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Mexican man charged with using fake ID, voting in elections—for 25 Years!!

October 30, 2017 By Stephen Frank 7 Comments

Illegal Aliens vote—this one has voted for up to 25 years—using the I'd of a dead man. He also broke numerous other laws. Another reason for the Feds to enforce our immigration laws—and to indict California government officials that protected this criminal and his actions for more than two decades.

"A Mexican man living in Sacramento is accused of using a dead man's identity for 25 years and illegally voting in five elections.

A federal grand jury indicted 62-year-old Gustavo Araujo Lerma on Thursday for passport fraud, identity theft, conspiracy to commit unlawful procurement of citizenship and illegal voting.

This crook also used his phony "citizenship" to get his wife to become a citizen as well—deport them both. Think we have honest elections? Then meet Gustavo Araujo Lerma.

Mexican man charged with using fake ID, voting in elections

KPCC, 10/28/17

A Mexican man living in Sacramento is accused of using a dead man's identity for 25 years and illegally voting in five elections.

A federal grand jury indicted 62-year-old Gustavo Araujo Lerma on Thursday for passport fraud, identity theft, conspiracy to commit unlawful procurement of citizenship and illegal voting.

It's unclear whether he has a lawyer.

Federal prosecutors say that for over a quarter of a century, Araujo used passports in the name of "Hiram Enrique Velez," a U.S. citizen who has died.

Authorities claim he voted in numerous federal, state and local elections and used the false identity to obtain residency and then citizenship for his wife, Maria Velez.

She's charged with conspiracy and unlawfully procuring citizenship.

Araujo could face 15 years in prison if convicted.
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Filed Under: Stephen Frank’s California Political News And Views

About Stephen Frank

Stephen Frank is the publisher and editor of California Political News and Views. He speaks all over California and appears as a guest on several radio shows each week. He has also served as a guest host on radio talk shows. He is a fulltime political consultant.

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1. Really???
   View 3 months ago

Nothing new here.

A similar situation exists in Santa Barbara where two illegals have been reported to both Federal authorities and the local DA with zero effect. Not only that but the wife is using the deceased ID of a citizen of Mexican descent and working for a high-end nursing care facility.

The husband and wife get welfare under their illegal names and he works under the table. The wife's income is very good. They drive high-end SUV's and have been able to buy an expensive house. Not one person from the County of Santa Barbara, the City of Santa Barbara, or Fed's have arrested or deported these two.

25 years? That is chicken feed compared to these two.

Reply

2. barry Johnson
   View 3 months ago
   So did U show this to Kevin "Illegal Alien Lover" De Leon, Heck, he is probably related to him? Be sure to watch, he may get him "Pardened"

Reply

3. Adrian Vance
   View 3 months ago
   If all the illegal aliens voting and dead voters were eliminated California would be a Republican state, i.e. the people who pay for everything.

   Google "Two Minute Conservative" for more.

Reply

4. Cindy
   View 3 months ago
   What happened to the expensive "Upgraded DMV" computer system we paid for? Why didn't the DMV cross check his social security system number (Federall/Local obituary) or thumb print (individual i.d.)? Who's responsible for this lack of oversight and obeying our laws? It's time to make our DMV be responsible to those of us that pay their salaries and benefits....

Reply

   • askeptcreplied:
     View 3 months ago
     That's the funniest thing I've read today.
     Make the DMV be responsible ...... LOL!

Reply

5. Dolly Tavera Wimer
   View 3 months ago
   Obama uses the Social Security Number of a Dead Man too!
   All these ILLEGALS need to be rounded up and thrown out of the USA!

Reply

6. askeptic
   View 3 months ago
   Surely this all must be a mistake, for The Left continually tells us that Voter Fraud is a nonexistent event – and The Left never lies.
   Right?

Reply
EXHIBIT 8
Glitch let ineligible immigrants vote in Philly elections, officials say

Updated: SEPTEMBER 20, 2017 — 5:10 PM EDT

A top Philadelphia elections official said Wednesday that hundreds of legal but otherwise ineligible immigrants registered to vote in the last decade, and nearly half cast ballots they shouldn’t have.

Commissioner Al Schmidt blamed that on what he said was a PennDot glitch that enabled legal permanent residents to register to vote at kiosks when they applied or renewed for driver’s licenses or registrations.

by Chris Brennan, STAFF WRITER  
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Only U.S. citizens are eligible to vote, but those in the country legally are able to obtain driver’s licenses in Pennsylvania.

It was unclear how many noncitizens might have registered to vote at PennDot offices statewide, or how many of them had cast ballots. A Pennsylvania Department of State review is underway, but the department said late Wednesday it had records indicating 1,160 people statewide since 1972 had requested cancellation of their voter registrations because they were not citizens.

Schmidt, the lone Republican commissioner, said he has been speaking with the department since July about the problem.

For months during the campaign season, President Trump singled out the city as a hot spot for voter fraud (http://www.philly.com/philly/news/politics/presidential/20161013_Trump_warns_of_voter_fraud_here_others_are_doubtful.html), alleging widespread vote-rigging and claiming that if he lost, Philadelphia would be to blame. But voter-fraud incidents here tend to be more pedestrian: recent cases included poll workers who added six extra votes to a voting machine in 2014 and a woman who voted on behalf of her mother.

Schmidt noted that fraud requires a knowing intent by a voter ineligible to register or cast a ballot.

“All voter fraud is an irregularity; not all voter irregularities are fraud,” Schmidt said, adding that the registrations and votes were still illegal. “Regardless of the intent, the damage is still the same.”

The problem found Schmidt and his agency.

Three hundred and seventeen voters have contacted the City Commissioners, which oversees elections in Philadelphia, since 2006 to have their registrations canceled because, while they were in the country legally, they were foreign citizens ineligible to vote.

Schmidt’s data date back to 2006 because that was when Pennsylvania started using the Statewide Uniform Registry of Electors, which provides reliable statistics about voters in the state.

Of the 317, Schmidt’s office has documented 220 — either through direct contact or via an attorney — who were registered to vote from 2006 to 2017. Forty-four of those people voted in one election while 46 voted in more than one election.

All of the 317 registrations have been canceled, Schmidt said.

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No election for public office in the city during that time had a close enough margin that a result could have been changed by the number of improperly registered people voting, Schmidt said.
In Allegheny County, Elections Director Mark Wolosik on Wednesday said there have been 98 cases of noncitizens canceling their voter registrations since 2006. The county was not able Wednesday afternoon to determine how many, if any, of those residents cast ballots. Wolosik said the county became aware of those cases when immigrants, or their attorneys, realized the error after being asked about their registration during the citizenship process.

Schmidt and his staff traced the problem in Philadelphia primarily to legal residents who are not American citizens, visiting PennDot offices to obtain or update driver’s licenses. That accounted for 168 of the 220 people who contacted the City Commissioners to cancel registrations. The 52 others registered to vote by other means, Schmidt said.

“For the majority of these people, it’s completely plausible to believe they thought they were eligible to vote,” Schmidt said, because they were offered the option to register after giving PennDot documentation that they were in this country legally but not citizens.

The 220 people produced immigration documents to show they were eligible for driver’s licenses. Later in the process, the applicants were asked to check a box on an electronic kiosk if they also wanted to register to vote.

This is known as “motor-voter,” a federal law passed in 1993 (https://www.justice.gov/ort/about-national-voter-registration-act) that went into effect in 1995 to help encourage voter registration by pairing it with the process to obtain a driver’s license.

Schmidt said 155 of the ineligible voters registered as Democrats, 23 as Republicans, and 42 as independents or members of smaller political parties.

The largest number of votes by non-U.S. citizens in the city was 47 in the 2008 general election, in which Barack Obama was elected president. That was .0065 percent of the 718,025 votes cast in that race in Philadelphia.

A PennDot spokeswoman on Wednesday referred questions to the Department of State, noting that her agency “is not involved with processing the applications” for voter registration.

The Department of State, in a statement Wednesday, said it was “aware of these potential inadvertent registrations and we are conducting our own review of the system used to assist PennDot customers with voter registration.”

Pennsylvania Secretary of State Pedro Cortes was unavailable to take questions, according to a spokeswoman.

The department’s statement pointed to changes it made in August 2016, changing the order of questions on PennDot kiosks to “immediately” ask if applicants for driver’s licenses are U.S. citizens and increasing the number of languages used to ask that question.

Those changes have been implemented in 89 of PennDot’s 97 offices and the rest will be made “in a few weeks,” according to the department.

The issue of noncitizens being encouraged to register to vote was raised during a state House State Government Committee hearing Oct. 4, one month before the 2016 general election. State Rep. Daryl Metcalfe, a Butler County Republican who chairs that committee and has long railed about voter fraud, told Cortes that one of his constituents received a mailer suggesting she register even though she was not a citizen.

Cortes responded by talking about his office working with PennDot on preventing ineligible voters from registering, but noted “no system is 100 percent fail-proof.” Cortes said at the time some noncitizens may “inadvertently register” to vote at PennDot while obtaining or updating a driver’s license.

Schmidt said he suspected people notified the City Commissioners that they were improperly registered because they were asked by the federal government, while seeking citizenship, if they had ever been registered to vote in this country.

He also said some of the people who were improperly registered in the past may have become citizens by now. But incorrectly registering to vote while ineligible could jeopardize a person’s application for citizenship.

“The current voter registration process at PennDot is both harmful to election integrity and to members of the immigrant community seeking citizenship,” Schmidt said.
Glitch let ineligible immigrants vote in Philly elections, officials say

Staff writer Aubrey Whelan and Chris Potter of the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette contributed to this article.

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Published: September 20, 2017 — 4:45 PM EDT  |  Updated: September 20, 2017 — 5:10 PM EDT
EXHIBIT 9
Immigrant Who Voted Illegally on Road to Becoming a U.S. Citizen

Published August 28, 2010

Can an immigrant who resides legally in the U.S. on a work visa but who voted illegally in a presidential election year still become a naturalized U.S. citizen?

Yes, actually. Especially if the Department of Homeland Security sends a letter instructing him to request removal from the voter rolls.

That happened this summer in Putnam County, Tenn., where County Administrator of Elections Debbie Steidl says an immigrant who illegally registered to vote — and then voted — in 2004 is now seeking to become a U.S. citizen.

Steidl says the man gave her a form letter from the DHS instructing him to:

"Submit ... evidence that you have been removed from the roll of registered voters. This can be accomplished by contacting your local election commission where you registered and voted. Submit a letter of explanation of why you registered to vote, and where you registered to vote, when you discovered that you were not a United States Citizen."

Steidl provided FoxNews.com with a copy of the letter, with the man's name and address redacted. Click here to see the letter.

She told FoxNews.com that, were the immigrant to be removed from the voter roll, as the DHS suggested, all traces of his illegal voting record would normally be shredded within two years.

"I went to my election commission and I said: 'This frightens me for my country,'" she said. "They agreed with me. Why would you let someone who committed voter fraud become a citizen? That's what they're doing."

But immigration advocates say voting illegally can be an honest mistake, and the DHS is correct not to turn down immigrants who apply for citizenship solely because of it.

"I think a lot of people are truly very unaware about not being eligible to vote, and some election officials are maybe not clear enough on what's required," said Natalie Sullivan, director of the Immigration Advocates Network. "So immigration has a process in place to consider what the circumstances were, and decide on a case-by-case basis."

Sullivan said that, even if the records were shredded, the immigrant's apparent admission to DHS could still provide evidence.

"If he has already admitted on the naturalization application that he previously voted, that is also a form of evidence... DHS is ultimately going to make the decision about what has allegedly occurred," she said.

The DHS did not respond to calls for comment. "Good moral character" is a requirement to obtain citizenship, and a memo issued by the Immigration and Naturalization Service in 2002 says immigration officers have discretion about whether to allow someone to become a citizen after admitting to voting illegally.

"Officers must balance the facts regarding the applicant's unlawful voting or false representation as a U.S. citizen against other factors such as family ties and background," the memo reads.

A felony conviction of voter fraud from a court would bar someone from receiving citizenship, according to the memo. But in the Putnam County case, the time for prosecution is over.

"I went to the local DA, but the statute of limitations has run out," Steidl said. "He said, 'I can't do anything. You can write a letter, but it's just going to go in a file.' Maddening."

Putnam County District Attorney Randall York confirmed that the statute of limitations for vote fraud is two years. He declined to comment on the case.

Steidl said that as the administrator of elections, she is not allowed to question registrants about their citizenship when they apply. Everyone has to sign a form saying they are citizens. Asking for further evidence "would be considered discrimination," she said.
Sullivan called Steidl’s response to the letter an overreaction.

“She says the Department of Homeland Security is enabling this person – I disagree,” she said. “Their letter is meant to prevent any further acts of voting.”

She said there were many benign reasons immigrants might vote, not knowing they are barred from doing so.

Indeed, many states now make it very easy to register to vote. Some will automatically register people applying for driver’s licenses if they check off a box on their form and sign that they are a U.S. citizen.

Sullivan said immigrants who are not citizens may feel that voting is their civic duty and not realize that they are ineligible to vote.

“One reason might be enthusiasm for integrating, and for civic participation. A desire to see the laws change might be another... all that can be coupled with a lack of knowledge that the person is not qualified to do so.”

But Steidl sees it differently.

“He signed a piece of paper that said he was a citizen of the U.S., just so he could vote. What else could he be willing to do?”