



MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS

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August 25, 2025

Harmeet K. Dhillon
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

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Sent via email : voting.section@usdoj.gov

Re : Complete Maryland Voting Registration List with All Fields

Dear Assistant Attorney General Dhillon:

I write in response to your letter dated August 18, 2025. Pursuant to applicable state law governing access to public records, please find the State Board of Elections' (SBE) response.

Preliminarily, here is a summary of the relevant correspondence. On July 14, 2025, the Department of Justice Civil Rights Division (DOJ) sent a letter to SBE making requests for information and voter records. On July 30, 2025, SBE responded to the requests and provided information about obtaining publicly available voter registration lists. On August 5, 2025, the DOJ submitted an electronic application for a voter list. In response, on August 13, 2025, SBE requested additional information about your request for a voter list to ensure compliance with State law and regulations on its release. Specifically, SBE requested several pieces of information to determine whether (1) the list complies with the Federal Privacy Act, 5 USC § 552a, (2) the information would be used for immigration enforcement, and (3) your request related to an electoral process in Maryland.

Your August 18, 2025 letter did not answer the questions posed in SBE's August 13, 2025 letter. Additionally, your letter expanded the information requested in the request for a voter list to information that is not publicly available. **SBE renews that request for information in this letter to ascertain the use of the voter registration relating to an electoral process in Maryland.** By evading SBE's questions and failing to provide answers, DOJ is undermining its own requests to SBE.

In its letter dated July 14, 2025, DOJ asserted the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA), 52 U.S.C. § 20201(i), to assess compliance with voter list maintenance provisions as the basis for its request for a voter registration list. In its response dated July 30, 2025, SBE detailed its compliance with the NVRA and how SBE conducts its maintenance to keep the voter registration list up to date.

In the letter dated August 18, 2025, DOJ asserted the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) as a basis for the request for a voter registration list to enforce the computerized statewide voter registration list requirements. SBE has complied with requirements of 52 U.S.C. § 21083. Moreover, Maryland carefully complies with every HAVA requirement and stands ready to demonstrate this compliance through its documented policies and practices. Notably, your letter gives no basis for suspecting any shortcoming or failure in Maryland's HAVA compliance, nor suggests that DOJ is actually investigating any alleged HAVA violation in Maryland. The actual voter list is not required to assess compliance with those provisions.

Despite this, DOJ now asserts that Sections 11 and 401 of the NVRA are the basis for the request. Again, those sections do not support such a request. Recently, DOJ added Section 303 of the Civil Rights Act of 1960, 52 U.S.C. § 20701 as a legal justification for the voter list request. In continuation of its review of the legality of all the DOJ requests, SBE maintains that none of these provisions expressly grant to DOJ the right to access to the State's voter registration list.

Furthermore, Maryland voters have a right to know of the enforcement actions referenced in your latest letter. If you have specific cases or specific individuals suspected of involvement in electoral illegalities, please provide me with a list of names. With that information, SBE, in coordination with Maryland's Office of State Prosecutor, would be better able to participate in any legitimate investigation. However, absent particularized and detailed concerns, a demand for the entire Maryland voter list, including sensitive personally identifying information that is not publicly available, without evidence or support, is an overreach and unreasonable under the circumstances. It cast aspersions on every Maryland voter and attempts to sow doubt on the legitimacy of Maryland's voter registration process. Improper voter registration cancellation not only leads to disenfranchisement of eligible Maryland voters, but it is unlawful. *See Md. Code, Election Law § 16-201(a)(5).*

As SBE stated in previous correspondence, the voter registration list cannot be used to threaten or intimidate a voter from going to the polls. And the voter registration list cannot be used for a purpose that results in or has the intent to result in the denial or abridgement of the right of a Maryland citizen to vote or causes a qualified voter to be stricken from voter registration list. 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." SBE ensures Marylanders can exercise this constitutional right in a verified, open, transparent and empowering manner that is safe and secure.

Thank you for your request. Please respond to my inquiries so that we can assess how your request for Maryland's publicly available voter registration list conforms with all relevant laws. SBE remains open to any opportunity to discuss this matter further with DOJ. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Jared DeMarinis

Jared DeMarinis
State Administrator of Elections
Maryland State Board of Elections