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CASE NO: A-24-902351-W
Department 28

5 *Counsel for Petitioners*

6 **IN THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA**

7 **IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF CLARK**

8 CITIZEN OUTREACH FOUNDATION,
9 CHARLES MUTH, individually,

10 *Petitioners,*

11 v.

12 LORENA PORTILLO, in her official
13 capacity as the acting Registrar of Voters,
14 for Clark County.

15 *Respondent.*

Case No.:

Dept. No.:

**PETITION FOR WRIT OF MANDAMUS
PURSUANT TO NRS 293.535 AND NRS
293.530 FOR RESPONDENTS TO
NOTIFY THE REGISTRANTS OF THE
CHALLENGE AND FOLLOW THE
REQUIRMENTS OF NRS 293.530**

Exempt from Arbitration

- **Action for Declaratory Relief**
- **Action Presents a Significant Issue of Public Policy**
- **Action Seeks Injunctive or Extraordinary Relief**

HEARING REQUESTED

16 Petitioners CITIZEN OUTREACH FOUNDATION ("Citizen Outreach) and CHARLES
17 MUTH ("Mr. Muth"), Individually, submit this Petition for Writ of Mandamus to compel the Clark
18 County Registrar of Voters, Lorena Portillo, to perform her duties as required by NRS 293.535 and
19 NRS 293.530 by requiring Respondent to notify the registrant of the challenge and take the
20 necessary actions as required under NRS 293.530.
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1 **NATURE OF THE CASE**

- 2 1. On or about July 29, 2024, Petitioners, and specifically, Mr. Muth, submitted and filed
3 properly processed challenges to almost every Nevada County Registrar/Clerk, including
4 Clark County. At this time, several county clerks/registrar promptly and properly
5 processed these challenges.
6
- 7 2. Upon information and belief, the Respondent, on behalf of Clark County, did not process
8 any of the challenges filed.
- 9 3. On August 27, 2024, the Nevada Secretary of State issued a private memorandum to
10 Nevada’s 17 County Clerks and Registrars providing “guidance” on the “personal
11 knowledge” required to challenge a registered voter pursuant to NRS 293.535 and NRS
12 293.547. *See Exhibit 1.*
- 13
- 14 4. While Petitioners had been working with several County Registrar/Clerk and provided
15 updates and correspondence with the Secretary of State regarding Petitioners’ efforts in
16 assisting the County Registrar/Clerk with maintaining the voter rolls, the memorandum was
17 only issued to the Clerks/Registrars and was not provided to either Petitioner.
- 18
- 19 5. Petitioners were never notified of the secret memorandum, or that several Registrars/Clerks
20 have followed the Secretary of State’s directive and have stopped processing the challenges
21 or continue to refuse to process the challenges. Upon information and believe, Clark County
22 has refused to process the challenges.
- 23
- 24 6. On September 8, 2024, Petitioners sent an “Open Letter to Nevada Secretary of State” to
25 Secretary Aguilar setting forth Petitioners’ response to the private memorandum, and the
26 telephone discussion between Mr. Muth and Secretary Aguilar. *See Exhibit 2.*
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- 28 7. As of the filing of this litigation, Petitioners have received no response from the Secretary
of State, but instead, received a response from the Attorney General’s Office stating, “

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We are in receipt of said written communications. As counsel for the Secretary of State’s Office, we will review these communications and, as needed, respond to you.

See Exhibit 3.

8. On September 10, 2024, Petitioners sent correspondence to each district attorney regarding the failure to process the challenges because of the memorandum issued by Cisco Aguilar, Nevada Secretary of State. *See Exhibit 4.*
9. Upon information and belief, it appears that Humboldt County has rejected the Secretary of State’s directive and will continue to allow the properly filed challenges to be processed. According to Kevin Pasquale, Humboldt County District Attorney, he “gave my opinion to our County Clerk several weeks ago, I reviewed that opinion earlier today, further discussed it with her, and see no reason to alter it.”
10. Upon information and belief, it also appears that Lander County also properly processed the valid challenges. According to William E. Schaeffer, District Attorney for Lander County, he is “in agreement with my colleague, Mr. Pasquale, in Humboldt County. As far as I know, our Clerk is going ahead and looking at the challenges and following up on them...she’s sending out letters checking on the status.”
11. Pershing County Clerk, Lacey Donaldson advised Petitioners on September 11, 2024, that “Pershing County is in receipt of your Challenges from August 29th and September 10. Following guidance from my District Attorney, the Nevada Secretary of State, and the Nevada Attorney General’s office, we will not be processing these challenges at this time.”
12. Clark County did not respond to the correspondence sent to the District Attorneys’ Office.

PARTIES

13. Petitioner Muth is an elector and reliable person registered to vote in Nevada.

1 14. Petitioner Citizen Outreach Foundation., is a 501(c)(3) non-partisan organization, based in
2 Las Vegas, Nevada. Citizen Outreach launched, what is called the Pigpen Project in January
3 2023, with the primary objectives to identify suspected ineligible voters on Nevada’s voter
4 rolls, confirm and document their ineligibility, and work with local and state election
5 officials to remove them from the voter lists so ballots aren’t mailed to individuals that are
6 not eligible to vote.
7

8 15. Respondent PORTILLO is responsible for maintaining Nevada’s voter rolls and to ensure
9 the integrity of Nevada’s elections. Pursuant to NRS 293.535(2) when a challenge to a
10 voter is filed, Respondent are **required and mandated** to “notify the registrant in the manner
11 set forth in NRS 293.530 and shall enclose a copy of the affidavit.”
12

13 16. Respondent PORTILLO is named in her official capacity only.

14 JURISDICTION AND VENUE

15 17. This Court has jurisdiction to issue writs of mandamus pursuant to Article 6, Section 6 of
16 the Nevada Constitution and NRS 34.160. “A writ of mandamus is available to compel the
17 performance of an act that the law requires as a duty resulting from an office, trust, or station
18 or to control an arbitrary or capricious exercise of discretion.” *Int’l Game Tech., Inc. v.*
19 *Second Judicial Dist. Court*, 124 Nev. 193, 197, 179 P.3d 556, 558 (2008).
20

21 18. This Court is the proper venue as it is where the Respondent is located.

22 GENERAL FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

23 Nevada Law Requires Respondent to Notify the Registrant upon receipt of an Affidavit

24 19. Under Nevada law, the registrar of voters or county clerks **shall** notify a registrant if any
25 elector or other reliable person files an affidavit with the county clerk stating that:

26 ...
27

28 (b) The registrant has:

1 (1) Moved outside the boundaries of the county where he or she is
2 registered to another county, state, territory or foreign country, with
3 the intention of remaining there for an indefinite time and with the
intention of abandoning his or her residence in the county where
registered; and

4 (2) Established residence in some other state, territory or foreign
5 country, or in some other county of this state, naming the place.

6 The ***affiant must state*** that he or she has personal knowledge of the
facts set forth in the affidavit.

7 *See* NRS 293.535(1)(b)(1)-(2) (emphasis added).

8 20. “Upon the filing of an affidavit pursuant to paragraph (b) of subsection 1, the county clerk
9 ***shall*** notify the registrant in the manner set forth in NRS 293.530 and ***shall*** enclose a copy
10 of the affidavit. If the registrant fails to respond or appear to vote within the required time,
11 the county clerk ***shall*** cancel the registration.” *See* NRS 293.535(2) (emphasis added).

12 21. “A county clerk ***shall*** cancel the registration of a voter pursuant to this subsection if:

13 (1) The county clerk mails a written notice to the voter which the
14 United States Postal Service is required to forward;

15 (2) The county clerk mails a return postcard with the notice which
16 has a place for the voter to write his or her new address, is addressed
17 to the county clerk and has postage guaranteed;

18 (3) The voter does not respond; and

19 (4) The voter does not appear to vote in an election before the polls
20 have closed in the second general election following the date of the
notice.

21 *See* NRS 293.530(1)(c)(1)-(4) (emphasis added).

22 22. “The county clerk ***shall*** maintain records of (1) Any notice mailed pursuant to paragraph
23 (c); (2) Any response to such notice; and (3) Whether a person to whom a notice is mailed
24 appears to vote in an election, for not less than 2 years after creation. *See* NRS 293.530
25 (1)(e).

26 23. “The county clerk shall use any postcards which are returned to correct the portions of the
27 statewide voter registration list which are relevant to the county clerk.” *See* NRS 293.530(f).
28

1 24. If a voter fails to return the postcard mailed pursuant to paragraph (c) *within 30 days, the*
2 *county clerk shall designate the voter as inactive on the voter's application to register to*
3 *vote. See NRS 293.530(g).*

4 25. A county clerk is not required to take any action pursuant to this section in relation to a
5 person who preregisters to vote until the person is deemed to be registered to vote pursuant
6 to subsection 2 of NRS 293.4855.
7

8 26. NRS 293.5303 **Data concerning change of address of registered voter:** Agreement with
9 United States Postal Service or other authorized person for use of data by county clerk. In
10 addition to the methods described in NRS 293.530, the county clerk in each county may
11 enter into an agreement with the United States Postal Service or any person authorized by
12 it to obtain the data compiled by the United States Postal Service concerning changes of
13 addresses of its postal patrons for use by the county clerk to correct the portions of the
14 statewide voter registration list relevant to the county clerk.
15

16 27. Respondent PORTILLO and the other Registrars/Clerks must perform their duties by
17 mailing the notice to the challenged registrar at least thirty-three (33) days before the
18 election or Washoe County will increase the time an invalid registrant is on Nevada's voter
19 rolls.
20

21 **COUNT I**

22 **Writ of Mandamus for Violation of the NRS 293. 535 and NRS 293.530**

23 28. Petitioners reallege paragraphs 1 through 27 as if fully stated herein.

24 29. As of August 28, 2024, Petitioner Muth filed in Clark County, Nineteen Thousand Seven
25 Hundred Forty (19,740) affidavits challenging the registrants pursuant to NRS 293.495. *See*
26 *Exhibit 5. (Challenge).*
27
28

1 30. In Clark County, Petitioners provided challenges to 9,590 registrant who have moved within
2 their county of registration but out of their precinct they were registered in, 190 registrants
3 because they had moved from one Nevada County to another Nevada County; challenges
4 to 6,844 registrants because they have moved out of the State of Nevada; challenges to 3030
5 registrants because they had moved out of Nevada and registered to vote in another state,
6 and challenges to 86 registrants who have moved out of Nevada and registered to vote and
7 voted in another state.
8

9 31. Petitioner's affidavit specifically *states* that Mr. Muth has "personal knowledge of the facts
10 set forth" in his affidavit and the information provided is true and correct to the best of my
11 knowledge.
12

13 32. Petitioners sought compliance with NRS 293.495, but Respondents have refused to act
14 under NRS 293.535 and NRS 293.530.
15

16 33. Petitioners and the Public will continue to be injured by Respondent's failure to act unless
17 and until PORTILLO is required to fulfill her duties under Nevada law.
18

19 34. Petitioners seek a writ of mandamus requiring Respondent to notify each registrant subject
20 to the challenges that have been filed, or thereafter, take the necessary actions pursuant to
21 NRS 293.530.
22

23 35. Petitioners seek a declaratory judgment that Respondent are not in compliance with NRS
24 293.530 and 293.675, and that they have no authority not to act pursuant to NRS 293.520
25 once an affidavit is filed.
26

27 **COUNT II**
28 **DECLARATORY RELIEF**

36. Petitioners reallege paragraphs 1 through 35 as if fully stated herein.

37. NRS 30.040(1) provides that "[a]ny person ... whose rights, status or other legal relations
are affected by a statute, municipal ordinance, contract or franchise, may have determined

1 any question of construction or validity arising under the instrument, statute, ordinance,
2 contract or franchise and obtain a declaration of rights, status or other legal relations
3 thereunder.

4
5 38. Upon receiving an affidavit challenging a registrant pursuant to NRS 293.535, Respondent
6 must provide notice to the registrant pursuant to NRS 293.530.

7 39. Despite these statutory requirements, Respondent has failed to properly process the valid
8 challenges under NRS 293.535 and refuses to do so.

9 40. Plaintiffs are entitled to a declaratory judgment that upon the filing of an affidavit, Nevada
10 law requires the county clerk to “notify the registrant in the manner set forth in NRS 293.530
11 and shall enclose a copy of the affidavit. If the registrant fails to respond or appear to vote
12 within the required time, the county clerk shall cancel the registration.” See NRS
13 293.535(2).
14

15 **COUNT III**
16 **INJUNCTIVE RELIEF**

17 41. Petitioners reallege paragraphs 1 through 40 as if fully stated herein.

18 42. As alleged herein above, Petitioners have properly filed affidavits challenging several
19 registrants pursuant to NRS 293.535, to which Respondent is refusing to process and
20 provide notice to the registrant pursuant to NRS 293.530.

21 43. If Respondent is able to delay and continue to refuse to fulfill their obligations under Nevada
22 Law, NRS 293.535 and NRS 293.530, then Petitioners will be irreparably harmed because
23 the challenges will not be processed within a timely manner, and the invalid registrant will
24 remain on Nevada’s voter rolls for an additional two years after the 2024 general election.
25 The invalid registrant will not be removed, in some cases, until after the 2028 general
26 election, instead of the 2025 general election.
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1 44. Petitioners enjoy a reasonable probability of success on the merits with respect to its claims
2 asserted herein.

3 45. Petitioners are entitled to a preliminary injunction requiring the Clark County Registrar,
4 Respondent, to notify the registrant of the challenge, pursuant to NRS 293.530.

5
6 46. Petitioners are entitled to this relief to preserve the status quo and to prevent Petitioners,
7 and the Nevada public from being irreparably harmed. Without the mailing of the notice,
8 within 33 days or more of the election, the Clark County Registrar of Voters will have
9 avoided their obligation under the law and precluded Petitioners from exercising their rights
10 to challenge a registrant who is no longer living in Nevada or the area in which they are
11 registered.

12 47. A bond in the amount of \$1000.00 can be posted, because the likelihood of success on the
13 merits high an the irreparably harm is severe.

14
15 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

16 WHEREFORE, Petitioners pray for relief as follows:

- 17 1. For a writ of mandamus compelling Respondent to process the challenges and
18 provide notice to the registrant pursuant to NRS 293.530.
19 2. Declaring that Respondent is in violation of NRS 293.535 and NRS 293.530.
20 3. For any necessary injunctive or declaratory remedies or relief.
21 4. For an award of reasonable costs and attorneys' fees'.
22 5. Any additional relief this Court deems just, proper, and equitable.

23
24 Dated: September 23, 2024.

THE O'MARA LAW FIRM, P.C.

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26

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EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit No.	Description	Pages
1.	Private Memo to Registrars and Clerks from the SOS	3
2.	Open Letter to SOS and Clerks/Registrars from Muth	20
3.	Correspondence from the Attorney General	1
4.	Correspondence to Clerks/Registrars from O'Mara Law Firm, P.C.	2
5.	Example of an Affidavit for Challenge	1

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EXHIBIT 1

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EXHIBIT 1

FRANCISCO V. AGUILAR
Secretary of State

STATE OF NEVADA

GABRIEL DI CHIARA
Chief Deputy Secretary of State

RUBEN J. RODRIGUEZ
Deputy Secretary for Southern Nevada



ERIN HOUSTON
Deputy Secretary for Securities

MARK A. WLASCHIN
Deputy Secretary for Elections

SHAUNA BAKKEDAHL
Deputy Secretary for Commercial Recordings

DEBBIE I. BOWMAN
Deputy Secretary for Operations

OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE

MEMORANDUM

To: Nevada County Clerks & Registrars
From: Mark Wlaschin
Date: August 27, 2024
Subject: Memo 2024-026 – Personal Knowledge

The following guidance is provided to clarify the “personal knowledge” required to challenge to a registered voter pursuant to [NRS 293.535](#) and [NRS 293.547](#).

I. Written Challenge Statutes

Nevada law permits two forms of written challenge to voter eligibility, one under NRS 293.535, and the other under NRS 293.547. Both types of challenge require the challenger to attest that they have personal knowledge of the facts relating to voter eligibility supporting the challenge.

Under NRS 293.535, a challenger may file an affidavit stating either that the registrant (1) is not a citizen of the United States, or (2) has moved outside the boundaries of the county where they are registered and established a new residence with the intention of remaining in there indefinitely and abandoning their previous residence. In either case, the challenger must state that they have “personal knowledge” of the facts alleged.

To bring a valid written challenge under NRS 293.547, a registered voter must be registered to vote in the same precinct as the person whose right to vote is challenged and base the challenge on their personal knowledge.

The Secretary has issued regulations interpreting and implementing NRS 293.547. [NAC 293.416](#) defines “personal knowledge” as used in NRS 293.547 to mean “firsthand knowledge through experience or observation of the facts upon each ground that the challenge is based.” NAC 293.416(3). This is consistent with the general understanding of the term. “Personal knowledge” is most commonly understood to be “[k]nowledge gained through firsthand observation or experience,” distinguishable from secondhand knowledge that is, for example, “based on what someone else has said.” See Personal Knowledge, BLACK LAW’S DICTIONARY (12th ed. 2024).

II. Legislative History

Further clarity on “personal knowledge” can be found in the legislative history of prior amendments to NRS 293.547. First, the legislature amended NRS 293.547 in 1991 through Assembly Bill 652 (AB 652) to require that a challenge under the statute must be brought either by a registered voter of the same precinct or district as the challenged voter or on the basis of personal knowledge. See AB 652 § 29. Comments considered by the Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB) suggest the amendment was intended to root out voter challenges based on review of databases like Department of Motor Vehicles records. Ex. C at 7 to Minutes of the Nev. Legis. Assemb. Comm. on Legis. Functions & Elections (May 14, 1991). This commentary notes that challenges were increasingly filed based on comparison of DMV addresses against voter registration records, “becom[ing] nothing short of intimidation,” and that the requirement of “personal knowledge” was meant to preclude challenges based on such comparisons. *Id.* LCB described the then-proposed amendment as “restor[ing] the original intent of challenging a voter based upon personal knowledge that the voter is not qualified to vote.” *Id.*

Then, in 2007, the legislature amended NRS 293.547 through Assembly Bill 569 (AB 569) to require that challenges under the statute must both be brought by a registered voter of the same precinct as the challenged voter and be made on the basis of personal knowledge. See AB 569 § 54. The legislative history indicates that the amendment was intended to rectify the fact that as then codified NRS 293.547 did not “require the challenger to have any personal or first-hand knowledge of why he or she is challenging a particular voter.” Minutes of the Assemb. Comm. on Elections, Procedures, Ethics, & Constitutional Amendments at 3–4 (Apr. 3, 2007) (statement of Larry Lomax, Registrar of Voters, Clark County). The minutes show the amendment was written to root out “blind, scattered challenges” and requires firsthand knowledge, knowledge “a person who, through his own experience, knows . . . to be true[.]” for all challenges under the statute. *Id.* at 4. The amendment, therefore, proposed adding “a requirement that a person actually have knowledge of the person being challenged or the reason the challenge is being made.” *Id.*

While “personal knowledge” is not explicitly defined under NRS 293.535 or implementing regulations, the Secretary views the term to mean the same thing in both statutes. See, e.g. *Clark County Office of the Coroner/Medical Examiner v. Las Vegas Review-Journal*, 136 Nev. 44, 61, 458 P.3d 1048, 1061 (2020) (citing *Savage v. Pierson*, 123 Nev. 86, 94, 157 P.3d 697, 702 (2007) (“[W]hen the same word is used in different statutes that are similar with respect to purpose and content, the word will be used in the same sense, unless the statutes’ context indicates otherwise[.]”). There is no reason to think that the Legislature intended “personal knowledge” to differ across these two statutes, which are similar in content and context.

III. The National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (NVRA)

The NVRA requires, among other things, that a state “conduct a general program that makes a reasonable effort to remove the names” of voters who may be ineligible based on a change of residence. 52 U.S.C. § 20507(a)(4). The general program must be “uniform, nondiscriminatory, and in compliance with the Voting Rights Act of 1965.” 52 U.S.C. § 20507(b)(1). One way to

satisfy the general program requirement is to rely on change-of-address information supplied by the U.S. Postal Service (NCOA Data). 52 U.S.C. § 20507(c)(1).

A state must complete its general program to remove voters who may have changed residence “not later than 90 days prior to the date of a” federal election. 52 U.S.C. § 20507(c)(2). This 90-day blackout period does not apply to removal actions based on individualized information. See *Arcia v. Fla. Sec’y of State*, 772 F.3d 1335, 1348 (11th Cir. 2014). The Secretary’s opinion is that challenges under NRS 293.535 or 293.547 that are based on NCOA data, not “personal knowledge,” are not based on individualized information.

A state cannot use NCOA Data to inactivate or remove voters during the 90 days before a federal election through its general removal program, and challenges based on NCOA Data made during the 90 days before a federal election would open an untenable loophole to the NVRA’s 90-day blackout period.

IV. Conclusion

Recently, individuals have submitted challenges based on their “personal knowledge” obtained from their review of data from databases or compilations of information. It is the opinion of the Secretary of State that such challenges do not meet the requirement of “personal knowledge” of facts supporting the challenge required by NRS 293.535 and 293.547. As the legislative history from 1991, noted above, confirms, review of databases and information compilations do not provide “firsthand knowledge through experience or observation” of the challenged individual’s eligibility status. County clerks who receive these challenges should reject them and instruct challengers that personal knowledge gained through firsthand experience or observation of the facts relating to a voter’s eligibility is necessary to file a valid challenge under either statute. In the absence of such firsthand, personal knowledge showing a voter’s eligibility, these challenges should be rejected.

It is worth noting that, even where a challenge is properly raised under NRS 293.535, clerks are still required to follow the notice and return postcard process required by the National Voter Registration Act and NRS 293.530. 52 USC § 20507(d); see also NRS 293.535(2) and Memo 2024-006.

If you have any questions regarding this guidance, please contact the Office of the Secretary of State at NVElect@sos.nv.gov.

Respectfully,

Francisco V. Aguilar
Secretary of State

By: Mark Wlaschin
Mark Wlaschin, Deputy Secretary for Elections

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EXHIBIT 2

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EXHIBIT 2



CITIZEN OUTREACH FOUNDATION

Putting the Public Back in Public Policy

TO: Cisco Aguilar, Nevada Secretary of State
FROM: Chuck Muth, President, Citizen Outreach Foundation
DATE: September 8, 2024

OPEN LETTER TO NEVADA SECRETARY OF STATE

Secretary Aguilar,

On August 27, 2024, you issued a private memorandum to Nevada's 17 County Clerks & Registrars providing "guidance" on "the 'personal knowledge' required to challenge a registered voter pursuant to NRS 293.535 and NRS 293.547."

The memorandum was issued without even the courtesy of a heads up to me and my organization – sponsor of the Pigpen Project to assist county clerks/registrars in cleaning up Nevada's voter rolls - despite knowing full well that we had submitted almost 4,000 such challenges on July 29, 2024.

I know that you knew we had submitted those challenges because we were fully transparent by copying your Deputy Secretary for Elections on all of those challenges.

Following my blog post on the morning of August 28 – after I obtained a copy of your memo – you called me while I was driving in rush hour traffic in downtown Los Angeles to discuss the matter.

Unfortunately, because I was driving, I was unable to review your memorandum while on the phone with you. Fortunately, I had the call on speaker phone and three witnesses overheard the conversation.

And what you told me not only didn't make sense, but it also didn't ring true. As I texted you a couple hours later after I had an opportunity to again review your memo...

"There is nothing in the memo that suggests the purpose of the memo was to ask clerks/registrars to consult with their DA's to see if they have a differing opinion from your office's interpretation of 'personal knowledge' as it pertains to Section 535 and forward their argument(s) to your office.

"It plainly and starkly declares that 'these challenges should be rejected.' No contrary opinions were requested or allowed.

"I don't know if you've been misled or I've been misled, but that memo, as written and distributed to the county clerks/registrars, is NOT what you described to me in our conversation."

Ten days later and I still have not received any response, other than a September 3, 2024, email from Nevada Attorney General Aaron Ford advising that "As counsel for the Secretary of State's Office, we request that you direct any further communications pertaining to Pigpen Project to this Office at the AGINFO@ag.nv.gov email address."

The attorney general is copied on this letter.

As a result of your August 27 memo, some of the clerks who had promptly and properly processed our challenges that were submitted on July 29, 2024, have since advised that, in light of your directive, they would no longer process subsequent challenges.

I've asked before and I'll ask again..

- Why do you want to keep voters who no longer live in Nevada on Nevada's Active voter rolls?
- Why should taxpayers have to pay to send mail-in ballots to voters who have moved to another state and, in some cases, have not only re-registered in their new state but have voted there?
- Why are you bending over backwards to block our organization from assisting the county clerks/registrars – who are overburdened as is – in fulfilling their obligation under the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (NVRA) to "ensure that accurate and current voter registration rolls are maintained"?

Indeed, in two secretly issued memos from your office back in March and April, you advised the county clerks/registrars that their "routine list maintenance procedures already fulfill their obligations under both the National Voter Registration Act and NRS

293.530.” You added that “additional actions from county clerks, including with respect to information received from an external party,” were not required.

“A county clerk may receive information about a voter’s change of address through an external party,” you wrote in your March memorandum. You then suggested “that the county confirm information through independent sources, such as the United States Postal Service change of address information, which the Secretary of State can help coordinate.”

In addition, 52 U.S. Code § 20507 states that election officials may meet the voter removal requirements under NVRA if “change of address information supplied by the Postal Service through its licensees is used to identify registrants whose addresses may have changed.”

In fact, as you know, the National Change of Address (NCOA) data file is exactly what we use to research our information. Therefore, it meets the stipulation of NRS 293.530 that the county clerks/registrars “use any reliable and reasonable means available...to determine whether a voter’s current residence is other than that indicated on the voter’s application to register to vote.”

In your April memo, you took impeding our efforts to work with county clerks/registrars a step further by advising them that if they *did* choose to work with us, they could only do so if “approved by their respective board of commissioners” and that “absent approval by a county commission, no county clerk can conduct investigations contemplated under NRS 293.530(1)(b).”

We absolutely disagree with your interpretation of that provision.

An “investigation” would be something like what the Public Interest Legal Foundation did recently in Clark and Washoe counties as it related to commercial addresses where a voter was registered.

They identified commercial addresses. They then matched those addresses to addresses in the voter file. They then physically went to those addresses to see if they were indeed a commercial address with no residential component.

They then sent an investigator and a video crew to interview people at the address and ask if the voter lived there. If they didn’t, they turned the information over to the Registrar of Voters for further investigation and appropriate action.

We were not asking the clerks to conduct any such sort of "investigations of registrations by census, by house-to-house canvass or by any other method." All we requested was that the clerks/registrars mail the confirmation postcards outlined in statute.

Mailing a postcard is not an "investigation."

Nevertheless, after thwarting our effort to work cooperatively with the county clerks/registrars on list maintenance under NRS 293.530, we were forced - at your direction in your April memo - to instead utilize the "challenge" processes as outlined in NRS 293.547 and 293.535.

We attempted to do so in Clark County using Section 547 challenges before the June 11 primary. However, our challenges were rejected on the ground that we didn't meet the "personal knowledge" requirement of the statute.

Again, we disagree with that decision but came to understand that the "personal knowledge" requirement for Section 535 challenges was worded differently.

While Section 547 requires "personal knowledge of the registered VOTER (*my emphasis*)," Section 535 requires "personal knowledge of the FACTS (*my emphasis*) set forth in the affidavit."

And for the record, there is no definition of "personal knowledge" by the Legislature in either section.

However, NAC 293.416, as it relates to NRS 293.547, states...

"As used in this section, 'personal knowledge' means that the person who files the challenge has firsthand knowledge through experience or observation of the facts upon each ground that the challenge is based."

Now, I may not be a lawyer - and only have a high school diploma - however, I did get straight A's in "Plain English." So the following 10-point response arguing for why your August 27 memo is flawed and should be rescinded is admittedly from a layman's perspective.

1.) NRS 293.127 states that Title 24 relating to the conduct of elections "must be liberally construed to the end that...the real will of the electors is not defeated by any informality or by failure substantially to comply with the provisions of this title with

respect to the giving of any notice or the conducting of an election or certifying the results thereof.”

The “real will of the electors” is defeated when ineligible voters cast ballots in an election, thus cancelling out the vote of an eligible voter and disenfranchising them.

Noteworthy, and deeply concerning, is the fact that your August 27 memo instructing clerks/registerars to reject our challenges doesn’t claim that our submissions were inaccurate or unreliable, but on a comparatively trivial and disputed interpretation of the definition of “personal knowledge” as it applies to Section 535 (which I’ll address in greater detail later in this letter).

We maintain that our challenges have more than “substantially” complied with the intent of the provisions of Title 24 and that your directive to reject them is clearly based on a technical “informality” that has no bearing on the facts set forth in my affidavits.

2.) While the NAC 293.416 definition of “personal knowledge” specifically applies to Section 547 challenges, Section 535 challenges are specifically NOT included in the code; a fact that you admitted to in your memo...

“While ‘personal knowledge’ is not explicitly defined under NRS 293.535 or implementing regulations, the Secretary views the term to mean the same thing in both statutes.”

Again, we disagree.

But for argument’s sake, let’s say they do. It doesn’t matter. Because the “personal knowledge” a challenger must have for a Section 547 challenge is different from the “personal knowledge” a challenger must have for a Section 535 challenge.

Again, per statute, a Section 547 challenge must be “based on the personal knowledge of the registered voter” while a Section 535 challenge requires the challenger to state “that he or she has personal knowledge of the facts set forth in the affidavit” of challenge.

And the facts set forth in my challenges are that according to official voter registration data pulled directly from the Nevada Secretary of State’s database - which we were approved to have access to on May 1, 2024 - shows the challenged voters are on the voter list while the official NCOA database, to which we also have authorized access, shows that they’ve moved from the address where they are currently registered.

Those are the facts. And I have personal knowledge of those facts as required by NRS 293.535. However, if you wish to dispute those facts you obviously have the same access to the same data our challenges are based upon that you can use to confirm the reliability of our information.

In addition, if any of the county clerks/registrars have any doubts as to the reliability of our information, NRS 293.5303 authorizes them to "enter into an agreement with the United States Postal Service or any person authorized by it to obtain data compiled by the United States Postal Service concerning changes of addresses of its postal patrons for use by the county clerk to correct the portions of the statewide voter registration list relevant to the county clerk."

Also, NRS 293.5307 states that if a county clerk/registrar enters into such an agreement, "the county clerk shall review each notice of a change of address filed with the United States Postal Service by a resident of the county and identify each resident who is a registered voter and has moved to a new address." They may then "mail a notice to each such registered voter and follow the procedures set forth in NRS 293.530."

In other words, the county clerks/registrars are allowed to do the exact same thing with the exact same information from the exact same source that we are even though THEY don't meet the definition of "personal knowledge" as you interpret it in telling them not to accept our challenges.

Again, the fact that we're following the exact same process – using USPS change of address data – that the clerks/registrars are allowed to use is definitive affirmation that our challenges are "substantially" compliant with the provisions of Title 24.

3.) In your August 27 memo you claim that "clarity on 'personal knowledge' can be found in the legislative history of prior amendments to NRS 293.547," specifically referencing AB 652 from the 1991 session which was proposed by then-Secretary of State Cheryl Lau.

At the risk of being redundant, I'll point out again that the "personal knowledge" requirements for Section 547 and Section 535 are materially different. It's not so much about what the definition of personal knowledge *is*, but what the challenger has personal knowledge *of*.

That said, you wrote...

"Comments considered by the Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB) suggest the amendment was intended to root out voter challenges based on review of databases like Department of Motor Vehicles records. Ex. C at 7 to Minutes of the Nev. Legis. Assemb. Comm. on Legis. Functions & Elections (May 14, 1991). This commentary notes that challenges were increasingly filed based on comparison of DMV addresses against voter registration records, 'becom[ing] nothing short of intimidation,' and that the requirement of 'personal knowledge' was meant to preclude challenges based on such comparisons."

But you didn't tell the full story.

First, you claim that the comments "suggest" the intent of the amendment. I've since read the full legislative history of AB 652 and my reading doesn't comport with your reading of the intent.

According to the minutes of a hearing on AB 652 conducted on May 14, 1991, Deputy Secretary of State for Elections Robert Elliott "explained the U.S. Postal Service's National Change of Address Program, which utilized the best information available to keep up with ever-moving voters."

That's the same postal service data we're using and the clerks/registrars are allowed to use today "for enhanced accuracy of voter registration address reporting."

At issue at the time was a proposed "pilot" program for Clark and Washoe counties that would allow them to "enter into an agreement with licensed vendors to have voter registration records updated."

"Next," the minutes recorded, "Mr. Elliott referred to Exhibit D, Sacramento County's report on its use of the National Change of Address Program. He highlighted how Sacramento's experience had clearly demonstrated the program's efficiency."

The minutes continue...

"In general, Mr. Elliott explained AB 652's impetus was the need to develop a program which monitored voter address changes in Clark and Washoe County. Based upon information Mr. Elliott had gleaned at conferences and from voter registration officials, this program was spreading quickly."

Exhibit C, which you referenced, then goes on to include “Commentary” on specific portions of the bill, though the source of the comments is undisclosed in the record. But the nature of the comments “suggests” they were made by Mr. Elliott.

According to the testimony...

“Section 14 prohibits a polling place worker from challenging a voter based upon his residency unless a proper written challenge has been filed or the worker has personal knowledge regarding the voter’s residency. This also prohibits personal knowledge from being based on DMV records.”

This doesn’t “suggest” the intent of the bill. This testimony clearly shows the actual intent as it relates to challenges. It stipulates that challenges be based on EITHER “personal knowledge” OR “a proper written” statement.

As for the testimony regarding DMV records that you referenced in your August 27 memo, here’s the FULL commentary...

“Some situations have arisen in past elections where party representatives have merged addresses on records at the Department of Motor Vehicles with voter registration records and have challenged voters based upon their residency if there is any discrepancy in the addresses.

“The problem is that voters may still be in the same precinct, they may not have changed their driver’s license address, the lists at DMV may have been old, or the voter, while not being eligible to vote in a new precinct, may be eligible to vote in his old precinct. The bottom line is that DMV information is not reliable.”

So contrary to your assertion, the testimony does NOT suggest an intent to prohibit challenges based on personal knowledge of data but based on data from the DMV. Huge difference.

The commentary on the proposed language in AB 652 continues...

“In addition, a challenge may contain the name of only one person whose right to vote is being challenged. This changes the practice of attaching a computer printout to a challenge statement.”

In fact, the challenges I’ve filed contain the name of only one person whose right to vote was being challenged.

Indeed, throughout all of the legislative history as well as the adopted statute, the NCOA data was accepted to be reliable and the clerks were actually encouraged to use it. As we are. Again, substantially complying with the provisions of Title 24. Next...

"In addition, a voter who wishes to challenge another voter must have personal knowledge of the reason for challenge and may not base his challenge on information at DMV."

Again, we have personal knowledge "of the reason" for challenging the voter and it is NOT based on DMV data. Next...

"Challenges have become nothing short of intimidation. When over 6,000 challenges are filed against voters in one county, something is wrong."

First, I reject the notion that simply mailing a verification letter to a voter who, according to NCOA data, appears to have moved and is no longer eligible to vote at the address at which he or she is registered, amounts to "intimidation."

That said, the fact that over 30,000 individuals remain on the current Active voter registration rolls AFTER the "routine list maintenance" process was completed in August absolutely indicates that "something is wrong."

But the problem is not in our filing of challenges. And had you not discouraged the clerks/registrars from working with our organization on list maintenance requests last March, the situation likely wouldn't be so bad today and there wouldn't have been the need to file so many challenges.

The testimony on this subject concludes with...

"This change in procedure restores the original intent of challenging a voter based upon personal knowledge that the voter is not qualified to vote."

This testimony doesn't "suggest" the intent of the legislation. It specifically declares that the "original intent" of the challenge provision was to have such challenges be "based upon personal knowledge that the voter is not qualified to vote." And we have that personal knowledge.

More importantly, the original language of the bill draft specifically stated that "the personal knowledge of the registered voter must not be based upon any information

obtained from the records *of the department of motor vehicles* (my emphasis) and public safety.”

Again, we don't use DMV data. We use the same NCOA data that the clerks/registrars are authorized to use to determine whether a voter is qualified to vote based on legitimate questions of residency and registration.

4.) In his testimony, not only did Mr. Elliott reference Exhibit C, but he also referenced Exhibit D, which you left out of your August 27 memo.

Exhibit D was a written report authored by Dwight Beattie, Assistant Registrar of Voters for Sacramento County (CA), with regard to the use of NCOA data. Here are some relevant excerpts...

“Thanks to a new law in California, County Clerks and Registrars of Voters can interface their registration files with the U.S. Postal Service National Change of Address (NCOA) files to produce cleaner voter files.

“...to produce cleaner voter files.”

“In seeking this law, the following assumptions were made:

- 1.) “The NCOA file would produce more accurate information than we could get from mailing cards to non-voters.*
- 2.) “Voters who voted in the last election would now be included in the address updating, so our complete file would be more accurate.*
- 3.) “There would be savings since we would not have to pay postage to mail cards to non-voters.”*

Let me comment on these three assumptions before continuing...

- a) Nevada's current “routine list maintenance” process by the counties relies mostly on returned cards rather than the NCOA database, which likely explains why so many “moved” voters were missed by the routine list maintenance program that was completed in August.
- b) Because Nevada remains a high-transient state, a regular, ongoing process of using NCOA data to identify and notify moved voters that they need to update

their voter registrations would be more effective in assuring more accurate voter lists than the "routine list maintenance" mailing done only after an election.

- c) And doing so would save taxpayers money by not automatically sending sample ballots and mail-in ballots to voters who have moved and are no longer eligible to vote from the address where they are registered.

It would also reduce the POTENTIAL for voting fraud, which I assume is an objective we all share. But back to Mr. Beattie's testimony...

"The NCOA maintains address changes for up to three years, while the local Post Office uses a time frame of 18 months for address changes, so we 'rescued' some persons from the 'no forwarding address' category. ...

"There are a number of rough spots in the process. ... However, a line has to be drawn at some point since some people move so frequently that we will never catch up with them.

"There were errors. A number of voters were placed at the wrong address because either one person in the family moved and checked 'family' instead of 'individual' or 'permanent' instead of 'temporary' on the Postal Service's change of address card, or because the person checked the correct box and the Postal Service entered the wrong information."

Yes, no system is perfect. Humans make mistakes. However, it's important to note that no one is any longer "purged" simply upon a challenge. Instead, a challenge simply triggers the verification process.

I would also point out that Nevada now has same-day registration. So in the rare instance where an error might occur, there is a "fail safe" option for such a voter to preserve and exercise his or her right to vote right up to Election Day.

5.) In the Legislative history for AB 652 that you referenced, there's also Exhibit F from the Democratic Party of Nevada.

In it the party stated that "we support this bill's provision for automatic change of address using data obtained through the U.S. Postal Service," noting that some voters "have forgotten that they need to contact the election department in order to change their address."

The same continues to happen today.

The Democratic Party then added...

"A.B. 652 (Sec. 1-3) resolves this problem by instituting a fair means of automatically changing addresses of those who file a change of address with the post office when they move within a county. Those who move out of the county or state are purged from the voter file after proper notice, which is forwarded to them. We can support this kind of purge. ..."

"Overall, this bill is a good piece of legislation that addresses the needs of registered voters, will increase voter participation, and protects the rights of voters in case of challenges."

Again, the important point here is "after proper notice." No one is removed from the voter file simply for appearing on the NCOA list. The only action taken is the mailing of a verification postcard or letter.

6.) On page 5 of the minutes from a June 18, 1991, legislative hearing on the bill, a legislator – unknown because page 4 is not included in the legislative history - "recommended not overly restricting the challenge provisions," again suggesting legislative intent was to interpret provisions relating to challenges liberally, not restrictively.

In that same hearing, Mr. Elliott testified on the proposed change of address program, which was ultimately approved. He stated...

"The way this program came about was, a request made of our office to identify a program that would enable us to keep track of voters who are moving in our more transient communities, Washoe and Clark counties. ..."

"We needed to find a way to update these people's addresses, get them re-precincted, if they moved out of the county they would be purged. If they moved out of the state they would be purged. This program does that..."

"California recently went through this change of address program. When somebody changes their address, they will make a change at the post office. The post office maintains those records for a period of at least 2 years, sometimes 4 (years)."

"The post office then licenses vendors, who do a computer-generated listing of all those changes of addresses in your particular area, by zip code, or whatever..."

"A voter registration file could then be sent to the vendor, and that vendor would compare those addresses on the voter registration file with the names and addresses on the postal file, and if there's an identical match of name and previous address, that would be updated by the vendor."

This is essentially the exact same process used by the Pigen Project to identify voters suspected of having moved from the address where they are registered.

In further testimony, "Senator Hickey stated the reason for the purges of registered voters was because of the high movement of people from their residences, and also because of the movement out of state."

Nothing has changed since then. If anything, the situation has gotten worse.

Senator Raggio later stated that "there should not be a restriction as to where a challenger lives, if he or she has personal knowledge of a voter not living where he or she is registered."

While that provision remains for Section 547 challenges, it is not a requirement to file a Section 535 challenge.

By directing the clerks/registrars to reject our lawfully filed challenges – which some, if not most, appear to be following – you're advising them to violate NRS 293.535 and opening them up to possible legal action.

I will also note here that NRS 293.547(5)(b) states that a county clerk/registrar shall mail a notice in the manner set forth in NRS 293.530 to the person whose right to vote has been challenged within 5 days after the challenge is filed.

I will further note that the "5 days" deadline is not specifically included for Section 535 challenges; however, in paraphrasing your own argument as it relates to personal knowledge, "there is no reason to think that the Legislature intended" the deadline for sending the notice "to differ across these two statutes, which are similar in content and context."

7.) Since you found it informative to research the legislative history of bills dealing with challenges to divine intent, I pulled the history for AB 619 in 1995 which was a bill

drafted for the purpose of conforming Nevada's election laws with the new National Voter Registration Act (NVRA).

The legislative history of AB 619 includes in Exhibit C a statement by then-Secretary of State Dean Heller which notes that "registrations can be cancelled – without the notice and inactive period – at the voter's request." He goes on to state that "The term 'at the voter's request' would include an instance in which the voter moves to another county or state and re-registers to vote."

The initial challenges I filed on July 29 were all of voters who, according to official government records, had moved to another state and re-registered in that state. In addition, just over 100 of those challenges were of individuals who not only appear to have re-registered in another state but had actually VOTED in the other state.

This is deeply concerning, as it opens that voter up to the possibility of being accused of "double voting" should they vote in their new state while someone who obtains their Nevada mail-in ballot unlawfully casts it.

In fact, back in April we filed an official Election Integrity Violation Report on just such a voter who not only appeared to have moved to and voted in the 2022 general election in Texas, but also in the 2022 general election in Nevada via mail-in ballot.

What we don't know is if the voter himself cast that mail-in ballot or if someone at his old address in Nevada obtained his ballot and fraudulently cast it in his name.

Your office has since advised me that the case has been closed but has yet, despite repeated requests, to advise me as to what action, if any, was taken at the conclusion of the investigation. **This is a critical piece of information to know, so I again request that your office provide the details of how this complaint was resolved and closed.**

8.) The legislative history for AB 619 also includes a hearing that was held on May 25, 1995. According to the minutes of that hearing, Assemblyman Bob Price raised the issue of "frivolous challenges" with then-Deputy Secretary of State Dale Erquiaga and asked "if there was any way to discourage frivolous challenges."

According to the minutes of the hearing...

"Mr. Erquiaga responded residency challenges could be changed and pointed out the affidavit was sworn under penalty of perjury, and if it was frivolous, there was

a penalty for perjury which Mr. Erquiaga believed was a misdemeanor. Some challenges were not sworn, but with this one, someone could be put in the county jail if they had done it just to harass a voter.”

In separate testimony on AB 619 provided by then-Clark County Clerk Kathryn Ferguson (Exhibit F), Ms. Ferguson asked if the language in the bill should “specify what conditions of personal knowledge are required on each type of affidavit, so that affiant is legally bound by the truth of his sworn statement.”

We share the concern over frivolous challenges and have not made any. All of our challenges are based on what is considered to be reliable information provided by officially recognized government data files.

And while NRS 293.535 does not require that an affidavit of challenge be “sworn under penalty of perjury,” I have nonetheless included just such a statement in each of the individual challenges I have filed, to wit...

“By signing my name below, as per NRS 293.535, I certify under penalty of perjury that I have ‘personal knowledge of the facts set forth’ in this affidavit and the information provided is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.”

Again demonstrating that we are more than substantially complying with the provisions of Title 24.

9.) In Section III of your August 27 directive, you refer to the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (NVRA) and wrote...

“The NVRA requires, among other things, that a state ‘conduct a general program that makes a reasonable effort to remove the names’ of voters who may be ineligible based on a change of residence. The general program must be uniform, nondiscriminatory, and in compliance with the Voting Rights Act of 1965.’ One way to satisfy the general program requirement is to rely on change-of-address information supplied by the U.S. Postal Service (NCOA).”

As such, you acknowledge that reliance on NCOA data is acceptable for the purpose of ensuring, as per the NVRA, “that accurate and current voter registration rolls are maintained.”

And this is exactly the same data we are relying on to file our challenges.

You go on to note the 90-day “blackout” period in which the county clerks/registrars may not use their “general program to remove voters who may have changed residence,” while acknowledging that the “90-day blackout period does not apply to removal actions based on individualized information.”

The challenges we have filed are not part of the county's “general program to remove voters who may have changed addresses.” They are individualized challenges based on individualized information.

In fact, each individualized challenge specifically references the individual address where the challenged voters are currently listed as registered to vote, as well as the individual address where, according to NCOA data, the individual currently resides.

Therefore, the 90-day blackout period does not apply to Section 535 challenges.

One further note on this which reinforces the need for you to immediately rescind your August 27 directive to the county clerks/registrars advising them to reject our challenges...

As noted previously, a Section 535 challenge should be processed by the county clerk/registrar and the verification letter should be sent within 5 days of receipt of a challenge. At that point, the voter has 30 days to respond.

Because of the delay in processing our challenges caused by your directive, even if the challenge letters were sent out today, the deadline for responding will likely be after mail-in ballots are sent out.

However, while our challenges won't prevent such ballots from being mailed, there's still time for successful challenges to be recorded by the clerks/registrars who can “flag” those voters before Early Voting begins on October 19, 2024, as well as set aside any mail-in ballots they receive for resolution BEFORE they are counted.

In addition, I've obtained a copy of the verification letter sent out by Lander County to challenged voters. I assume the letters sent out by other counties are similar.

In the Lander County letter, the challenged voter has the option of affirming “under penalty of perjury that I resided at the residence for which the address is listed in the roster at the time I registered, and that I have since changed my residence and currently reside at the following address: (xxx).”

At the very least, any voter who returns such a confirmation letter/postcard stating they have moved out of state must have their registration cancelled, which means any mail-in ballot which might be received from that voter – or someone trying to unlawfully cast the ballot in their name - must not be counted.

And while it may not be anticipated that a large number of such submissions will be returned, even a small number can change the outcome of a close election, such as the 2020 Clark County commission race that was decided by just 15 votes out of over 153,000 cast.

Again, I can't stress enough the importance of the county clerks/registrars processing our challenges immediately.

10.) Lastly, let's address Section IV – "Conclusion" - of your August 27 directive. In it you wrote...

"Recently, individuals have submitted challenges based on their 'personal knowledge' obtained from their review of data from databases or compilations of information. It is the opinion of the Secretary of State that such challenges do not meet the requirement of 'personal knowledge' of facts supporting the challenge required by NRS 293.535 and 293.547. As the legislative history from 1991, noted above, confirms, review of databases and information compilations do not provide 'firsthand knowledge through experience or observation' of the challenged individual's eligibility status. County clerks who receive these challenges should reject them and instruct challengers that personal knowledge gained through firsthand experience or observation of the facts relating to a voter's eligibility is necessary to file a valid challenge under either statute. In the absence of such firsthand, personal knowledge showing a voter's eligibility, these challenges should be rejected."

Your "opinion" that "review of databases and information compilations" does not meet the definition of "personal knowledge" appears to be contradicted by case law. Again, I'm not a lawyer, but here are my "Plain English" readings of three court decisions on this subject...

A.) In *Kroll v. Incline Village*, The Nevada Supreme Court ruled unanimously on November 10, 2014, that "a review of relevant business records can be the basis for personal knowledge in affidavits."

The court concluded that because the plaintiffs “gave affidavit testimony based on their review of IVGID business records, they had sufficient personal knowledge as required.”

B.) In *Vote v. United States*, it was argued that Debra Vahe’s affidavit did not meet the “personal knowledge” requirement of Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 56(e) “since Vahe’s declarations are based upon her review of the IRS computer-generated files.”

The court noted that such an interpretation of personal knowledge “would bar almost all affidavits in these sorts of cases since most affidavits are based upon a review of a taxpayer’s records.”

As such, the court concluded that “Vahe’s affidavit complies with Rule 56(e) in that it is based upon her personal familiarity with plaintiff’s case and her review of plaintiff’s file.”

C.) In *Washington Cent. R. Co. v. National Mediation Bd.*, an argument was made that a declaration made by William Gill - which was “based on Gill’s review of the files and records” - be rejected on the ground that “because Mr. Gill did not personally participate in activities he describes, his declaration fails to meet the personal knowledge requirement of Rule 56(e).”

The court acknowledged that “an affidavit or declaration...must be made on personal knowledge,” however, it also determined that personal knowledge “is not strictly limited to activities in which the declarant has personally participated” and “can come from review of the contents of files and records.”

The court determined that “Gill has personal knowledge and that personal knowledge comes from his review of the records and files” while characterizing the objection to Mr. Gill’s declaration/affidavit as “meritless.”

The court further noted “there is no dispute that the NMB (National Mediation Board) is a government agency,” just as there’s no dispute that the United States Postal Service is a government agency.

“Accordingly,” the court wrote, “the records are presumed admissible unless the opposing party can make a showing that they are untrustworthy.”

In the NVRA, NRS, and in your own directives, I have found no indication that change-of-address data provided by the United States Postal Service is considered “untrustworthy.”

CONCLUSION

We recognize the limitations and work burden our clerks/registrars are operating under with limited resources, especially during an election season.

We also acknowledge and recognize the difficulties posed by individuals and “external parties” who have not taken time to learn the complicated, convoluted, and often-contradictory statutes, codes, processes, and procedures before filing challenges.

But that’s not us.

We have gone above and beyond what is required to more than “substantially” comply with the provisions of Title 24 and NRS 293 in our efforts to assist the county clerks/registrars in fulfilling their obligation “to ensure that accurate and current voter registration rolls are maintained.”

And we’ve attempted to communicate and seek information, guidance, and advice from your office to assure that our efforts are “by the book,” only to be ignored or rebuffed.

Back in February, you issued a statement maintaining that “Nevada runs some of the most secure, accessible and transparent elections in the country, and we’re dedicated to ensuring voters are confident in that.”

However, your efforts over the past nine months to discourage and impede our ability to assist the clerks/registrars in assuring our elections are secure from individuals who have become ineligible to vote in Nevada elections does not engender confidence.

In addition, your refusal to openly and expeditiously communicate and work with our organization on these matters while issuing private memos that have a direct effect on our efforts without even notifying us, let alone consulting and discussing the matters with us in advance, is anything but “transparent.”

If there are raised any doubts about the integrity of any elections in Nevada in November that turn out to be close, it won’t be because of “right-wing election deniers” but because of your actions to thwart the legitimate efforts of our organization to assist with the obviously flawed current system of identifying and removing ineligible voters from the Active voter rolls.

But there’s still time for you to do the right thing.

If you have ANY doubts or ANY concerns about our efforts and how they're conducted, I am more than happy to provide you with the information. Otherwise, I will conclude by again asking you to rescind your directive to reject our properly filed challenges immediately so they can be processed before Early Voting begins.

On the other hand, if you continue to insist on impeding our ability to participate in the process of ensuring "that accurate and current voter registration rolls are maintained" under Sections 530, 535, and 547, please advise as to exactly how we SHOULD be proceeding.

The security and integrity of our elections depends on it.

cc: Nevada County Clerks & Registrars
Dan Burdish, COO, Citizen Outreach Foundation
David O'Mara, Esq.
Brian Hardy, Esq.
Office of the Governor
Office of the Attorney General
Nevada State Sen. Jeff Stone
Nevada State Assemblywoman Jill Dickman

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EXHIBIT 3

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EXHIBIT 3



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September 11, 2024

Via Electronic Mail Only

Chuck Muth
President
Citizens Outreach Foundation
chuck@citizenoutreach.com

Re: September 8th and 9th Communications

Dear Mr. Muth:

We are in receipt of said written communications. As counsel for the Secretary of State's Office, we will review these communications and, as needed, respond to you.

Sincerely,

Craig Newby

Craig Newby
First Assistant Attorney General

cc: Client

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EXHIBIT 4

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EXHIBIT 4

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dfrehner@lincolncountynv.gov; srye@lyon-county.org; jstanton@mineralcountynv.org;
btkunzi@nyecountynv.gov;
bshields@pershingcountynv.gov;
alanger@storeycounty.org;
chicks@da.washoecounty.gov;
JBeecher@whitepinecountynv.gov

Re: Citizen Outreach Foundation (Pigeon Project) v. Counties of the State of Nevada
(Voter Challenges)

Dear District Attorney:

The O'Mara Law Firm, P.C. has been retained by Citizen Outreach Foundation regarding the County Clerk/Registrar of Voter's failure to process several voter/registration challenges that were submitted to their office by Citizen Outreach Foundation's Pigeon Project. The failure to process these challenges appears to be supported by a memorandum issued by Cisco Aguilar, Nevada Secretary of State, on August 27, 2024.

On Sunday, September 8, 2024, Mr. Chuck Muth, President of Citizen Outreach Foundation, sent each County Clerk/Registrar of Voters, the Secretary of State, and the Nevada Attorney General an "Open Letter to Nevada Secretary of State." This document was produced by Mr. Muth to show that the Secretary of State's August 27, 2024, private memorandum was flawed in several ways. I have provided a copy for your review.

In addition to showing the flaws of Secretary Aguilar's memo, Mr. Muth also provided information regarding his conversation with the Secretary Aguilar where the Secretary advised him that he provided his private memo so that the clerks/registrar's can consult with you, their respective county District Attorney. Certainly, as you can see, nothing in the private memo can be construed as a request to have each clerk/registrar's DA review the memo to see if you would come up with a different opinion. However, notwithstanding the fact that the private memo did not allow you to review and consult with your respective Clerk/Registrar, I am requesting you do so today so that we can avoid seeking the Court's assistance on this matter.

Indeed, the flaws uncovered by Mr. Muth's analysis of the Secretary's memo are extremely concerning, especially when the chief elections officer in the State of Nevada bases

September 10, 2024

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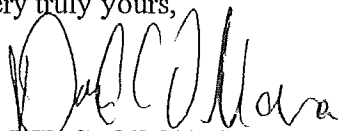
his directive on one small statement within a larger legislative history. Moreover, the Secretary of State seems to have completely disregarded the Nevada Administrative Code and Nevada case law when it came to his conclusion. NAC 293.416 provides that, as it relates to NRS 293.547, personal knowledge "means that the person who files the challenge has firsthand knowledge through experience or observation of the facts upon each ground that the challenge is based." Additionally, as Mr. Muth stated, "a review of relevant business records can be the basis for personal knowledge in affidavits." See *Kroll v. Incline Village*, 130 Nev. 1206.

Thus, please discuss this matter with your county clerk/registrar. If they have decided to change their minds after receiving Mr. Muth's correspondence, and have started to process the challenges, please let me know.

If after you have discussed this matter with your county clerk/registrar and they continue to refuse to process the submitted challenges, then we will seek the assistance of the court. Because of the timing of this matter, if we do not receive confirmation that the challenges will be processed by close of business tomorrow, Wednesday, September 11, 2024, then we will seek the Court's involvement on Thursday, September 12, 2024

Thank you for your cooperation on this matter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me

Very truly yours,


DAVID C. O'MARA

DCO/vw

Enclosure

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EXHIBIT 5

RETRIEVED FROM DEMOCRACYDOCKET.COM

EXHIBIT 5

Written Challenge Affirmation NRS 293.535

Information of Challenger

I, Charles Muth, am a duly registered Nevada voter residing in Clark County at 767 Benedict Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada, 89110. My telephone number is (702) 942-3291.

Information of Challenged Voter

As per NRS 293.535, I hereby challenge the following voter who currently appears to be registered to vote in Churchill County:

RANDY JANSON SCOTT
4405 SHECKLER RD
FALLON, NV 89406
Churchill County Voter ID: 401773
Secretary of State VID: 4143873

Statement of Facts

One of the enumerated purposes for enacting the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 was “to ensure that accurate and current voter registration rolls are maintained.”

NRS 293.500 states that - with limited exceptions outlined in NRS 293.487 - if a person moves to another state “with the intention of residing there for an indefinite time, the person thereby loses his or her residence in this State for election purposes, notwithstanding that the person may intend to return at some uncertain future date.”

According to the National Change of Address (NCOA) database maintained by the United States Postal Service (USPS), the above-challenged voter appears to be listed as having “moved outside the boundaries” of the state of Nevada “with the intention of remaining there for an indefinite time.”

The new address of the challenged voter, per NCOA, is 24277 S LINDLEY DR , CLAREMORE, OK 74019. The change-of-address form the individual completed indicates their move is “permanent,” not “temporary.”

NRS 293.495 states that if a person moves to another state, “the intent to abandon his or her residence in this State shall be presumed, and the burden shall be upon the person to prove the contrary.”

As per NRS 293.535, upon receipt of this affidavit “the county clerk shall notify the registrant in the manner set forth in NRS 293.530 and shall enclose a copy of the affidavit.”

Also per NRS 293.535, if the challenged voter fails to respond within the required time, “the county clerk shall cancel the registration.”

By signing my name below, as per NRS 293.535, I certify under penalty of perjury that I have “personal knowledge of the facts set forth” in this affidavit and the information provided is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



(Challenger’s Signature)

August 28, 2024

(Date)