The Phyllis Schlafly Report

Election Integrity Undermined Again

By John and Andy Schlafly

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Millions of Americans went to the polls on Tuesday to cast ballots in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Virginia, New York City, and elsewhere. Included in these important elections are the future composition of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, two governorships, and the mayor of our largest city.

On March 25th, President Trump signed Executive Order No. 14,248 to strengthen election integrity by requiring proof of American citizenship to register to vote. His U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) has been contemplating the insertion of this requirement into the federal voter registration form.

But last Friday a Clinton-appointed federal judge in Washington, D.C., upheld Democrats' challenge to this sensible citizenship requirement. Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly unilaterally blocked Trump's executive order from being enforced through the EAC or in any other way by the President.

Roughly 30 Leftist-controlled jurisdictions have expressly authorized voting by non-citizens in local elections. In addition, some Democrat-controlled states that pretend to prohibit this have practices failing to prevent it.

But allowing non-citizens to vote in state and local elections in New York was too much for even Democrat judges there. In nearly unanimous decisions by the intermediate and highest appellate courts of New York State, they correctly ruled that New York's state constitution limits voting to citizens of the United States.

The Empire State's Constitution reads, "Every citizen shall be entitled to vote at every election for all officers elected by the people and upon all questions submitted to the vote of the people." This is found in Section 1 of its Article II.

Much of Zohran Mamdani's support for Mayor of New York is from people born outside of the United States, according to polls. New York City's enormous population includes over a million adults who are not U.S. citizens, and 800,000 of those would

have been eligible to vote for mayor under the Democrat-sponsored law that was blocked by higher courts – a number that exceeds the population of several states.

In March New York's highest court, its Court of Appeals, ruled 6-1 in favor of a Republican challenge to a 2022 New York City ordinance allowing non-citizens to vote in local elections, including for mayor. Republicans initially prevailed in Staten Island, the only Republican borough in New York City, but Democrats appealed.

To the surprise of many, the justices on New York's state appellate courts, all of whom were appointed by Democrat Governors Andrew Cuomo or Kathy Hochul, overwhelmingly rejected this attempt by Democrat politicians to allow non-citizen voting. Only one of the seven highest judges supported non-citizen voting, and the intermediate appellate court voted 3-1 against it.

Writing for New York's highest court, Chief Judge Rowan Wilson rejected Democrats' argument that the state constitution merely required allowing citizens to vote, without prohibiting additional voting by non-citizens. Judge Wilson, the first African American to be Chief Judge of that court, describes himself as a "progressive pragmatist."

Justice Wilson pointed out that under Democrats' reasoning New York City could next allow 13-year-olds to vote, which would be absurd but likely to boost Democrat candidates in elections. At least most 13-year-olds speak English and read ballots, in contrast with illegal aliens who cannot read road signs here and yet are dangerously driving trucks.

Meanwhile, Trump's Department of Justice (DOJ) has sent a strong letter to Fulton County, Georgia, demanding their ballot records from the 2020 election. In a July 30th resolution, the Georgia State Election Board requested the assistance of DOJ to the extent necessary to obtain compliance with election transparency in Fulton County, where Atlanta is located.

Harmeet Dhillon, the splendid Assistant Attorney General appointed by Trump to run the Civil Rights Division of DOJ, points out that "transparency appears to have been frustrated at multiple tums in Georgia." She quoted the Georgia State Election Board's observation nearly a year ago that there are "unexplained anomalies in vote tabulation and storage related to the 2020 election."

Assistant AG Dhillon complains about “multiple instances of government obstruction of transparency requests, including high-resolution ballot scans, signature verification documentation, and various metadata requests.” Nearly five years after the controversy there in 2020, the public and the Republican candidates still lack access to ballot processing information, such as signature verification on the hordes of mail-in ballots accepted.

Pennsylvania, the key battleground state, ostensibly prohibits voting by non-citizens. But the Pennsylvania Commonwealth Secretary has ordered all of its 67 county boards to ignore voter verification requirements, and instead register any applicant to vote regardless of the legitimacy of his driver’s license or social security number.

Pennsylvania officials have admitted that “approximately 100,000 registered voters may potentially be non-citizens or may have been non-citizens at some point in time,” which is larger than the presidential margin of victory there in 2016 and 2020. Yet Democrats in Pennsylvania obstruct transparency needed to remove non-citizens from its voter rolls.

John and Andy Schlafly are sons of Phyllis Schlafly (1924-2016) and lead the continuing Phyllis Schlafly Eagles organizations with writing and policy work.