

COGEL NEWS

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Recent News

- *Elections*

UNITED STATES—From the [Brennan Center](#), an article detailing current voting law challenges in nine states.

UNITED STATES—According to this article in the [New York Times](#), stricter voter identification rules are reshaping races in many jurisdictions. Also on current challenges to voter ID Laws across the country:

- **NORTH CAROLINA**—From the [Charlotte Observer](#): A federal judge has upheld the voter ID law in North Carolina elections.
- **TEXAS**—[Governing](#) reports that the Supreme Court will allow Texas to enforce its voter ID law for now.

IOWA—The [Des Moines Register](#) reports that Iowa’s process to restore voting rights to convicted felons will be streamlined.

MASSACHUSETTS—A [Governing](#) article describes the failure of welfare offices in Massachusetts to assist with voter registration.

TEXAS—The [Texas Tribune](#) reports that an Arizona State University analysis of state voting records from 2000-2011 shows scant evidence of voter fraud.

VERMONT—The [Brennan Center](#) reports that Vermont’s Governor has signed a bipartisan bill providing for automatic voter registration.

VIRGINIA—[ABC News](#) reports that Virginia lawmakers plan to sue over felons’ voting rights.

If your agency, law firm, or organization is not a COGEL member, please consider joining. COGEL membership gives you immediate access to your professional counterparts throughout the U.S. and Canada, including an amazing annual conference. Get more information [here](#)

If there’s action in your jurisdiction, and you want your COGEL colleagues to know about it, please send a link to [John Schaaf](#) or [Jennifer Hardin](#), who compile the COGEL News.

- *Ethics*

BRAZIL—The *BBC* reports that the key campaign strategist for Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff has been arrested on corruption charges.

CANADA—This *National Post* article describes editorial reactions to the acquittal of Senator Mike Duffy.

ICELAND—An article from *Reuters* states that Iceland's government has named a new prime minister and called for early elections, following the resignation of Prime Minister Sigmundur David Gunnlaugsson. Gunnlaugsson resigned following revelations in the "Panama Papers" leaks.

UNITED STATES—A post on the *Global Anticorruption Blog* suggests a way to fix the federal definition of bribery.

BRITISH COLUMBIA—The *National Post* reports that a Member of the Legislative Assembly has filed a conflict of interest complaint against the B.C. Premier in connection with a stipend she receives from the Liberal Party.

NEW YORK—This *Governing* article describes the 12-year prison sentence handed down against former New York Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver.

NEW YORK—The *AP* reports on the US Attorney's growing corruption investigation in New York City.

VIRGINIA—The *Washington Post* describes the Supreme Court's consideration of former Virginia Governor Robert McDonnell's conviction on federal corruption charges. This related article from the *Global Anticorruption Blog* details a Columbia Law School proxy debate on the bribery appeal. A video of the debate is linked in the article.

- *Freedom of Information*

UNITED STATES—A story on the *Sunlight Foundation Web site* reports that Congress will consider making open data the default in the federal government.

NEW YORK—*Bloomberg* reports that regulators in the state of New York are asking foreign banks to turn over papers related to the disclosures in the "Panama Papers."

VIRGINIA—This *Public Integrity* story states that the Center for Public Integrity will ask the Virginia Supreme Court to make auto lending reports public. The decision will determine whether corporations have the same privacy rights as individuals.



COGEL offers its thanks, on behalf of the membership, to State and Federal Communications for the many services it provides to COGEL. Included among those is "News You Can Use," a valuable compilation of ethics and campaign finance news, which is made available to all COGEL members on the COGEL Web site.

NEW “GILDED AGE”

“Close to half the money—41 percent—raised by the groups by the end of February came from just 50 mega-donors and their relatives.”

- *Campaign Finance*

CANADA—According to the *National Post*, the David Del Mastro trial comes down to evidence versus common sense.

UNITED STATES—This *Washington Post* article describes the “new Gilded Age”—nearly half of all super PAC money comes from 50 donors

MAINE—The *Portland Press Herald* reports that Governor LePage has vetoed a legislative funding proposal that would have fixed Maine’s Clean Election Fund.

- *Lobbying*

UNITED STATES—*The Hill* reports that the Association for Government Relations Professionals, a lobbying trade group, is winding down its operation.

UNITED STATES—This *Sunlight Foundation* article describes “shadow lobbying.”