



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

JESSE WHITE • Secretary of State

December 18, 2019

Steve Sandvoss
Executive Director
Illinois State Board of Elections
2329 S. Macarthur Boulevard
Springfield, IL 62704

Dear Director Sandvoss:

The Office of the Secretary of State has discovered a condition in the automated voter registration application program administered by this office that has affected a small number of applications. During the issuance process for non-REAL ID compliant driver's licenses and identification cards, all applicants are informed whether or not they are currently registered to vote and, if they are registered, the address at which they are registered. Applicants are then asked if they wish to register to vote or change the address of their current registration. Non-registered applicants who state they wish to register to vote are directed to a signature pad on which they must check a box stating whether or not they will be 18 years of age by the next general election, and whether or not they are a U.S. citizen. If an applicant affirms they will be 18 by the next general election and they are a U.S. citizen, they are directed to sign their name on a signature line on the pad. Information regarding this applicant is then directed to your office.

We have several safeguards in place to protect against the improper registration of non-U.S. citizens. The first being that, unlike REAL ID applicants, non-REAL ID applicants are not automatically registered to vote. They must affirmatively state they wish to register. In addition, there is signage in our facilities in English, Spanish, Chinese and Hindi informing applicants that they must be U.S. citizens to register to vote. Finally, the programming for the signature pad transaction was designed to prohibit any applicant who stated they were not a U.S. citizen from being able to sign their name on the signature pad, and prohibited information regarding that applicant from being transmitted to the Board of Elections. Unfortunately, we have discovered a programming error with regard to this final step. Because of this error we believe registration information for 574 driver's license and identification card applicants was improperly forwarded to the Board of Elections between the dates of July 2, 2018 and December 13, 2019, even though these individuals were not allowed to complete the signature pad process.

With this letter we are providing the Board of Elections with a list of the names, addresses and other relevant information regarding these 574 individuals. We respectfully request that you contact the appropriate local elections authority and request that they remove these individuals

from their roll registered voters, if in fact they were added to the roll. In addition to this request, this office is sending a letter to each of these 574 individuals containing the following message:

After your recent transaction at the Secretary of State's office, information from your driver's license or identification card application was inadvertently included in a batch transfer of voter registration data to the Illinois State Board of Elections. This may have resulted in your being registered to vote even though you did not complete a voter registration form at our office. We will be working with the Board of Elections and local election authorities to remove any improper voter registration information regarding you from the roll of registered voters. In the meantime, if you have received a voter registration card from your election authority you should destroy that card or return it to the election authority. Most importantly, you should not vote in any elections.

We advise you to keep a copy of this letter in your personal records. If you are ever called upon to explain why you were briefly registered to vote you may use this letter to show you did nothing wrong with regard to registering to vote. The Secretary of State's office made the mistake in this matter, not you.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused you. If you have any questions, please contact the Secretary of State's General Counsel's Office at 217-785-3094.

We regret the inconvenience this programming error will cause the Board of Elections and the local election authorities. Immediately after this issue was discovered an operational change was put into effect to prevent any additional improper transmissions of information to the Board of Elections.

If you have any questions or comments about this matter, or need additional information, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Nathan Maddox
Senior Legal Adviser
Office of the Secretary of State
Howlett Building, Room 298
Springfield, IL 62756
(217)785-3094