



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

August 21, 2025

Via Electronic Mail

Harmeet K. Dhillon
Assistant Attorney General
Michael E. Gates
Deputy Assistant Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW – 4CON
Washington, DC 20530
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Dear AAG Dhillon and DAAG Gates:

I write in response to your letters dated August 4, 2025, and August 14, 2025, requesting an electronic copy of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's statewide voter registration list. Your letter dated August 14 specifically asked for detailed personal and confidential information, including driver's license numbers and social security numbers, for all Pennsylvania voters. This request, and reported efforts to collect broad data on millions of Americans, represent a concerning attempt to expand the federal government's role in our country's electoral process. Please know that the Department of State takes seriously its obligation to safeguard the integrity and accuracy of Pennsylvania's voter rolls, as well as the security of Pennsylvanians' personal information. Because your letters do not provide any legal justification for the Department to disregard this sacred obligation, we are unable to share such confidential information with you. We can, however, provide Pennsylvania's Full Voter Export, subject to the conditions below.

Pursuant to Pennsylvania law, our Full Voter Export is available through the Pennsylvania Department of State's website. This list includes all voters in the Commonwealth (with certain limited exceptions for crime victims and other confidential voters) and contains the following fields: voter ID number, name, sex, date of birth, date registered, status (i.e., active or inactive), date status last changed, party, residential address, mailing address, polling place, date last voted, all districts in which the voter votes, voter history, and date the voter's record was last changed.

In accordance with the Pennsylvania voter registration law¹ and the Statewide Uniform Registry of Electors (SURE) Regulations,² all requesters must agree to the terms and conditions for use of public information lists. Further information may be found on our [website](#). Please let us know if you would like to receive this data subject to these terms and conditions.

¹ 25 Pa.C.S. Part IV.

² 4 Pa. Code ch. 183.

Your August 14 letter specifically asked for *all* fields in the Commonwealth's computerized statewide voter registration list, including each voter's Pennsylvania driver's license number or last four digits of their social security number. We are aware of no precedent for such a broad request for such sensitive information. While we are happy to provide the Full Voter Export, consistent with the process outlined above, we cannot provide these fields, which contain sensitive, personally identifiable information for Pennsylvania's 8.8 million voters.

As Pennsylvania's chief election official, I take seriously my obligation to ensure that our county election officials faithfully maintain our voter rolls. The Department works with Pennsylvania's 67 counties in making every reasonable effort to ensure that all electoral processes are fully compliant with federal and Pennsylvania laws, including the National Voter Registration Act and the Help America Vote Act. Likewise, I take seriously my responsibility to safeguard the private information that Pennsylvanians entrust to the care of our county election officials. Our laws do not permit the Department to release driver's license or social security numbers. These protections are consistent with other federal and state statutes that protect social security and driver's license numbers. The Department's statutory obligations are reinforced by the Pennsylvania Constitution, which requires the Department to maintain the privacy of our 8.8 million registered voters.

None of the legal bases provided in your letter justify or authorize providing these fields and disregarding the strong protections on voter privacy enshrined in our Commonwealth's laws.

First, the NVRA does not require the disclosure of voters' sensitive personal information. Your letter provides no explanation as to why the social security and driver's license numbers of every registered voter in Pennsylvania are necessary to ascertain Pennsylvania's compliance with the list maintenance requirements of the NVRA. As explained in the Department's letters dated July 23, 2025, and August 18, 2025, and as detailed in our publicly available Annual Report on the Administration of Voter Registration in Pennsylvania, the Department does a robust job of ensuring that all of Pennsylvania's 67 counties comply with their list maintenance responsibilities pursuant to the NVRA. You have provided no basis for concluding otherwise.

Second, no provision of HAVA provides authority for such a request. Although the Attorney General has authority under HAVA to bring certain enforcement actions, you have identified no basis for why the social security and driver's license numbers of all Pennsylvania's registered voters is necessary to ascertain Pennsylvania's compliance with the list maintenance requirements of HAVA.

Finally, the Civil Rights Act of 1960 does not provide legal authority for such a broad request. You have identified no basis or purpose for why the social security and driver's license numbers of all Pennsylvania's registered voters is necessary to enforce any relevant legal requirements, nor have you shown how such a request would satisfy the requirements of the Civil Rights Act.

* * *

Consistent with Pennsylvania and federal law, the Department and Pennsylvania's 67 counties go far beyond the reasonable efforts required by the NVRA to ensure that Pennsylvania's voter rolls are accurate. The Department is also entrusted to protect and safeguard the personal information of our 8.8 million voters, and I take that obligation extremely seriously. Please let us know if you have any further questions, or would like to proceed with obtaining the Full Voter Export, as permitted under Pennsylvania law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Al Schmidt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Al Schmidt
Secretary of the Commonwealth