

87th Legislative District
Shelby County



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Hon. KAREN D. CAMPER House Minority Leader

June 24, 2024

Hon. Tre Hargett, Secretary of State
Tennessee Department of State
312 Rosa L. Parks Avenue
Snodgrass Tower, 7th Floor
Nashville, TN 37243-1102

Dear Secretary Hargett,

I am writing to you regarding the recent correspondence sent by Mr. Mark Goins, Coordinator of Elections, to certain registered voters in Tennessee, requesting that they provide proof of their citizenship. This action has raised significant concerns among my constituents and within the broader community, and I seek clarification on several points to better understand the rationale and legality of this initiative.

First and foremost, I would like to understand the criteria and methodology used to identify the specific individuals who received these letters. It is crucial to know the justification for how and why these particular voters were chosen. Transparency in this process is essential to ensure that it is fair, non-discriminatory, and does not inadvertently target or intimidate lawful voters.

Additionally, could you please provide the total number of letters that have been mailed out as part of this effort? This information will help assess the scope and impact of the initiative on our electorate.

Furthermore, I request clarification on the specific legal authority that the Secretary of State's office relies upon to contact registered voters and demand proof of citizenship. It is important to understand which statutes or regulations you believe grant this power and how this action aligns with state and federal laws governing voter registration and election integrity.

I am also interested in understanding what information is being requested as proof of citizenship from these voters. Knowing the exact nature of the documentation required will help evaluate whether the requests are reasonable and within legal bounds. Additionally, I would like to know what the Secretary of State's office plans to do with the information gathered from the individuals who respond. How will this information be used, stored, and protected to ensure voter privacy and data security?

Lastly, I would like to address the multiple layers of security already in place to prevent individuals who are not legally eligible to vote from participating in our elections. These include but are not limited to, stringent voter registration processes, verification of identity and residency, and checks against federal databases. Given these existing safeguards, I am concerned about the necessity and timing of this additional verification measure. I would appreciate an explanation of how this new measure enhances the security and integrity of our electoral process beyond the current protocols.

The right to vote is a cornerstone of our democracy, and it is imperative that all actions taken in the name of election security do not undermine voter confidence or disenfranchise eligible voters. I look forward to your prompt response to these queries and hope we can work together to ensure that our electoral system remains both secure and accessible to all qualified citizens.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karen D. Camper". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Karen" and last name "Camper" clearly distinguishable.

Hon. Karen D. Camper
State Representative, District 87
House Minority Leader

Cc: Hon. Jonathan Skrmetti, Tennessee Attorney General
Hon. Kristen Clarke, Assistant United States Attorney General, Civil Rights Division