

# PUBLIC INTEREST

— LEGAL FOUNDATION —

## **Soros-Backed Plaintiffs Should Pay for Bogus Virginia Voter ID Challenge**

*Virginia Attorney General must demand taxpayer reimbursement*

(Alexandria, VA) – May 23. Billionaire George Soros funded a coordinated trio of lawsuits in key swing states ahead of the 2016 Presidential election in an effort to get voter integrity laws struck down in those states. The Virginia case was found to be meritless [last week](#) after a lengthy trial. Virginia taxpayers paid outside lawyers in excess of \$600,000 to defend against the Soros-backed case and they should be reimbursed.

The court said that some of the claims against Virginia’s voting laws were “skeletal accusations” with “no factual support” other than “pure speculation.” Then, after a two-week trial featuring a parade of experts and witnesses, the challengers still couldn’t identify “any legal obstacle inhibiting their opportunity to vote.” Not a single person was prevented from voting by the Virginia voter ID law.

The Voting Rights Act provision used by the Soros-backed lawsuits has a fee shifting provision. The loser pays attorney fees, and here the plaintiffs lost. A winning defendant may also use this provision. “Virginia Attorney General Mark Herring must instruct his outside lawyers to seek reimbursement for the money wasted on this meritless voter ID lawsuit,” said Public Interest Legal Foundation President J. Christian Adams. “Failing to seek reimbursement for defending against a meritless case isn’t fair to Virginia taxpayers. If George Soros wants to waste his money fighting election integrity, that’s one thing. Wasting taxpayer money is something different.”

The Public Interest Legal Foundation filed an [amicus curiae brief](#) supporting Virginia’s law.

The case is *Lee v. Virginia State Board of Elections*, Case No. 3:15-cv-357 (E.D. Va., Richmond).

The Public Interest Legal Foundation (PILF) is a 501(c)(3) public interest law firm dedicated to election integrity. PILF exists to assist states and others in supporting the cause of election integrity and to fight against lawlessness in American elections. Drawing on numerous experts in the field, PILF seeks to protect the right to vote and preserve the Constitutional framework of American elections.

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Court filings can be found here: <http://publicinterestlegal.org/cases/oh-wi-and-va-voting-lawsuits/>

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