



State Representative Bride Rose Sweeney

May 3, 2024

Alice Robinson-Bond, Deputy Elections Counsel

Office of the Ohio Secretary of State

Sent via Electronic Mail

Dear Ms. Robinson-Bond,

I received your letter dated March 8, 2024. The secretary of state seems more excited about canceling Ohio voters than providing answers and transparency to his process, which seems plagued by politics and inexperience. That's why I've repeatedly asked for an official audit and public records so we know exactly what's going on.

I dispute whether you can readily identify whether you possess responsive documents, as it is my understanding that your office has received similar types of requests previously and has responded accordingly. That being said, I'll be explicit with the documents I'm seeking and I hope for a quick response, as they clearly exist and your Directives indicate they have been sent to various Boards of Election throughout the state of Ohio.

REQUEST #1

ORIGINAL REQUEST #1: The NCOA file from 2019 that contains the new residence address and county for the voters who you just purged.

CLARIFICATION FOR REQUEST #1:

For purposes of this request, "NCOA" refers to the National Change of Address registry, which you mentioned in your October 23, 2023 letter to me. You state that "Congress adopted the [NVRA] in 1993 to establish clear legal requirements and timelines for maintaining accurate voter registration lists, as well as safeguards to prevent the removal of lawfully registered active

voters. This is not an ‘optional’ process.” You further note that “the NVRA list maintenance process removes registrations that are demonstrably *no longer active* at a particular address and therefore by definition are not legally defined as a voter at that location. That’s why the records are being updated.” You acknowledge that your office follows both a “federally required NVRA list maintenance process” and “Ohio’s supplemental process.” For purposes of this request, please understand my use of “purged” as referring to the process you outlined in your October 23, 2023 letter.

Your October 23, 2023 letter seems to suggest that in 2019, removal of registrations from the voter registry/voter files would not have occurred within thirty (30) days of an election but could have occurred at any point through the year. I want a record of every registration you removed from the voter registry. Therefore, my requests for information pertain to the individuals affected by the laws you outline. I request a copy of the file(s) that contains the residence address and county for the voters for whom you removed registrations in the calendar year 2019.

If you do not understand this request, please reply, in email, with specifically the words or phrases you do not understand and/or cannot ascertain as to what documentation they may relate.

REQUEST #2

ORIGINAL REQUEST #2: The purged voter list with additional data including date of birth, the field that contains a unique database identifier, the last election the voter participated in, and the voter’s new address according to the NCOA list.

CLARIFICATION TO REQUEST #2:

For purposes of this request, I am referring to the same clarifications outlined in Request #1, with the request for file(s) containing the following information for the voters identified in Request #1:

- 1) birth date,
- 2) unique database identifier number or letters,
- 3) the date of the last election the voter participated in, and
- 4) the voter’s new registered address according to the NCOA registry,

for all voters who were removed from the voter registry in 2019.

If you do not understand this request, please reply, in email, with specifically the words or phrases you do not understand and/or cannot ascertain as to what documentation they may relate.

REQUEST #3

ORIGINAL REQUEST #3: The NCOA File for 2020 showing which voters were targeted then for purging next year in 2024. The spreadsheet should show the voter's basic info including birth date, current registration address, and any new address that the voter moved to according to the NCOA list.

CLARIFICATION TO REQUEST #3:

In your October 23, 2023 letter to me, you note “there’s a limited timeframe during which our Office is permitted by federal law to conduct updates to the voter rolls in order to ensure the accuracy of Ohio’s registration records. During years in which there’s no federal election, the NVRA process may not occur within 30 days of an election, but may occur at any other point in the year. As no federal election occurred in 2023, our Office originally instructed the boards of elections to complete the NVRA process in July of 2023 in Directive 2023-05. After the General Assembly ordered the August 8, 2023 election, our Office then shifted the NVRA process to occur in September of this year [i.e. 2023].” Thank you for this clarification.

My request is for the voter file(s), accurate as of January 1, 2023, December 1, 2023, and accurate as of January 31, 2024, showing which voters were targeted for removal from the voter registry. The spreadsheet (preferred, but if that is not how the file exists, then in whatever medium(s) this is housed at your office) should show the voter’s basic info including birth date, current registration address, and any new address that the voter moved to according to the voter registry.

If you are unable to pull files as of the dates listed above, please pull the voter files as of the date(s) where removal from voter registry began and when it was complete, in years 2023 and 2024.

REQUEST #4

ORIGINAL REQUEST #4: Documentation of your plans to execute any purges in 2024 including timing and any tests you will do on the list to ensure no eligible voters who still reside in Ohio are removed.

CLARIFICATION TO REQUEST #4:

It is my belief that my originally worded request is easily understood, and your refusal to honor my request and delay providing records is an obfuscation of your duties as the Secretary of State of Ohio. In fact, a [Cleveland.com article](#) released May 2, 2024 highlighted your issuance of written guidance to county boards of elections to prepare for the cancellations of inactive voter registrations. I see that your website has a downloadable registration readiness file, but it does not include birthdates, the date the voter last voted in an election, the voters new registration address, unique database identifier number or letters, and the specific reason for which the person has been purged. Your directive, however, instructs the Boards of Elections to provide that information to your office. I am requesting that information.

Therefore, please provide to me all documentation of your plans to execute any purges, whether required or supplemental, or removal of any voters from the voter registration list, in 2024 including timing and any tests and/or quality control checks that you will do on the list to ensure no eligible voters who still reside in Ohio are removed.

Please also provide me with a list of all individuals who have been identified for removal from the voter registry, ensuring that you provide the name and address of the individual, their birthdate, the date the voter last voted in an election, the voters new address, and any unique database identifier numbers or letters.

For purposes of this request, I request that you direct me to any directives, advisories, memorandum, email correspondence, text message or other messenger correspondence, whether publicly issued or in draft form, that outline any plans—carried out or considered—to remove voters from the voter registry.

In addition, I request that you direct me to any directives, advisories, memorandum, email correspondence, text message or other messenger correspondence, whether publicly issued or in draft form, that outline how your office will ensure quality control so that voters will not be removed from the voter registry accidentally and in accordance with the law, and in addition, how your office will double-check its work to ensure that no mistakes were or are made.

Also, please provide any contracts, LOA's, MOU's, or written agreements with any companies or organizations that will assist in the systematic removal of voters from the voter registry.

I request that you provide this documentation on a rolling basis, as you compile the information, and do not wait until all information has been compiled. Please designate to which numbered request any documents you provide relate.

POSSIBLE RELEVANT RECORDS RETENTION POLICY SECTIONS

I have identified the following records retention policy sections from your posted records retention policies. I do not believe this is entirely comprehensive, as your office should know and understand your office's records retention policy better than I do, but I have identified the following for your consideration and review as to whether any of the documents retained under these policies are relevant to the above. Please also double-check this list with your remaining records retention policies.

Your records retention policy, Agency Series No. E-D2031, refers to "National Change of Address List from Vendor." The policy denotes that this record contains the "lists of names and addresses" used to determine an individual voter's registration status. I would like all lists provided to you from the vendor that remain in your possession.

Your records retention policy, Agency Series No. CBE-70, refers to "Statewide Voter Registration Database Reports" that include "but are not limited to, data quality reports and duplicate reports generated by the statewide voter registration database and sent to boards of elections to correct or add to a voter's record."

Your records retention policy, Agency Series No. E-D2013, refers to “Board of Elections Job & Family Services Voter Registrations Report” that includes a “[q]uarterly report from county boards of elections that provides the number of voter registration forms received from county job and family services offices.”

Your records retention policy, Agency Series No. CBE-78, refers to “Election Administration and Voting Survey Biennial Reports” that include “[e]lection administration and voting survey biennial reports that include information on voter registrations, changes of name/address, absentee ballots, ballots cast provisionally and other election related information.”

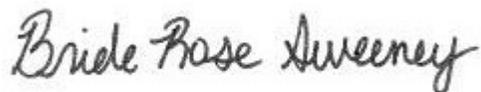
Your records retention policy, Agency Series No. E-D2032, refers to “State and Territorial Exchange of Vital Events (STEVE) Files” which include “county statewide voter registration database (SWVRD) records that have been matched with records of decedents for the purpose of cancelling the registrations of deceased voters.” Additionally, your records retention policy notes that “The file consists of decedent identifying information obtained from STEVE that are potential matches to electors in the SWVRD. This information assists in maintaining accurate voter rolls by eliminating the names of voters who are deceased.”

Your records retention policy, Agency Series No. CBE-117, refers to “Notice of Voter Registration Cancellation” which includes a “notice or letter returned by a voter in response to a notification regarding possible cancellation of the voter’s registration.”

Your records retention policy, Agency Series, No. CBE-112, refers to “Notices to Voter Registration Records Pending Cancellation” including “notices sent to addresses of voter registration records that are subject to cancellation under federal and state law.” This policy was modified on October 20, 2022.

I look forward to your prompt attention to this matter.

Respectfully,



BRIDE ROSE SWEENEY
State Representative, 16th District
135th Ohio General Assembly