

VIA Electronic Mail

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September 23, 2024

Mr. Steve Simon
Minnesota Secretary of State
Veterans Service Building,
Suite 210
20 W. 12th St.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Mr. Bob Jacobson
Commissioner
Minnesota Department of Public Safety
445 Minnesota Street, Suite 1000
Saint Paul, MN 55101

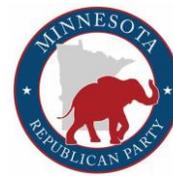
Secretary Simon and Commissioner Jacobson,

Thank you both for your responses regarding our previous letters and phone conversations.

We have been in communication with your offices for over a month, and provided the Secretary's Office with the information necessary to remove known noncitizens from the Minnesota voter rolls over a month ago. Despite our continued efforts to receive updates on the actions your office is taking, it took over three (3) weeks to get any information, which came on the same day you released the information to the public.

Commissioner Jacobson's September 12 letter admits there were approximately 1,000 individuals who may have been improperly registered to vote under the automatic voter registration ("AVR") process. This leads us, and others, to consider all means necessary to obtain transparency from your office. To this end, we are now joined by Congressman Tom Emmer, Congressman Brad Finstad, Congresswoman Michelle Fischbach, and Congressman Pete Stauber, to demand you provide further answers on this disastrous failure.

- (1) What is the exact number of individuals who were inactivated?
- (2) What are the different categories of information the individual records were missing? Additionally, please provide how many individuals were inactivated for each category of missing information.



- (3) How many of the inactivated individuals have voted in a past election?
- (4) How many of the inactivated individuals were sent ballots in past elections?
- (5) Will the inactivated individuals be able to register and vote in the November election?
- (6) Would eliminating any of the inactivated individuals' votes have changed the outcome of any past elections?
- (7) When do you plan to complete your confirmation of each individual's voter registration information?

It is imperative that Minnesota voters trust in the State's election system, which includes knowing the voter rolls only consist of legally registered voters. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Kevin J. Cline
Election Integrity Counsel
Republican National Committee

David Hann
Chairman
Republican Party of Minnesota

Tom Emmer
Member of Congress

Brad Finstad
Member of Congress

Michelle Fischbach
Member of Congress

Pete Stauber
Member of Congress



Office of the Commissioner

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September 12, 2024

Kevin Cline
Election Integrity Counsel
Republican National Committee

David Hann
Chairman
Republican Party of Minnesota

Re: Automatic Voter Registration

Dear Mr. Cline and Mr. Hann:

Thank you for your September 5 letter, requesting additional information about the automatic voter registration (AVR) process. The Department of Public Safety (DPS) Driver and Vehicle Services Division (DVS) is partnering with the Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State to ensure the process works as expected and that only eligible Minnesotans are being registered to vote.

To date, 65,339 Minnesotans have been successfully registered to vote and 25,572 16- and 17-year-old Minnesotans have been pre-registered to vote through the new system. After a manual, two-layered review by DVS of all applicant files, DVS is not aware of anyone voting in Minnesota who was ineligible to vote.

DVS completed its manual review of 103,986 individual records on September 10, 2024. Out of an abundance of caution, the Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State inactivated approximately 1% of those records pending confirmation of various pieces of voter registration information, including address, name, and citizenship.

That manual review involved DVS employees viewing the file and images of the documents submitted with the application to confirm that they are classified correctly in the system. DVS records with missing or mislabeled documents may be from eligible voters, and the lack of citizenship proof in the DVS database does not mean an individual is not a citizen or otherwise ineligible to vote. In the case of driver's license renewals, for instance, citizenship affirming documents may have been scanned before implementation of the AVR system in December 2023 and before the enhanced training and protocols were in place.

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Marshal

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DVS and the Office of the Secretary of State have worked together since the rollout of AVR to develop enhanced training and protocols that reduce the risk of human error and ensure that voter rolls are accurate. First, DVS provided additional training for staff on accurate documentation and citizenship verification. Second, it created redundant verification processes to ensure that only individuals who have presented appropriate documentation are sent to the Office of the Secretary of State for AVR. For example, DVS programmed a pop-up screen for the counter staff accepting the application, which serves as a second prompt to confirm that an applicant has presented a qualifying document. This means that counter staff are required to verify that they have correctly identified the documents, which results in two accuracy checks at the counter. In addition, the documentation is reviewed a third time within DVS as part of the credential-issuing process before the individual's information is sent to the Office of the Secretary of State.

DPS and DVS are committed to ensuring the integrity of this system, and there has been no pressure to fast-track the implementation process. Like any other law that is passed through the Minnesota legislative process, DVS reviewed the statutory changes and effective date, created a plan for implementation, and then executed the plan. DVS worked closely with the Office of the Secretary of State, beginning at the end of the legislative session, to ensure the changes to the data transmitted to the Secretary of State would work accurately. DVS implemented the required changes for AVR on December 1, 2023, and it has sent ten of the monthly reports required by Minn. Stat. § 201.145 to the Office of Secretary of State since implementation.

Minnesota has a proud tradition of broad voter participation and unquestionably fair and secure elections. The process improvements taken by DVS to implement these protocols help further these important goals and strengthen the AVR system.

Please reach out with any additional questions.

Sincerely,



Bob Jacobson

Commissioner, Department of Public Safety