

選舉傳單公開歧視華裔新州檢察長調查

愛迪生市(Edison)曾在去年選舉期間發生散布歧視亞裔傳單,警長布萊恩(Thomas Bryan)在22日議會稱,日前新州總檢察長辦公室已經介入調查。施景渭表示,他相信愛市警方和總檢察長辦公室將嚴肅調查此事。

愛市共和黨前市長參選人哈恩(Keith Hahn),當日督促議會通過決議,要求對十個月前愛市選舉,最後階段出現的種族主義傳單事件進行調查。儘管一級譴責傳單,當晚議會氣氛緊張,哈恩以及多名發言者指出,傳單使共和黨參選人獲得大量負面影響,並導致最終輸掉選戰。布萊恩則回應稱警方將配合總檢察長辦公室及另一機構進行調查,但未透露該機構名稱和細節。

議會當晚並未通過決議,但市議長帕提爾(Ajay Patil)及多位市議員譴責傳單製造者,表示種族主義違背愛市社區價值觀,並計畫在9月12日對決議進行投票。

去年愛市選舉期間,部分居民收到帶有種族歧視傾向傳單,揚言遣返(deport)當地華裔學區委員施景渭(Jerry Shi)、印度裔學委參選人菲谷妮·派特爾(Falguni Patel),並稱“中國人和印度人正在奪走我們的家園”,並模仿川普的口號打出“讓愛迪生更偉大”(Make Edison Great Again)的旗號。該傳單一經曝光就受到新州各界的強烈譴責,最終施景渭和菲谷妮·派特爾成功當選。

愛市少數族裔群體近年來數量迅速增加,根據人口數據統計,愛市亞裔人口比例達47.2%、白人為34.9%、西語裔9.3%、非裔6.1%;與此同時,華裔參政積極性也在不斷提高。施景渭三年前當選學區委員後,華裔居民彭曉寒戰勝三位獲得民主黨與共和黨聯合支持的競選對手,使得當地不僅出現兩名華裔學區委員,還在今年初選中有七名華人當選民主黨代表,並成功使少數族裔團隊,囊括從黨主席到民主黨執行委員會(executive board)的所有席位。

美國爆發可致死寄生蟲病 已致病 30 萬人



根據每日郵報報道,會導致中風和心臟衰竭的寄生蟲病正在美國蔓延,預計已有30萬人患病。

這種寄生蟲病叫做查加斯病(Chagas disease),是通過南美一種“接吻蟲”傳播。“接吻蟲”原名為南美蝨蝱,因為會在人臉上吸血,特別是嘴邊,所以得名“接吻蟲”。

而寄生蟲並不會直接通過“接吻蟲”的叮咬而傳播,在被它們叮咬後,它們通常會將糞便排泄在傷口周圍,糞便中的寄生蟲就會借機進入傷口或是因為人的觸碰進入眼部。

被感染後,寄生蟲會在血液中大量繁殖,最後導致寄生心臟衰竭或中風,而危及生命。感染的症狀隨着疾病的進程而改變,而感染的人開始時症狀很不明顯,很難被發現。所以“接吻蟲”也被稱作“無聲殺手”。

這種疾病通常出現在中美洲和南美洲,但如今已經蔓延到全美27個州。美國心臟協會發佈一份聲明稱,如果美國的醫生們不能對查加斯病有更好的認知和正確的治療態度,該病可能會在美國大規模爆發,結果將是毀滅性的。

查加斯病主要分為兩個階段:急性期

和慢性期。

根據美國疾病控制中心發佈的信息,急性期主要出現於剛被感染的前幾周乃至前幾個月。在這個階段,寄生蟲會在血液中大量繁殖,但與此同時並不會出現什麼感染症狀,即便有也十分輕微。

症狀通常包括發燒,頭疼,疲勞,出現紅疹或是被叮咬部位附近出現腫脹等等。

如果在這個階段使用抗寄生蟲類藥物,可以很好地抑制查加斯病的發展,根據美國心臟中心的數據,急性期治療成功率高達60%-90%。

一旦查加斯病進入慢性期,寄生蟲會進入心肌和消化系統,約30%的患者在這個時期會出現心臟擴張,心律失常或者食道擴張和結腸擴張。這些症狀可導致中風或心臟驟停,從而危及患者生命。

這一階段,藥物已經無法治療查加斯病,只等對50歲及50歲以下患者延緩其發病的時間。

據美國疾病控制中心的統計,在墨西哥,中美洲和南美,有將近800萬人感染了查加斯病卻不自知。

但是除了上述地區以外的民眾甚至醫生,對查加斯病知之甚少,甚至聽都沒聽說過,更不瞭解該病的嚴重性。

如今,查加斯病越來越常見。包括意大利,西班牙,法國,日本,澳大利亞等國都有感染該病的報道。

美國此次受感染的州主要集中在西部和南部,例如佛羅里達州,路易斯安那州,德克薩斯州,亞利桑那州和加利福尼亞州等——但是也不乏北部的州,例如賓夕法尼亞州。

美國心臟協會發佈的聲明中還稱,關鍵在於對查加斯病高度警惕,才能防止美國出現同墨西哥等南美國家一樣疫情。

“早期診斷對於治療查加斯病是十分重要的,”加州大學舊金山分校的流行病學和生物統計學教授伯恩(Caryn Bern)博士在聲明中寫到,“當有迹象表明患者感染了這種病,應迅速啓動治療。”

很多疾病都是通過蚊蟲傳播,包括瘧疾,大腸炎,寨卡病毒等等。

夏季是因蚊蟲叮咬傳播疾病現象的高發期,在戶外活動是一定要提前做好防護。尤其是被不知名的昆蟲叮咬後,不能大意,應及時瞭解情況,到醫院就醫。



Check with Voter Registrar – Are You Still on the Rolls?

By Mark Hedin

U.S. citizens across the country soon will vote on all 435 seats in the House of Representatives, for 35 U.S. senators and three dozen governorships. The House of Representatives and possibly the Senate are up for grabs.

Given the high stakes, voters would do well to check at least a month ahead of time with their local board of elections to see if they're still registered to vote. This is especially true for people of color.

The reason is that millions could find their right to vote challenged or taken away under suspicion that they're trying to vote more than once, largely due to 26 states using the Interstate Voter Crosscheck system, which compares lists of voters in different states and challenges the registration of those whose names come up more than once.

For the 1,166,000 people in the country who share the surname Garcia, this could be a problem. Likewise for the Rodriguezes (1,094,924), Jacksons (708,099), Washingtons (177,386), Kims (262,352), Patels (229,973), Lees (693,023) and Parks (106,696).

Crosscheck, developed in 2005 by Kansas Secretary of State Ron Thornburgh as a free service for participating states, promised to detect voter fraud by comparing people's names, social security numbers and birthdates. Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa and Missouri first implemented it in 2006.

During his tenure as Kansas' secretary of state, current GOP gubernatorial candidate Kris

Kobach expanded Crosscheck to 15 states by 2012 and 29 by 2014 and in 2017 was appointed to a leading role in the White House's short-lived Presidential Advisory Commission on Election Integrity.

In 2017, of 98 million voting records Crosscheck analyzed, it deemed 7.2 million potential duplicates, although Crosscheck has yet to produce its first voter fraud conviction. Eight states that originally signed on have since dropped out, citing unreliable data. Nonetheless, it's still in use in dozens more. Eight of those state have Senate seats up for a vote this year in contests that are expected to be close: Arizona, Nevada, Indiana, Missouri, West Virginia, Tennessee, Ohio and Michigan. And 19 Crosscheck-using states are voting on their governor for the next four years.

In a 2015 named "The Health of State Democracies," the Center for American Progress, a nonprofit funded in part by the Gates Foundation, Wal-Mart, Ford Foundation and many others, concluded that the voters Crosscheck tagged for review are disproportionately non-white.

"States participating in the Interstate Crosscheck system risk purging legally registered voters? with a significant oversampling from communities of color," it said, citing the work of journalist Greg Palast, who's been studying the U.S. voting system since 2000, for the BBC, al-Jazeera America, Rolling Stone magazine and others and produced a film about it, "The Best Democracy Money Can Buy."

Working with data analyst Mark Swedlund, Palast found that among states using Crosscheck, one in six Hispanics, one in seven Asian Americans and one in nine African Americans landed on its list of suspect voters.

"The outcome is discriminatory against minorities," Swedlund says.

The chief explanation for the racial inequity is that ethnic communities are more likely to share a surname, such as Washington, Lee, Patel or Kim, Palast told Ethnic Media Services.

Swedlund and Palast found that the Crosscheck system seems satisfied that if two people share a common first and last name, they're suspect. Differences in their birthdate, middle initial, Social Security numbers or suffixes such as "Jr." and "Sr." don't keep registered voters off Crosscheck's lists.

Not all 7 million people whose names appear on Crosscheck's lists will be denied a vote, though. For one thing, only 36.4% of the people who were registered to vote even showed up at the polls in 2014. In one survey of elections between 1960 and 1995, the United States ranks dead last in the democracies of the world, with an average turnout of 48%.

Would-be voters whose names are missing from the lists of registered voters will be given what's called a "provisional ballot," to be tallied if the voter is ultimately found to have been wrongly left off the lists. Palast, however, skeptical that many provisional ballots are ever counted, refers

to them as "placebo ballots."

Voters eager to cast genuine ballots, then, might want to call their local board of elections well in advance of Nov. 6 to be sure that they'll be allowed to vote.

In 2018's highly charged political environment, individual votes may count more than ever. Take, for example, the recent special election for the vacant seat representing Ohio's 12th congressional district.

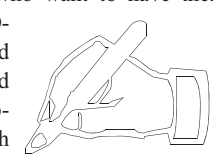
In that still undecided Aug. 7 race, 1,200 votes separate Republican Troy Balderson and Democrat Danny O'Connor at press time.

Ohio has removed almost 200,000 voters from the rolls because they appeared on the Crosscheck lists.

The margin of victory in the state's 12th District race may ultimately be found among the 5,048 absentee ballots not yet tallied and the still uncounted 3,435 provisional ballots.

No matter which of the candidates is awarded Ohio's vacant 12th District Congressional seat based on the August election, voters will get another chance to decide between Balderson and O'Connor in November.

That's why voters who want to have their voices heard Nov. 6, in Ohio and elsewhere, should call local officials ahead of time to see if any problems have come up with their registration.



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