



MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS

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January 5, 2026

The Honorable Bryan Steil
The Honorable Laurel Lee
United States House of Representatives
Committee on House Administration- Republican Office
1309 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
Via Email and Mail

Dear Chair Steil and Chair Lee:

Thank you for providing an opportunity for a written response in cooperation with your effort to update the National Voter Registration Act (the "NVRA").

The NVRA was landmark federal legislation seeking to maximize voter participation in American elections. With the intention of removing unnecessary additional barriers to voter registration, the NVRA integrated voter registration with everyday government interactions. Seizing on the intent of NVRA, Maryland expanded on trying to achieve universal voter registration and streamlined the process for individuals to register with the passage of the Secure and Accessible Registration Act of 2018. Maryland was among the state leaders in the automatic voter registration movement.

At the recent hearing on December 17, 2025, Maryland's voter registration process and integrity have been called into question especially with regard to citizenship. As State Administrator of Elections, I want to reassure the Committee, as well as all Marylanders that the Maryland State Board of Elections (SBE) and our local election officials are unwavering in their commitment to maintaining an accurate, secure, and trustworthy voter registration list, fully compliant with both federal and State laws.

Public trust in the electoral process is paramount. It is the bedrock of our democracy and the foundation for any elected government. With that underpinning, I welcome opportunities to explain Maryland's voter registration and electoral processes.

Dis- and mis-information regarding voter registration, its process, its verification, and maintenance has easily spread on social media. One of my top priorities as State Administrator is to combat dis- and mis-information head on by correcting the record and providing accurate and factual information. This office's commitment to transparency and outreach has made the State Board of Elections (SBE) Marylanders' trusted source of information on elections, electoral process and results.

SBE, in coordination and cooperation with our 24 local boards of elections, regularly explains and demonstrates procedures we use to register voters, maintain the statewide

registration list, and administer elections that are accessible to all qualified voters. Maryland also makes its laws, regulations, and other governing documents freely available. As such, at any time and without requesting our assistance, one can find detailed information about topics the committee has inquired about in materials that are widely published. For instance, Maryland conducts comprehensive, regular voter registration list maintenance procedures that both meet and exceed applicable requirements in the NVRA and HAVA, set forth in detail on our website.¹

As you are aware, voter registration is a law-driven process that every Marylander must do in order to participate in our elections. As the NVRA requires, every individual registering to vote must attest under the **penalty of perjury** to meeting all eligibility requirements, including being a U.S. Citizen. Securing voter registration through unlawful means, such as committing perjury, is prohibited by law.

The State Administrator is legally charged with maintaining the accuracy and currency of the statewide voter registration list. Voter registration list maintenance is not a static process. It is a daily effort with continuous updates and changes. The passage of automatic voter registration (AVR) greatly assisted in that effort, especially with address changes. As a part of the Secure and Accessible Registration Act of 2018, AVR automatically registered or updated registration to vote when the eligible individual interacted with state agencies like the Motor Vehicle Administration or the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange. Individuals always had the right to opt-out if they choose prior to any information being sent to SBE. This streamline process advanced accuracy and efficiency with voter registration. Furthermore, the data exchange between the agencies is safe and secure. Moreover, updated address changes reduce provisional voting. I highly recommend AVR in any updates to the NVRA.

In respect to citizenship updates, Maryland law sets forth two specific instances where SBE can act on information about potential noncitizens. The Administrative Office of the Court (AOC) sends SBE information about potential jurors who indicated they did not qualify for jury service because they were not a U.S. citizen, and SBE also accepts self-reporting directly from individuals. Before any individual is removed from the statewide voter registration list based on an AOC report, SBE verifies the information by sending a **written notification** to the individual requesting confirmation of their citizenship status.

If information is received from a third party source regarding citizenship status of a registered voter, that information cannot be confirmed by SBE. Since SBE cannot take any administrative action to remove or cancel the individual based upon these third party reports, SBE forwards that information to the Office of the State Prosecutor (OSP) for further investigation.

Maryland's detailed and legally circumscribed process for removing a voter from the registration list is designed to be absolutely certain and remove any doubt in the cancellation. Without the necessary verification steps required by State law, election officials cannot cancel a voter registration record. This office will not disenfranchise a voter based upon partial or unsubstantiated evidence. The right to vote is a sacred right that has been expanded through sacrifices of many before us. Maryland does not want to erect

¹ Maryland State Board of Elections, "Voter Registration List Maintenance", accessed Dec. 9, 2025, https://elections.maryland.gov/voter_registration/list_maintenance.html.

artificial barriers in registering to vote or voting, nor does it want you to re-register to vote due to an improper or illegal cancellation. Remember voting is not an entitlement or benefit program created or established by the government; but again a constitutional right embedded in the principles of our nation's foundation, our Constitution and the Maryland Declaration of Rights.

Regarding the Committee's questions concerning Ian Andre Roberts, SBE does not and cannot confirm that the identity of a voter matches that of another voter record in another state, based merely on the public facing information available. Even in other states, as in Maryland, public information on those voter lookups is limited in order to protect personal identifying information (PII) from disclosure. Public voter lookup tools are not designed to perform voter list maintenance procedures. Therefore, SBE will not confirm whether the individual in question is or is not or was or was not a registered voter in Maryland.

Voting history is publicly available information in the State of Maryland. A review of this public information did not show any voting history for any individual with the name Ian Andre Roberts in Maryland.

As for the redactions to the voter record provided by Prince George's County, the original production of the voter record was made with redactions applying to general requests for information under Maryland's Public Information Act, rather than requests specifically for a voter record. Once realized, a corrected record was produced. The information redacted was redacted pursuant to State and federal laws that permit withholding of certain voter information. Federal law requires the redaction of source of voter registration.

Finally, the issue of SAVE (Systemic Alien Verification for Entitlements) and possibly mandating its use for verification of citizenship as a possible change to NVRA was raised during the hearing. Maryland does not use the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services' (USCIS) SAVE database in the voter registration or list maintenance processes. Federal law does not contemplate using SAVE for voter registration purposes; and Maryland law does not provide SAVE as a permissible means for maintaining the accuracy of the voter registration list. Furthermore, the SAVE database has been reported to produce erroneous information about registered voters' citizenship.² Using SAVE could disenfranchise qualified voters. This is contrary to the intent of Maryland law, which expanded upon NVRA, that ensures the maximum number of eligible individuals can register rather than disenfranchising eligible individuals with unnecessary burdens to exercising their constitutional right to vote.

Additionally, as State Administrator, I am concerned that providing Maryland's voter registration database to USCIS could have further implications that would violate State law. Records uploaded to SAVE are retained by USCIS for up to 10 years. Once provided to USCIS, Maryland's list of over 4 million individuals, containing names, residential address,

² E.g., Natalia Contreras, *Texas counties look into 'potential noncitizens' on voter rolls. Here's what they're finding.*, VOTE BEAT, Oct. 31, 2025, <https://www.votebeat.org/texas/2025/10/31/county-election-officials-investigate-potential-noncitizens-flagged-save-database/>; Jude Joffe-Block, *Trump's SAVE tool is looking for noncitizen voters. But it's flagging U.S. citizens too*, NPR, All Things Considered, Dec. 10, 2025.

driver's license numbers, and birthdates, among other things, could be used by USCIS without the consent or knowledge of SBE for nonelectoral purposes; again against Maryland law.

While no voter should be on the Maryland voter rolls if they are not a citizen of the United States, being on the voter rolls does not equate to having voted in an election. This is an important distinction as we investigate potential illegalities and potential prosecution.

In the end, it is important to remember as our guiding principle that as the Maryland Declaration of Rights states, "the right of the People to participate in the Legislature is the best security of liberty and the foundation of all free Government; . . . and every citizen having the qualifications prescribed by the Constitution, ought to have the right of suffrage."

Sincerely,

Jared DeMarinis

Jared DeMarinis
Maryland State Administrator of Elections

cc: The Honorable Joe Morelle (NY-25)
The Honorable Terri A. Sewell (AL-07)
The Honorable Mary Miller (IL-15)
The Honorable Andrew Harris (MD-1)
The Honorable Johnny Olszewski (MD-2)
The Honorable Sarah Elfreth (MD-3)
The Honorable Glenn Ivey (MD-4)
The Honorable Steny Hoyer (MD-5)
The Honorable April McClain Delaney (MD-6)
The Honorable Kweisi Mfume (MD-7)
The Honorable Jamie Raskin (MD-8)