



Office of the Secretary of State

Brad Raffensperger
SECRETARY OF STATE

Charlene McGowan
GENERAL COUNSEL

July 13, 2026

Harmeet K. Dhillon
Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20530

Ms. Dhillon,

This is in response to your letter to the Georgia Secretary of State dated July 7, 2026, requesting information regarding Georgia's efforts to ensure that only eligible U.S. citizens vote in federal elections.

Secretary Raffensperger believes that clean voter lists are an essential component of trustworthy elections and takes every measure to ensure that only U.S. citizens and eligible residents can vote in Georgia's elections. We commend President Trump's commitment to citizenship verification and applaud the administration's efforts to provide states the necessary tools at the federal level to verify that only U.S. citizens are registered to vote.

Georgia is a recognized leader in citizenship verification that ensures only U.S. citizens vote in our elections. State law requires proof of citizenship to vote, and any application for voter registration must be accompanied by documentation of U.S. citizenship. Because Georgia is 100% REAL ID compliant, everyone who has a driver's license or state identification card has proven their citizenship or legal immigration status to the Department of Driver Services.

In Georgia, county registrars are responsible for voter registration and determining voter eligibility, which includes reviewing proof of citizenship documents provided by voters. County election superintendents likewise oversee the statutory processes relating to the casting and tabulation of ballots. At the state level, the Secretary of State conducts regular checks to ensure that all registered voters are verified U.S. citizens. Secretary

Raffensperger was the first Secretary of State in the nation to conduct full citizenship audits of the state's voter list using the Department of Homeland Security's SAVE database, the first of which was completed prior to the 2024 presidential election and the most recent in 2026.

In addition to the citizenship audits, Georgia also utilizes SAVE to verify the citizenship status of people who have been identified as potential non-citizens at any point. Secretary Raffensperger is grateful for the action taken by DHS in response to his letter to the Secretary of Homeland Security requesting improvements to SAVE to enhance its effectiveness as a voter verification tool. These requested improvements include the elimination of search fees for states, the addition of bulk upload capability, and integration of Social Security Administration data. Georgia was proud to be one of the first states to test these new SAVE enhancements when they became available.

In addition to rigorous audits to remove non-citizens from the active voter list, Secretary Raffensperger has taken swift enforcement action against any suspected instance of a non-citizen attempting to register to vote or attempting to vote unlawfully. While rare, suspected instances of unlawful voting are thoroughly investigated by the Secretary's team of law enforcement agents, in coordination with our federal partners at DHS. Where appropriate, the Secretary has referred cases to the Georgia Attorney General for civil enforcement actions and for criminal prosecution to state and federal prosecutors. We appreciate the continued assistance from our federal law enforcement partners in these efforts.

Please feel free to reach out to our office should you wish to learn more about Georgia's best practices to safeguard our elections from unlawful voting.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Charlene S. McGowan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Charlene" being the most prominent part.

Charlene S. McGowan
General Counsel