that overturned the online voter registration system established by former Secretary of State Mark Ritchie. And during the last legislative session, McGrath says he worked with [Current Democrat Secretary of State Steve] Simon on another election fraud measure, helping pass a law that limits the number of people for whom someone can vouch

from 15 to seven and requiring those vouchers to register not just with a signature but a printed name.

“It’s still incremental,” McGrath said. “We’re still shooting for voter I.D.”

[*Even the people pushing voter ID in Minnesota don't think the election is 'rigged'*](#)

MISSOURI

“I just think that it’s a good piece of legislation. My constituents have written me and contacted me in support,” Walker said. “I think in today’s time, having a photo ID is essential for good, fair elections.”

Walker said he doesn’t believe having a photo ID requirement would disenfranchise many voters.

“I think that’s an argument that they like to make. I don’t think there’s a lot of validity to it,” Walker said.

“I really don’t think in today’s time that it’s that difficult to get a photo ID,” he said. “I don’t want to disenfranchise anyone but today, a photo ID is a requirement for just about anything that you do.”

[*Voter ID issue to appear on November ballot*](#)

The biggest issue in the race, no surprise, is whether Missourians should be required to show a photo ID to vote. Smith strongly opposes it, saying it would disenfranchise 220,000 Missouri citizens. . . .

Ashcroft vehemently disagrees.

"It's provable that not a single individual that is legally allowed to vote now would not be allowed to vote after the implementation of that bill, regardless of whether or not they have a government-issued photo ID," he said.

[*Missouri's next secretary of state will be a first-time officeholder*](#)

We're exactly two weeks away from Election Day and one issue on the ballot is the voter ID law which is expected to pass, and also to be challenged.

[*Voter ID Laws Expected To be Challenged in Missouri*](#) [Auto-play video]

NEW MEXICO

“In New Mexico, in most cases, voter ID is actually not required,” said Joey Keefe, a spokesperson for the Bernalillo County Clerk’s Office. “That’s according to state law.”

One exception is if you registered to vote by mail and didn’t include a copy of your ID when you mailed it in. Otherwise, just make sure you know your name, address and date of birth.

[*Voter ID not required in most cases at NM polling sites*](#)

NEW YORK

The New York City Board of Elections’ executive director testified to the City Council this morning that there is little evidence to support a Democratic election commissioner’s caught-on-camera claims of extensive and systematic voter fraud in minority neighborhoods across the five boroughs.

Earlier this month, conservative nonprofit group Project Veritas leaked a clandestine recording of BOE Commissioner Alan Schulkin alleging that that organizations bus people around to cast ballots at multiple polling sites in minority neighborhoods, and that the Mayor Bill de Blasio’s IDNYC municipal identification program enables voter fraud. On Tuesday, a state investigative unit subpoenaed Schulkin, who has so far defied calls from de Blasio and other Democrats to resign his post.

[*NYC Board of Elections Head Says There’s No Evidence to Support Voter Fraud Claims*](#) [Auto-play video]

NORTH CAROLINA

In Edgecombe County, where nearly 58 percent of the population is black, the state's now-nullified voter ID law is more than a black-and-white issue.

Pinetops resident Ronny Webb called the longer early voting period "foolish," saying it encourages voter fraud. He dismissed the argument that requiring identification to vote would suppress votes cast by blacks.

"If they're American citizens, they can get (and ID)," Webb said. "They got plenty of time. It's just once every four years. They got time to get their ID straight."

[*No voter ID this year doesn't mean no argument over it*](#)

OREGON

Avakian's campaign has highlighted Richardson's personal opposition to abortion and his past votes as a state legislator in favor of voter ID laws and against a bill prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation.

[*Competitive secretary of state race between Brad Avakian and Dennis*](#)

[*Richardson turns nasty*](#)

TEXAS

"In Harris County and others in the Houston area, we've seen some cases where poll workers have incorrectly told voters they need a photo ID to vote," said Perez.

TCRP sent a letter Tuesday to the Texas Secretary of State, complaining about "troubling information" coming out of Harris County, along with out-of-date posters showing invalid photo ID rules at polling sites in other major Texas counties

[*Photo ID complaints from voters prompt action from Harris County*](#) [Auto-play video]

Among the complaints in pockets of Texas: years-old posters inaccurately describing the rules — more than a dozen instances in Bexar County — and poll workers who were reluctant to tell voters that some could cast ballots without photo identification.

Though it's not clear that anyone walked away from the polls because of misinformation or partial information, civil rights advocates called the sporadic reports troubling.

[*Amid Early Voting Rush, Texas Sees Voter ID Hiccups*](#)

WISCONSIN

Wisconsin's solicitor general said Thursday the state's voter ID law is "quite permissive" and should serve as a model for the rest of the country.

"Wisconsin's voter ID law is often characterized in, what I would say, the partisan press, as one of the more stringent voter ID laws. I think that's certainly not true now," said solicitor general Misha Tseytlin. "Wisconsin might be the most permissive state in the union in terms of how someone can get photo ID to satisfy the photo ID law."

[*Wisconsin solicitor general says state's voter ID law is 'quite permissive,' should be model for U.S.*](#)

The state Department of Motor Vehicles must try to track down about 50 people who had their voting credentials returned as undeliverable, according to a federal judge's order this week.

As part of litigation over Wisconsin's voter ID law, the DMV sent voting credentials to people who had difficulty getting IDs because they lack birth certificates or have other challenges to proving their identity. But some credentials were returned as undeliverable.

[DMV must track down voters](#)

Democrats who represent Wisconsin in Congress are asking the U.S. Department of Justice to oversee the state's monitoring of the November election, citing concerns with the state's voter ID law.

[Wisconsin Democrats ask U.S. Department of Justice for help monitoring polls on Election Day](#)

For many seniors, taking a trip to city hall to register to vote or going to the DMV to get a photo ID can be challenging, but for those who live in retirement communities, they can have it all taken care of with no voter ID required. . . . At Primrose, residents don't need a voter ID to vote.

Instead, the staff can use certain documents for seniors, like proof of residence, that will take the place of a photo ID.

The staff also sends a list to the Wausau city clerk of all the residents who live there. Seniors can register to vote as soon as they move into the home.

[Retirement homes help seniors vote without a photo ID](#)

Analysis suggests more than 1,000 transgender voters in Wisconsin may not be able to cast ballots on Election Day this November.

Wisconsin is home to an estimated 8,000 transgender people eligible to vote, but more than 1,000 of them — about 15 percent — lack accurate IDs for voting, according to Jody L. Herman, a scholar at the Williams Institute think tank at the UCLA School of Law.

[Wisconsin voter ID may disenfranchise 1,000 transgender people](#)

A federal judge has approved the state's plan for additional voter ID education before Election Day, but the groups challenging the ID law in court say the

expanded efforts still aren't enough.

[*Federal Judge Approves Expanded Voter ID Education Efforts*](#)

MANDATORY VOTER REGISTRATION – STATES

ALASKA

Suppose every adult was automatically registered to vote. How many more people would actually cast ballots? Some states will soon find out.

Since Oregon became the first to create an automatic voter registration system last year, California, Connecticut, Vermont and West Virginia have all followed suit. And it looks like Alaska is about to join the list.

[*As Automatic Voter Registration Spreads, How Will It Impact Turnout?*](#)

CONNECTICUT

Secretary of the State Denise Merrill has described the state's "motor voter" program as a success because it's brought in more than 15,000 registrations. But for some, the program has led to confusion.

In West Hartford, Kaitlyn Fydenkevez had her voter registration removed from the town's voter list after she thought she had "re-registered" during a visit to the DMV to renew her license. . . .

In Meriden, election officials there said people have showed to their office with letters from DMV telling them that they refused to register to vote, even though they were already registered. The individuals had only turned down a new registration at DMV during a visit to a branch.

[*DMV Voter Registration Has Led to Confusion*](#) [Auto-play video]

OREGON

Most new voters didn't pick a party and, so far, haven't actually voted.

In 2015, Oregon lawmakers passed the first motor voter law in the nation, as

originally proposed by then-Secretary of State Kate Brown. The new law automatically registers to vote any eligible Oregonian who gets a new or replacement driver's license or state identification card. Since the law went into effect Jan. 1, 2016, it has added about 250,000 voters to the rolls—10 percent of all Oregonians registered.

[*Here's How Motor Voter Changes Oregon's Election Day—Or Maybe Doesn't*](#)

Between Jan. 1 and Sept. 30, the majority of voters registered through Motor Voter were registered as unaffiliated, according to cumulative program data maintained by the Secretary of State's Office. According to that data, 29,741 Oregonians returned a card selecting a party — 13,246 Democrats, 10,030 Republicans and 2,211 Independents.

About 3,300 people chose to designate themselves as nonaffiliated, although the Motor Voter law automatically designates voters as unaffiliated unless the voter decides to choose a party.

About 24,000 Oregonians opted out from registration, and approximately 9,000 Motor Voter mailers weren't deliverable between Jan. 1 and Sept. 30.

[*Motor Voter expands rolls by more than 230,000*](#)

Compiled by 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](#).

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