

Study: Voting Rule Changes May Deter 10M Hispanics

WASHINGTON (AP) — The combined effects of voter roll purges, demands for proof of citizenship and photo identification requirements in several states may hinder at least 10 million Hispanic citizens who seek to vote this fall, civil rights advocates warn in a new report.

Hispanic voters are considered pivotal to the presidential election this November, and are being heavily courted by both Democratic incumbent Barack Obama and Republican challenger Mitt Romney. If they turn out in large numbers, Hispanics could sway the outcome in several swing states.

In an analysis based on government data, civil rights group The Advancement Project identified legal barriers that could deter voter registration and participation among eligible Hispanics. In some of those states, the group's researchers said, the number of voter-eligible Latino citizens potentially blocked by those barriers exceeds the margin of victory in the 2008 election.

"Like African Americans, Latinos have experienced decreased access and correspondingly lower levels of voter registration and participation than non-Hispanic whites," said the report, which was being released Monday.

The report called for repeal of policies that wrongfully inhibit Hispanic voters, and asked that the Justice Department investigate and prosecute "any related voting rights violations."

According to census data, there were more than 21 million Hispanics of voting age in 2010. They comprised roughly 10 percent of all eligible voters and 8 percent of registered voters in the U.S.

Among eligible Hispanics in 2010, 6.3 million said they were not registered to vote, and 10.8 million — about half of those of voting age — said they did not vote, the report said.

By comparison, the report said, there were 172.4 million non-

Hispanic white citizens eligible to vote in 2010, with nearly 18 percent unregistered and 38 percent who said they did not vote.

There are three significant barriers to Hispanic voter participation, researchers said: citizenship-based voter purges, proof of citizenship requirements and photo identification laws.

Sixteen states have either adopted or are pursuing citizenship-related purges of their voter rolls, the report said. Those states are Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, Tennessee, Texas, Utah and Washington.

Those states are home to nearly 5.5 million registered Latino voters, and 1.1 million naturalized citizens from Latin America. Colorado and Florida identified voters for possible purging by comparing their voter registrations with driver's license databases that show which voters

indicated they were immigrants — thereby creating a problem, the report said.

"Naturalized citizens typically received their driver's licenses when they were legal immigrants but before becoming naturalized citizens (and before registering to vote); therefore, this method generates lists of voters to be checked that targets naturalized citizens," the report said.

Florida stopped its effort to remove noncitizens from its voter

rolls once officials realized that they were using an outdated database to check citizenship.

As of last month, laws requiring additional citizenship documents — a certified birth certificate, passport or naturalization papers — in order to register to vote were in effect in Georgia, might take effect in Alabama and Arizona later this year, and had been proposed in several states, the report said.

Such a demand was "previously unheard of" in the U.S., the

report said, mainly because federal protections against noncitizens registering to vote already were in place. Asking for extra paperwork effectively puts "onerous and sometimes expensive" requirements on Latino voters at a disproportionate rate over others, researchers said.

The same is true for "restrictive" photo identification laws in nine states: Georgia, Indiana, Kansas, Mississippi, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Wisconsin, the report said.

Vt. Begins Shipping Radioactive to Texas

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP) — Nearly 20 years after the Vermont and Texas Legislatures first agreed to have Vermont ship low-level radioactive waste to the Lone Star State, the first shipments of waste have been made.

A 30-gallon drum containing wastes from the University of Vermont and Burlington's Fletcher Allen Health Care hospital was received and placed in its permanent home in a West Texas disposal site earlier this month, officials said Wednesday at a Statehouse meeting of the Texas-Vermont Low-Level Radioactive Waste Compact Commission.

The generator of more than 90 percent of Vermont's low-level waste, the Vermont Yankee nuclear plant in Vernon, made its first shipment in September, with two more to have been completed by next week.

"We finally have a compact. It's real. It's open and we're shipping waste there. It's pretty amazing," said Sarah Hofmann, deputy commissioner of the Vermont Department of Public Service, which handles utility matters for the state.

Plans for such a compact began to germinate in the 1980s after

Congress passed a law saying the federal government would take responsibility for long-term storage and disposal of high-level radioactive waste — mainly spent fuel from nuclear reactors. With the Yucca Mountain waste project in Nevada stalled, the federal government still hasn't fulfilled that promise, and high-level waste is being stored at reactors around the country, including at Vermont Yankee.

The states, meanwhile, were left to handle low-level radioactive waste — everything from clothing and equipment used by nuclear plant workers to instruments and materials used by hospital nuclear medicine departments and in some university research.

Texas joined with Vermont and Maine, initially in hopes that signing up with two small states would allow Texas to block others from shipping their much larger volumes of waste there. Since then, the company that developed the site in Andrews County, Waste Control Specialists, has persuaded Texas lawmakers and regulators to allow it to welcome waste from elsewhere.

That has led to stepped up ef-

forts by officials in Vermont, which has paid \$27.5 million to help develop the Texas site, to ensure that Vermont will not lose access to any of the 20 percent of the waste site it initially was promised. On that score, "We're not concerned; we're vigilant," Hofmann said.

Meanwhile, Maine has dropped out of the compact. Its lone reactor, Maine Yankee, closed in 1996. All of its low-level waste was shipped elsewhere and it no longer needed space in the Texas site. "It was just a matter of timing," Hofmann said.

Wednesday's meeting included several critical comments and questions from Karen Hadden, executive director of the SEED Coalition, a Texas environmental group. She said in a later phone interview that her group is worried that the waste facility may run out of room and need to be expanded. Group members also are worried about groundwater around the site and about transporting the waste along Texas highways, she said.

WCS, the company running the Andrews County site, maintains it can be run in an environmentally sound manner.

Sentinel Briefs

Comanche Evening to be Held Locally

The Gaines County Pioneer Re-Enactment Committee will host "A Comanche Evening" Saturday, Oct. 20, at 7:30 p.m. on the grounds of the Gaines County Museum, 702 Hobbs Highway.

The gathering will begin with dedication of the Quanah Parker Trail arrow and the Jammy Huggins sculpture, "Wind Spirit."

The arrow is in front of the museum, and the sculpture will be in the lobby of the museum.

Following the presentations, guests will enjoy authentic Comanche hors d'oeuvres prepared by Lois Wise, Gaines County Agent, and have the opportunity to tour the museum.

At dusk, local authors Chuck and

Linda George will present a dramatic reading of "The Comanche," based on a 2003 book Chuck authored.

It will be illustrated with pictures taken by Terry Jeffries, both from the book and from his own collection.

The public is invited to the free event.

GED Testing Dates Set

Officials with the Seminole Independent School District have announced their 2012 General Educational Development (GED) testing schedule for the upcoming calendar year.

The dates for testing with the school district are as follows:

- October 6; Persons interested in participating

in the testing process must provide the following items:

- * Two forms of identification (driver's license or government issued photo identification, and social security card) We cannot accept school identification cards.

- * letter from a certified teacher or an adult education center indicating that you have passed the required pretest; and

- * evaluation fee (\$65 for initial testing or \$10 for each retest)

If you would like to register, please call Becky Ottaberry, Chief Examiner, at (432) 201-0408.

More information can be found at www.seminoleisd.net by clicking Seminole GED Testing Center under quick links.

Community Calendar

Check Dates and Times Below for All Weekly Community Happenings

SUNDAY, September 30
Attend the church of your choice.

MONDAY, October 1
8:00 a.m.-12 noon and 1:00-5:00 p.m.--South Health Clinic, 704 Hobbs Hwy.
9:00-11:30 a.m. and 1:30-3:30 p.m.--Immunization clinic, South Plains Health Department, 704 Hobbs Highway. (Clinic in Seagraves every third Monday, 1:30-3:30 p.m.; open from 8 a.m.-6 p.m. the first Monday and from 7 a.m.-5 p.m. the first Tuesday of each month).
9:00 a.m.--Exercise class, Senior Citizen Center.
6:30 p.m.--Masonic Lodge #957 Meal and Meeting (meeting at 7:30 p.m.), Masonic Lodge...meet 1st Monday of every month.
8:00 -9:00 p.m.--Alcoholics Anonymous, CR 402K, #110.

TUESDAY, October 2
8:00 a.m.-12 noon and 1:00-5:00 p.m.—South Plains Health Clinic, 704 Hobbs Highway.
9:00 a.m.-12 noon—Seagraves shot clinic, Senior Citizen's Center, 1204 Avenue F.
12 noon—Seminole Lions Club, Southern Rose Restaurant.
1:30-4:00 p.m.--First Monday of the month Adult Learning Center Registration, SE 4th St.
7:00 p.m.--Al-Anon Group, 109 SW Ave G (First Assembly of God Fellowship Hall).
6:00-7:00 p.m.—Young People's Group, Gaines County Rehabilitation Center, 110 Southwest Avenue B.
7:00 p.m.--Al-Anon Group, 110 SW Ave B.
7:00 p.m.—Seminole EMT Volunteer Association. EMS building. (First Tuesday of each month).
7:00 p.m.—Gaines County Committee on People with Disabilities, Seminole City Hall. (First Tuesday of each month).
7:00 p.m.—"Wings of Glory" Chapter of the Christian Motorcycle Association, Thelma's One Stop. (Fourth Tuesday of each month).
7:30 p.m.—Seminole American Legion, Legion Hall, two miles west of Seminole on U.S. 180. (First Tuesday of each month).

WEDNESDAY, October 3
8:00 a.m.-12 noon and 1:00-5:00 p.m.—South Plains Health Clinic, 704 Hobbs Highway.
9:00 a.m.—Exercise class, Senior Citizen's Building.
10:00 a.m.-12 noon—Bob Lewis Mission open, 109 Southwest Avenue B. (Open each Wednesday during the same hours.
8:00 p.m.--Alcoholics Anonymous (Spanish), Community Rehabilitation Center, 110 Southwest Avenue B.
8:00 p.m.—Al-Anon, Community Rehabilitation Center, 110 Southwest Avenue B.

THURSDAY, October 4
8:00 a.m.-12 noon and 1:00-5:00 p.m.—South Plains Health Clinic, 704 Hobbs Highway.
10:00 a.m.--Llano Estacado Underground Water Board Meeting, Llano Estacado Offices.
12 noon—Seminole Rotary Club, Thelma's One-Stop.
7:00 p.m.—Alcohol and other drug education group, 110 Southwest Avenue B.
7:00 p.m. (Mountain Time, 8 p.m. Texas Time)—Alzheimer's Disease and Related Demential Disorders Support Group meeting, Columbia Lea Regional Hospital Educational Complex Room, Hobbs. (Last Thursday of each month).
8:00 p.m. (Texas Time)—Gambler's Anonymous, 800 West Bender, Hobbs, N.M., First Assembly of God Church (across from Albertsons).

FRIDAY, October 5
8:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and 1:30-3:00 p.m.—South Plains Health Clinic, 704 Hobbs Highway.
9:00 a.m.—Exercise class, Senior Citizen's building.

SATURDAY, October 6
No scheduled activities

SEMINOLE THRIFTWAY
ANDREWS HWY. 758-9869

We invite all to attend

Be sure and bring your Bibles

Gospel Meeting With Eddie Caskey

Evangelist from Melrose Church of Christ Richardson, Texas

October 5, 6 and 7

Church of Christ

211 N.W. Ave B

Seminole, Tx.