



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

*Via Electronic Mail: elections@hq.dhs.gov*

July 29, 2026

Hon. Markwayne Mullin  
Secretary of Homeland Security  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Mullin:

The Pennsylvania Department of State is dedicated to ensuring that elections in Pennsylvania remain free, fair, safe, and secure, and that all eligible voters—and only eligible voters—have the opportunity to make their voices heard. We continue to uphold our election integrity duties, and we take very seriously any credible claim of voting by ineligible voters, just as we do claims involving denials of the right of eligible voters to participate.

All 67 counties in Pennsylvania undertake robust efforts, pursuant to both Federal and Pennsylvania law, to cancel the records of moved, deceased, and other ineligible voters each year, with 338,295 registrations cancelled in 2025 alone.<sup>1</sup> Because the right to vote is sacred, the cancellation of any record is based on a prescriptive statutory process and reliable data sources. And both the Department of State and county election officials are legally obligated to protect the privacy of Pennsylvania's voters, and therefore take steps to ensure that voters' confidential information is protected during this process.<sup>2</sup>

Your July 16, 2026, letter claims the Department of Homeland Security has identified as many as 14,576 non-citizens purportedly registered to vote in Pennsylvania. Notably, DHS has not identified its methodology or what data it relied on in reaching this conclusion.

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<sup>1</sup> See <https://www.pa.gov/content/dam/copapwp-pagov/en/dos/resources/voting-and-elections/reports/voter-registration/dos-voter-registration-report-2025-final-pdf.pdf> at 5. A recent audit by Pennsylvania's Auditor General of the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation's processing of voter registration applications through Pennsylvania's Automatic Voter Registration system identified only one instance in which an ineligible individual was given the opportunity to register to vote—and that incident was caught immediately, and the individual is not registered and has never voted in Pennsylvania.

<sup>2</sup> See Brief of Secretary of the Commonwealth Al Schmidt at 22-25, *U.S. v. Commw. of Pa.*, 2026 WL 1850016 (W.D. Pa. 2026) (No. 2:25-cv-01481), Dkt. No. 92.

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As you know, past analyses of voter lists have relied on faulty methodologies that can lead to inaccurate results and false claims about the citizenship status of eligible voters. DHS has previously acknowledged that its SAVE database may not return accurate information about individuals whose citizenship status has not been updated in the records of the Social Security Administration.<sup>3</sup> An audit by SSA's Office of Inspector General identified numerous errors in those records, and recent reporting has demonstrated that SAVE has mistakenly flagged eligible voters as noncitizens in Texas and Missouri.<sup>4</sup> In fact, the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services official who oversees SAVE has "acknowledged that the system can't always find the most current citizenship information for people not born in the U.S."<sup>5</sup> Finally, as you are aware, a federal judge has recently concluded that the establishment of the modified SAVE system was unlawful in several respects.<sup>6</sup>

In order to evaluate the claims in your letter and determine appropriate next steps, please provide a document explaining your methodology, which identifies the data sources you relied on (including all sources of data that connect the personal identifying information of an individual with their Pennsylvania voter record), the date you obtained any Pennsylvania voter registration records, and any other relevant information you utilized to reach your conclusions.

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Al Schmidt  
Secretary of the Commonwealth

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<sup>3</sup> See <https://abcnews.com/Politics/system-dhs-urging-states-assess-voter-rolls-return/story?id=134863557>

<sup>4</sup> See [https://oig-files.ssa.gov/audits/full/A-08-06-26100\\_0.pdf](https://oig-files.ssa.gov/audits/full/A-08-06-26100_0.pdf) at iii; <https://www.texastribune.org/2026/02/13/save-voter-citizenship-tool-mistakes-confusion/>

<sup>5</sup> *Id.*

<sup>6</sup> See *League of Women Voters v. U.S. Dep't of Homeland Sec.*, No. CV 25-3501 (SLS), 2026 WL 1784297 (D.D.C. June 22, 2026).