



U.S. Department of Justice

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October 13, 2026

Shirley N. Weber, Ph.D.
California Secretary of State
1500 11th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Via legalsupport@sos.ca.gov

Re: Noncitizen Voting in the 2026 Federal Election

Dear Secretary Weber:

As you are aware, federal law prohibits noncitizens from voting in federal elections. See 18 U.S.C. § 611. The Supreme Court has also recognized that States “may not induce, encourage or promote private persons to accomplish what it is constitutionally forbidden to accomplish.” *Norwood v. Harrison*, 413 U.S. 455, 465 (1973) (citation omitted). I write to seek your help to protect the integrity of the ongoing federal election.

On July 16, Secretary Mullin made you aware that there are likely numerous noncitizens registered to vote in the federal election in California. He then asked for your cooperation to ensure the accuracy of those findings and to prevent noncitizen votes from diluting citizen votes. Your response the following week did not refute that noncitizens are registered to vote in California. Nor did it contest that noncitizens receive ballots through California’s vote-by-mail regime, which automatically sends voting materials to “every registered voter.” 2021 Cal. Stat. ch. 312 (codified at Cal. Elec. Code § 3000.5). Instead, you asked for more information. I am now providing you additional details.

Earlier today, we provided the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder / County Clerk with a password-protected thumb drive with a list of names of people the Federal Government believes are likely noncitizens who were sent a vote-by-mail ballot to participate in the November 2026 federal election. We can also provide you a digital copy of the list if you send us a secure email address.

We request that you review the list within 48 hours to determine whether any citizens are listed. For individuals whom you cannot independently confirm citizenship status, we request that you immediately instruct the appropriate elections official to segregate—not cancel—those individuals’ vote-by-mail ballots until their citizenship status can be determined. If individuals on the list have not yet been sent a

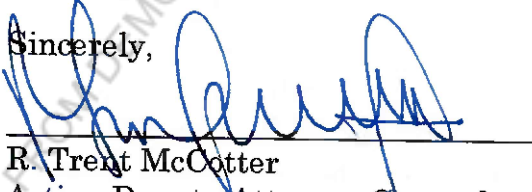
vote-by-mail ballot, take all immediate and reasonable steps to not provide a ballot to those individuals until we confirm their citizenship status. If a ballot for any individual on the list has been returned, instruct the appropriate elections official to not verify the signature and/or tabulate the ballot until citizenship can be determined. This process will protect American citizens' votes while preventing noncitizens from participating in the federal election in violation of federal law.

The United States hopes that you share our commitment to ensure that only American citizens participate in our federal elections. Allowing noncitizens to vote cancels citizen votes. States are responsible for voter registration, and the Federal Government is responsible for maintaining immigration records to enable verification of citizenship. Working together, we can more effectively protect against voter dilution and promote election integrity.

Please ensure that the process described above to prevent noncitizens from voting in the federal election is implemented by contacting election@hq.dhs.gov by October 15 at noon EST. If you cannot implement this process by then, given the ongoing federal election, the United States will have no choice but to seek emergency relief.

We look forward to our collaboration as we work together to ensure free, fair and accurate elections.

Sincerely,



R. Trent McCotter
Acting Deputy Attorney General
United States Department of Justice

cc:

Bilal A. Essayli
First Assistant U.S. Attorney
Central District of California