



July 12, 2021

The Honorable Dave Yost
Ohio Attorney General
30 E. Broad Street, 17th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Re: Referral for Possible Election Law Violations by Non-Citizens

Dear Attorney General Yost:

Ohio's election system is fortunately built upon a system of robust checks and balances – all designed with the same goal: an accurate, secure and accessible election that ensures Ohioans will know their voice is heard when their ballot is cast.

Implementing those checks provides the confidence we as voters both require and deserve. One such check is found in Ohio law: that non-citizens may not register to vote or cast a ballot in any Ohio election. As is my duty under the law as Ohio Secretary of State, we have conducted the required annual review to determine potential violations of that law.

As a result of our review pursuant to R.C. 3503.15(H), my Office has identified 104 such individuals who registered to vote in Ohio and 13 individuals who cast a ballot in an Ohio election during the relevant time period. These individuals appear to be legally present non-citizens.

The review utilized a cross-matching of the voter rolls in the Statewide Voter Registration Database with the list of individuals who have Ohio driver licenses or state identification cards. While the State does not maintain a comprehensive database of all non-citizens in Ohio, the records of the Bureau of Motor Vehicles ("BMV") indicate the citizenship status of persons applying for Ohio driver's licenses or state identification cards.

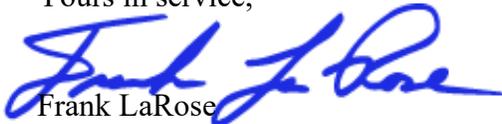
These 104 individuals who registered to vote and the 13 who cast a ballot each provided the BMV with documentation identifying themselves as non-citizens on at least two occasions, once before their voter activity and once after. Moreover, it appears that 9 of the 104 individuals who registered to vote and provided the BMV with documentation identifying themselves as a non-citizen on at least two occasions, once before they registered to vote and once after, also cast a ballot before or after they provided the BMV with documentation identifying themselves as non-citizens. I believe it is imperative that you also further investigate these 9 registrations for their additional voter activity. I have mailed two notices to each of the identified individuals at the address where they are registered to vote requesting that the individual either cancel their voter registration or advise my Office that they are a U.S. citizen.

I have included documentation with this letter that my Office reviewed regarding each of these individuals, and I am referring this information to your office for additional action pursuant to your authority in R.C. 109.54(A) and 109.95.

Thanks to the controls and processes of our election system, both voter fraud and voter suppression are exceedingly rare in Ohio. However, neither are ever acceptable – even in rare or isolated instances. The only way to maintain Ohio’s high standard is by committing to enforce the law whenever it is broken. While it’s fortunate so few were potentially caught in violation of state law, the legitimacy of our democratic republic depends on the consistent enforcement of the laws governing our voting processes. I’m confident that you will give this matter the serious attention that our representative democracy deserves by acting quickly to complete your investigations and pursuing prosecution as warranted.

Thank you for your assistance. If you have questions, please feel free to contact me and my team at (614) 466-2585.

Yours in service,


Frank LaRose
Ohio Secretary of State