

Judge dismisses Trump campaign lawsuit to stop Georgia count



By Al Neal

Firing off its third legal salvo in a bid to steal the election, the Trump campaign filed another lawsuit Thursday attempting to stop the counting of votes, this time in Georgia, where his margin is sharply decreasing as absentee and mail-in ballots are tallied.

Trump Deputy Campaign Manager Justin Clark alleged in a statement that a Republican poll watcher in the state “witnessed 53 late absentee ballots illegally added to a stack of on-time absentee ballots in Chatham County.”

The lawsuit, filed in Chatman County, essentially asks a state judge to ensure state laws are being followed on absentee ballots. Trump campaign officials have also signaled that they are considering filing several similar suits in a dozen other counties around the state asserting similar claims about absentee ballots.

Almost as fast as this new suit was filed, however, Chatham County Superior Court Judge James Bass dismissed it. Bass did not provide an explanation for his decision. At an almost one-hour hearing, county elections officials testified that all 53 ballots had been received on time; Bass appeared convinced.

This latest lawsuit, like those before it, is part of a broader and calculated attempt by the Trump campaign and GOP to undermine the integrity of the election and voting process by challenging mail-in

ballots, which heavily favor Democratic candidates, and halting the counting process in states where the president is currently ahead.

Explaining why the suit was filed, Clark said, “President Trump and his team are fighting for the good of the nation to uphold the rule of law, and Georgia’s law is very clear: to legally count, mail ballots must be received by 7:00 p.m. on Election Day.”

Independently, David Shafer, the chairman of

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the Georgia state GOP, tweeted, “I have authorized lawyers for the Georgia Republican Party to file an emergency petition against the Chatham County Board of Elections to enforce election laws and prevent the unlawful counting of absentee ballots received after the election.”

The attempt to claim absentee ballots were received late in one country was thrown out.

A razor-thin margin separates Trump and Biden in the state. With an estimated 99% of votes counted, Trump holds 49.6% (2,432,552 votes) while Biden is on his heels with 49.2% (2,413,966 votes).

Trump has repeatedly claimed that mail-in ballots that arrive after Election Day should not be counted. The law in most states says otherwise. Several allow late-arriving ballots to count if they are postmarked by Election Day. But Trump seems bound to continue in his strategy of using the courts to try to swing the outcome of the race as it narrows in Biden's favor.

As it stands, there is no legitimate legal mechanism in place for the U.S. Supreme Court to "get all the voting to stop" as Trump has argued.

Politically speaking, the Trump campaign, and Trump, are lashing out in desperation, and this flurry of lawsuits is the tactic of a losing campaign.

"What makes these charades especially pathetic is that while Trump is demanding recounts in places he has already lost, he's simultaneously engaged in

fruitless attempts to halt the counting of votes in other states in which he's on the road to defeat," said Biden campaign spokesperson Andrew Bates, in a statement.

The only rule of law that matters now is this: Count Every Vote.

And election officials will continue to do so, despite a lawless incumbent's legal theatrics.

Labor Department reports 21.5 million still getting jobless aid

By Mark Gruenberg

New claims for jobless benefits, from people thrown out of work by the coronavirus pandemic and actions to counter the community spread of the plague, totaled 21.51 million for the week ending on Oct. 17, the Labor Department reported.

That doesn't count new claims for state or federal jobless benefits since then, the Bureau of Labor Statistics said. They totaled 1.11 million for the week that ended on Halloween and 1.098 million the week before that.

Aid to the jobless, or lack of it, is being blamed in part for the weak showing by congressional Democrats in the Nov. 3 election, due to failure to extend benefits originally approved in March.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., and her majority twice passed the Heroes Act, extending the jobless aid and other measures to combat the coronavirus plague and the economic depression. The bill would have run through Jan. 31 or the end of the pandemic, whichever is later.

But Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., who won easy re-election in what was supposed to be a tough race in the deep-red state, pigeonholed the Heroes Act both times.

Bluegrass State voters, though, re-elected McConnell easily in what was supposed to be a tough race. Democrats, who supported the measure, gained only one U.S. Senate seat so far.

"Last week was the 33rd straight week total initial" jobless benefit "claims were far greater than the worst week of the Great Recession," Economic Policy Institute Director Heidi Shierholz stated.

"Most states provide 26 weeks of regular benefits, but this crisis has gone on much longer. Many workers are exhausting their regular state unemployment insurance benefits. In the most recent data, continuing claims for state UI dropped by 538,000, from 7.8 million to 7.3 million."

After they run through the state benefits, those jobless workers can seek extra federal pandemic unemployment benefits and get 13 more weeks' worth at their states' payment rates, she noted. But that program is expiring, too and the number of workers eligible to seek the aid is declining, even as the number of workers who can get regular state benefits continues to drop.

Passage of the Heroes Act, though Shierholz did not—this time—explicitly say so, would help those workers, too.

Last week was the 33rd straight week total initial jobless benefit claims were far greater than the worst week of the Great Recession," Economic Policy Institute Policy Director Heidi Shierholz commented.

CPUSA hits the streets of New York to protect the results



By Maicol David Lynch

Whose vote counts? All votes count! Whose vote counts? Our vote counts!" the crowd shouted as they marched from Bryant Park to Washington Square Park in New York City on Wednesday.

They were demanding that every vote be counted a day after the largest voter turnout in the history of U.S. presidential elections.

A coalition of labor unions and progressive political organizations gathered at 5th Avenue on Wednesday afternoon where militant speeches were given to a frustrated crowd.

One CWA organizer said, "This may be a 'blue state,' but voter suppression still happens here. Count every vote!"

An organizer from SEIU followed up, stating, "Trump wants to stop counting the votes because it's not convenient for him to have all of these votes counted."

We must remain patient and demand that all votes be counted, no matter how many lawsuits Trump throws at us and no matter how long it takes."

The Communist Party USA's New York District sent a contingent to the march with banners which read "Defend Democracy" and "People and Nature Before Profits."

Cameron Orr, a representative of the Young Communist League in New York, told People's World, "It's just too close to call in places like Nevada and Georgia.

So we need to be out here every day marching even if there are recounts in some of these states."

Justine Medina, the co-chairwoman of the N.Y. YCL said, "I'm feeling good about this. Trump may actually lose, but he's not going down without a fight. Biden may win, but it's going to be challenged so we must be ready to fight this battle until January if need be."

More Protect the Results rallies and marches are planned for this week and into the weekend.

The Communist Party is delivering the message that the struggle to preserve U.S. democracy, as flawed as it might be, is a necessary step to unifying working people to fight for change.

Despite the predictions of many analysts and activists in the wider anti-Trump movement that Biden and the Democrats would win a blowout victory, it is clear that a significant portion of the country still supports Trump and the GOP, despite their anti-worker and racist policies.

The YCL activists in New York were pushing a clear message on Wednesday: "The fight to expand democracy doesn't begin after a clear victor is declared, it starts now."

Justine Medina, a young Communist, said, "I'm feeling good about this. Trump may actually lose, but he's not going down without a fight."

A police killing in Philadelphia, a cry for justice everywhere

By CP of EP & Delaware

The Communist Party of Eastern Pennsylvania and Delaware condemns in the strongest terms the police killing of Walter Wallace Jr. in West Philadelphia on October 26. Mr. Wallace, as a cellphone video appears to show, had a knife but no gun and was several feet away when officers shot him at least eight times. He was known to have mental health issues, and the family had called for emergency assistance. The police arrived first, and the EMT never arrived. His mother and other family members and neighbors were present and urging the officers not to respond with deadly force.

Following years of funding cuts for community and mental health services, but not for police, our city is ill prepared to provide support for citizens who need it urgently. The authorities are, apparently, limited to responding to emergency situations with weapons and force rather than having a range of responses ready.

The citizens of Philadelphia have worked tirelessly through the electoral process and have succeeded in electing a more responsive City Council, which has been moved to consider bills restricting the most violent police tactics. The citizens of Philadelphia have marched and demonstrated against these most threatening tactics, which have been directed primarily against communities where Black and brown people live.

Move the money; fund human needs and community support services! Democratize the police! Establish a Civilian Control Board with power! Train all police in appropriate responses and de-escalation, not simply “shoot to kill”!

Los socialistas españoles presentan un fuerte aumento del gasto social

Prensa Latina

El Partido Socialista Obrero Español (PSOE) apeló a los grupos parlamentarios a apoyar las cuentas públicas de 2021, que prevén afrontar las consecuencias de la pandemia de COVID-19 con un fuerte aumento del gasto social.

La presidenta del PSOE, Cristina Narbona, pidió al resto de partidos políticos una actitud de ‘auténtico patriotismo’ para que los presupuestos generales del Estado (PGE) del venidero año puedan salir adelante en el Congreso de los Diputados.

En un comunicado, la dirigente de la formación liderada por el presidente del Gobierno español, Pedro Sánchez, llamó a respaldar unos PGE de los que dependen los fondos asignados al país por la Unión Europea (UE) para afrontar los efectos de la crisis sanitaria.

Todos los grupos parlamentarios deberían entender que si no hay presupuestos para 2021, tampoco habrá acceso a las transferencias y préstamos europeos y se perdería una gran oportunidad, avisó

El gasto público crece un 10,3 por ciento respecto a las cuentas de 2018, elaboradas por el anterior ejecutivo del conservador Mariano Rajoy, e incluye 27 mil 436 millones de euros procedentes de los fondos de la UE para la recuperación tras la pandemia de COVID-19.

Reivindicó la excepcionalidad de estas cuentas ante la emergencia provocada por el coronavirus SARS-CoV-2, causante de la COVID-19, y subrayó que recogen la subida de las pensiones, el ingreso mínimo vital, la igualdad entre hombres mujeres o la vivienda.

Narbona hizo hincapié en que habrá una inversión estatal en política de vivienda ‘como no la ha habido nunca en nuestro país’, gracias a los fondos europeos que también darán facilidad para el alquiler social o la construcción de casas para familias desprotegidas.

El presidente del Gobierno y secretario general del PSOE, Pedro Sánchez, señaló en la presentación de las claves de los Presupuestos Generales del Estado para 2021, que estas son unas cuentas “inaplazables” e “indispensables para la modernización y la recuperación de nuestra economía”.

En un acto en Moncloa junto al vicepresidente segundo y ministro de Derechos Sociales y Agenda 2030, Pablo Iglesias, Pedro Sánchez ha destacado que estos “Presupuestos progresistas” que aprueba el Consejo de Ministros son “los que nuestro país necesita” en un contexto absolutamente excepcional como el que vivimos a causa de la pandemia, y prueba de ello es que movilizan el volumen de inversión pública “más ambicioso de nuestra historia”.

El líder socialista explicó que los Presupuestos tienen tres objetivos principales: “Reconstruir lo que nos ha arrebatado la crisis sanitaria, económica y social provocada por la COVID-19; modernizar nuestro modelo productivo para garantizar un crecimiento económico sobre bases más sólidas con más productividad y una apuesta decidida por la transición ecológica y digital, y fortalecer nuestro estado del bienestar con un sistema nacional de salud que tienen que ser mucho más robusto, unas pensiones dignas y el Ingreso Mínimo Vital”.