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MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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August 17, 2026

Attn: Jocelyn Benson
Secretary of State
Michigan Department of State
Richard H. Austin Building – 4th Floor
430 W. Allegan St.
Lansing, MI 48918

RE: A Request to Clean Michigan's Voter Rolls

Dear Secretary Benson,

In my work as Chair of the House Election Integrity Committee, I am deeply concerned about the number of illegal voters in our state and the lack of charges against them. In my capacity as Chair, I would like to share my findings with you and request clarification about the Michigan Department of State's planned actions to ensure our state's voter rolls are clean and accurate and that all illegal voters come to justice.

Last week I saw reports that attorney General Nessel charged five non-U.S. citizens who had voted in Michigan's elections. I am thankful that steps were taken to stop these bad actors, but there are still many illegal voters whom we know of that are yet to be charged for their crimes.

In the fall of 2025, your department identified at least 15 noncitizens who cast a ballot in the 2024 general election. In your April 3, 2025 press release, you stated that "this is a serious issue, one we must address." I could not agree more, but my question is, how is your department in fact addressing this issue? It has been over a year since these 15 noncitizens were discovered to have illegally voted; that is a long time for Americans to see justice delayed.

The slow crawl towards justice is even more appalling given that there are still more illegal voters who are yet to be investigated and charged. There have been further reports that uncovered six criminal non-U.S. citizens and illegal aliens who have voted in two to three elections. Their names are: Indra Gurung, Wa Kong Lor, Afshin Masheli, Senagaround Phenglavanh, Saithong Thammachanh, and Leuam Vannavong. These criminals are in addition to the Chinese national who voted in Michigan's November 2024 general election, and the 15 noncitizens who were registered to vote in Macomb County. The numbers are alarming, and they are just the tip of the iceberg. Will these other illegal voters be investigated and charged?

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These criminals need to be brought to justice, but more important than that would be to ensure these crimes are prevented in the first place. We know the Qualified Voter File (QVF) is overinflated. Why has action not been taken to clean it up? I would like to know what MDOS is doing to prevent noncitizens from voting. How is the Department truly verifying voter eligibility and citizenship status?

The people of Michigan deserve answers and real solutions from those who are elected to serve them in office. I respectfully request the following from the Department:

1. A detailed report on what MDOS is doing to ensure only citizens vote in our elections, including but not limited to, plans to clean the QVF and cooperation with the federal government in conducting citizenship verification.
2. A comprehensive update on the cases of the above-listed noncitizens who voted in Michigan's elections, with a complete explanation of what MDOS is doing to bring these alleged perpetrators to justice.

As you know, the Committee has an important and valuable role in providing oversight to the Michigan Department of State's functions to ensure that the Department is properly and effectively executing its duties. If it is not, or if statutory changes and/or improvements are needed, or if the Department needs additional resources, the Committee has a responsibility to the People of Michigan to recommend legislation to the House of Representatives for the overall benefit of the state and the security of our elections. We appreciate your prompt attention to this matter and look forward to a timely response.

Sincerely,



Rachelle Smit
Speaker Pro Tempore
Chair, House Election Integrity Committee
Michigan House of Representatives

cc: Secretary Markwayne Mullin, U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Attorney General Todd Blanche, U.S. Department of Justice
Attorney General Dana Nessel, MI Department of Attorney General