



U.S. Department of Justice

Civil Rights Division

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

August 18, 2025

Via Mail and Email

The Honorable Jared DeMarinis
State Administrator of Elections
Maryland State Board of Elections
P.O. Box 6486
Annapolis, MD 21401-0486
Jared.DeMarinis@maryland.gov

Re: Complete Maryland Voter Registration List with All Fields

Dear State Administrator DeMarinis:

In our letter dated July 14, 2025, we made a request to you regarding the state's procedures for complying with the statewide voter registration list maintenance provisions of the National Voter Registration Act ("NVRA"), 52 U.S.C. § 20501, *et seq.* The deadline for the requested information was July 28, 2025. In a letter dated July 30, 2025, you directed us to a website where we could obtain "copies of publicly-available data in the statewide voter registration list[.]" You also sent a letter dated August 13, 2025, regarding our request for Maryland's voter registration list.

This letter from the Justice Department responds to your letter of August 13, 2025. This communication is limited to our request for the State of Maryland's voter registration list ("VRL") and associated voter registration records and does not include the Justice Department's response to your partial answers to the inquiries about Maryland's VRL maintenance processes.

When providing the electronic copy of the statewide VRL, Maryland must ensure that it contains *all fields*, which includes the registrant's full name, date of birth, residential address, and his or her state driver's license number or the last four digits of the registrant's social security number as required under the Help America Vote Act ("HAVA")¹ to register individuals for federal elections. See 52 U.S.C. § 21083(a)(5)(A)(i).

¹ In charging the Attorney General with enforcement of the voter registration list requirements in HAVA and in the NVRA, Congress plainly intended that DOJ be able to conduct an independent review of each state's list. Any statewide prohibitions are clearly preempted by federal law.

Our July 14, 2025 letter requested Maryland’s VRL to assess the State’s compliance with the statewide VRL maintenance provisions of the NVRA, 52 U.S.C. § 20501, *et seq.* Our request is pursuant to the Attorney General’s authority under Section 11 of the NVRA to bring enforcement actions. *See* 52 U.S.C. § 20510(a).

HAVA also provides authority for the Justice Department to seek the State’s VRL via Section 401, which makes the Attorney General solely responsible for actions to enforce HAVA’s computerized statewide voter registration list requirements. *See* 52 U.S.C. § 21111; *see also Brunner v. Ohio Republican Party*, 555 U.S. 5, 6 (2008) (*per curiam*) (finding there is no private right of action to enforce those requirements in HAVA).

In addition to those authorities, the Attorney General is also empowered by Congress to request records pursuant to Title III of the Civil Rights Act of 1960 (“CRA”), codified at 52 U.S.C. § 20701, *et seq.* Section 301 of the CRA requires state and local officials to retain and preserve records related to voter registration and other acts requisite to voting for any federal office for a period of 22 months after any federal general, special or primary election. *See* 52 U.S.C. § 20701.

Section 303 of the CRA provides, in pertinent part, “Any record or paper required by section 20701 of this title to be retained and preserved shall, upon demand in writing by the Attorney General or his representative directed to the person having custody, possession, or control of such record or paper, be made available for inspection, reproduction, and copying at the principal office of such custodian by the Attorney General or his representative...” 52 U.S.C. § 20703.

Pursuant to the foregoing authorities, including the CRA, the Attorney General is demanding an electronic copy of Maryland’s complete and current VRL. The purpose of the request is to ascertain Maryland’s compliance with the list maintenance requirements of the NVRA and HAVA.

Maryland has raised privacy concerns, and the voter registration list is subject to federal privacy protections. Section 304 of the CRA provides:

Unless otherwise ordered by a court of the United States, neither the Attorney General nor any employee of the Department of Justice, nor any other representative of the Attorney General, shall disclose any record or paper produced pursuant to this chapter, or any reproduction or copy, except to Congress and any committee thereof, governmental agencies, and in the presentation of any case or proceeding before any court or grand jury.

52 U.S.C. § 20704.

HAVA specifies that the “last 4 digits of a social security number . . . shall not be considered a social security number for purposes of section 7 of the Privacy Act of 1974” (5 U.S.C. § 552a note); 52 U.S.C. § 21083(c). In addition, any prohibition of disclosure of a motor vehicle record contained in the Driver’s License Protection Act, codified at 18 U.S.C. § 2721(b)(1), is exempted when the disclosure is for use by a government agency in carrying out the government agency’s function to accomplish its enforcement authority as the Justice Department is now doing. That said, all data

received from you will be kept securely and treated consistently with the Privacy Act. The use of Maryland's statewide VRL will be limited to the enforcement of statutes regarding voting.

To that end, please provide the requested electronic Voter Registration List² to the Justice Department by August 25, 2025.

The information and materials may be sent by encrypted email to voting.section@usdoj.gov or via the Department's secure file-sharing system, Justice Enterprise File Sharing ("JEFS"). Should further clarification be required, please contact Maureen Riordan at maureen.riordan2@usdoj.gov.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Harmeet K. Dhillon".

Harmeet K. Dhillon
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

² Containing *all fields*, which includes the registrant's full name, date of birth, residential address, and his or her state driver's license number or the last four digits of the registrant's social security number as required by HAVA.