



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE

RICK SCOTT
Governor

KEN DETZNER
Secretary of State

July 14, 2012

Dear Florida Supervisors of Elections:

I write to inform you of the very positive news that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has committed to giving us the access necessary to identify non-citizens on the voter rolls using the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) database. This access is a significant step towards ensuring ineligible voters cannot cast a ballot and dilute the ballot of eligible voters.

The next step in our new partnership with DHS is signing a Memorandum of Agreement, which is expected to be finalized very soon. Once the agreement is signed, our staff will be trained on how to access the SAVE database and, shortly afterward, begin verifying the legal status of potential non-citizens identified on the voter rolls. The first set of names we intend to review using the SAVE database will be the names provided to supervisors this past April. The results will be provided to you for additional actions in accordance with applicable laws.

As you are likely aware, the commitment from the federal government to assist us in identifying non-citizens on the voter rolls follows our lawsuit against DHS for access to the SAVE database. But more importantly, the DHS commitment follows a ruling in a separate federal case filed by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ). In this case, a federal judge rejected DOJ's argument that a 90-day "quiet period" under the National Voter Registration Act prohibits the removal of non-citizens who were never properly registered to vote in the first place. Furthermore, the federal court concluded that allowing non-citizens to vote would cause "irreparable harm" to Florida and its citizens.

Based on the work we have completed during the past year, it is an unfortunate but now undeniable fact that Florida's voter rolls include a number of non-citizens. These ineligible registered voters must be removed to ensure the integrity of our elections. Under our new partnership with DHS, the Department of State is now better equipped to accurately identify these non-citizens through a careful and deliberate process not possible only days ago.

The process to identify potential non-citizens will include a carefully calibrated matching process between the Florida Voter Registration System and the driver's license records of the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles before any records are verified through SAVE. The existing file of potentially ineligible voters which was created months ago, is now outdated and will not be used as the basis for further action by the Department of State. It should be considered obsolete.

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You have my assurance that the Department of State will keep you apprised at every step of this new process. We will also be in contact with you next week when we are able to provide you with greater detail as to how this new process will be carried out.

Florida voters are counting on their state and federal governments to cooperate in a way that ensures elections are fair, beginning with ensuring the voter rolls are current and accurate. We now have a commitment to cooperate from DHS and we look forward to a partnership that improves the integrity of our election process.

Thank you for your support and commitment to Florida voters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ken Detzner". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

Ken Detzner
Secretary of State