



**WELCOME TO DEMOCRATIC LAW BRIEFS**, the official newsletter of the DC Chapter of the National Lawyers Council. If you would like to be on our mailing list, please sign up by clicking [here](#) or sending an e-mail to erika @ democraticlawyers.org. We'll happily add you to the list.

## VOTING RIGHTS NEWS

### VOTING RIGHTS CHANGES - A MUST READ

**National** - The Brennan Center released the first comprehensive roundup of all state legislative action so far in 2011 affecting voting rights. Along with descriptions and details on the new laws and bills restricting the right to vote in states across the country, the report contains analysis of the policies and estimates of key numbers as the 2012 elections approach: how many voters could be affected by these laws, and how many states and electoral votes could be affected by the changes. Read more here:

[http://www.brennancenter.org/content/resource/voting\\_law\\_changes\\_in\\_2012](http://www.brennancenter.org/content/resource/voting_law_changes_in_2012)

**National** - A *New York Times* article discusses the release of the Brennan Center report. Since Republicans won control of many statehouses last November, more than a dozen states have passed laws requiring voters to show photo identification at polls, cutting back early voting periods or imposing new restrictions on voter registration drives. Read the *New York Times* article here: [http://www.nytimes.com/2011/10/03/us/new-state-laws-are-limiting-access-for-voters.html?\\_r=1&emc=eta1](http://www.nytimes.com/2011/10/03/us/new-state-laws-are-limiting-access-for-voters.html?_r=1&emc=eta1)

### THE MYTH OF VOTER FRAUD

**New York, NY** - The *New York Times* reveals the real reason behind the Republican push for voter ID. Of course, *our* regular readers will all ready be familiar with many of the reasons. Read it here:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/10/10/opinion/the-myth-of-voter-fraud.html?emc=eta1>

**Washington, DC** - A *Washington Post* article explores five myths about voter fraud. Read the myths here:

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/five-myths-about-voter-fraud/2011/10/04/gIQAkjoYTL\\_story.html?wpisrc=emailtoafriend](http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/five-myths-about-voter-fraud/2011/10/04/gIQAkjoYTL_story.html?wpisrc=emailtoafriend)

### VRA AGREEMENTS REACHED

**Washington, DC** - The Justice Department filed a consent decree in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia after reaching an agreement with James City County VA that will allow for the county's bailout from its status as a "covered jurisdiction" under the special provisions of Voting Rights Act. If approved by the court, the bailout will exempt the county from the preclearance requirements of Section 5 of the act. Read the settlement here: <http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/2011/October/11-crt-1309.html>

**Washington, DC** - The Justice Department filed a consent decree in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia after reaching an agreement with the city of Williamsburg VA that will allow for the city's bailout from its status as a "covered jurisdiction" under the special provisions of Voting Rights Act. If approved by the court, the bailout will exempt the city from the preclearance requirements of Section 5 of the act. Read the settlement here: <http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/2011/October/11-crt-1310.html>

**Washington, DC** - The Justice Department announced a settlement with Lorain County, Ohio, to protect the rights of Spanish-speaking Puerto Rican voters under Section 4(e) of the Voting Rights Act. Today's agreement is intended to resolve concerns that limited-English proficient Puerto Rican voters were being denied their full voting rights because the county failed to provide language assistance as required by law. Read the details here: <http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/2011/October/11-crt-1335.html>

## DC DLC BRAIN TEASERS

DC DLC BRAIN TEASERS - Each week we have a puzzle or a brain teaser or a trivia question for you to answer. You can e-mail your answers to [editors@democraticlawyers.org](mailto:editors@democraticlawyers.org). Please put "Brain Teaser" in the subject line. We will run the names of all those who get the right/best answer in the following issue.

## THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

Which Presidential nominee carried New York by 1,149 votes to win the election?

## LAST WEEK'S QUESTION

Robert Todd Lincoln was invited to visit three different Presidents who were shot shortly before his arrival. Who were those three Presidents?

## ANSWER

Robert Todd Lincoln arrived at Ford's Theater shortly after his father was shot. He arrived in Washington, DC shortly after Garfield was shot. He arrived in Buffalo (by Presidential invitation) after McKinley was shot.

## WHO ARE WE?

The DC Democratic Lawyers Council (DC DLC) is a group of Democratic lawyers, affiliated with the National Lawyers Council of the Democratic National Committee, volunteering their legal skills to strengthen the democratic process. We work to ensure that every eligible citizen is allowed to vote and that every vote cast in every election is counted. The DC DLC was formed out of a concern that voting rights are increasingly under attack in our country and an understanding that now is the time to put the skills of Democratic attorneys to work to ensure that every citizen's right to vote will be upheld in future elections. Our activities include advocating for better laws and regulations and initiating litigation when necessary to guarantee the fairness of and the widest participation in the U.S. electoral process.

The Democratic Lawyers Council was founded by attorneys who have served on the front line of election law for the Democratic Party. The lesson learned from the recount debacle in 2000 was that post-election day litigation will hardly ever fix any election injustice. Given that, many of the recount lawyers, particularly those based in Florida, engineered a comprehensive voter protection program to confront and deal with voter and election issues before Election Day in 2004. One aspect of this effort was the recruitment of 3200 lawyers who, after receiving specialized election law and procedures training, worked inside the polls in key precincts in Florida to assure that every citizen who showed up to vote, was able to do so.

Since then, our members have been involved in priority federal and state and local elections across the nation. DC DLC members served in volunteer and

leadership capacities in support of the election of President Obama and federal, state, and local Democratic candidates in 2008 and volunteered for the 2009 off-year elections and the 2010 midterms.

Please e-mail us at [erika @ democraticlawyers.org](mailto:erika@democraticlawyers.org).

### [HELP?](#)

Even if you've been with us since we've been in operation for nearly the past decade (don't do the math - you know what got us started circa 2000!) -- help us out and update your record (or let us know what you are interested in and how we can get in touch with you if you haven't been on our lists).

Please click [here](#). The form takes 20-55 seconds to complete.

### [READING SOMEONE ELSE'S COPY???](#)

To get your own copy of Democratic Law Briefs, please fill out the form available [here](#) or send an e-mail to [erika @ democraticlawyers.org](mailto:erika@democraticlawyers.org).

### [TO UNSUBSCRIBE](#)

If you want off the distribution list, please click [here](#).

### [GOT NEWS?](#)

If you have news for Democratic Law Briefs, we'd love to get it. E-mail your news, ideas, rumors and thoughts to Paul Roath and Arielle Harry-Bess at [editors @ democraticlawyers.org](mailto:editors@democraticlawyers.org). We reserve the right to use, not use, edit, paraphrase, or otherwise play with your submissions.

\* \* \*

Democratic Law Briefs, E-Mail Edition, Volume 7 Number 13  
Copyright 2011 DCDLC, Paul Roath, Ph.D., Esq., Arielle Harry-Bess, Esq. and Erika Moritsugu, Esq.  
This material is intended for personal use only. For other than personal use, it is illegal to make copies or faxes of the information or to store it in a database without permission. All material herein is copyrighted and is intended for the sole personal use of members of the Democratic Lawyers Council. While copies for personal use are permitted, the information otherwise may not be reproduced, republished or downloaded to a local area network without written permission. Violators risk penalties and \$100,000 in damages per offense.