

20240226 Comments to Montgomery County BOE by

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Comments:

In the near future, a report will be given to the Maryland State Board of Elections (SBE) by a team of dedicated Maryland citizens. The report will document the results of a statewide effort to verify the accuracy of the Maryland State Voter Registration Database. The team includes trained data scientists, computer programmers, statisticians, attorneys, and a group of dedicated registered voters from across all 24 Maryland jurisdictions. The goal of this effort is to restore faith in our elections by identifying vulnerabilities in our election system and, working together with Boards of Elections officials, taking a proactive approach to eliminating the inaccuracies and fixing the processes that created the inaccuracies in advance of the 2024 Primary and General Elections.

During the September-November 2023 timeframe, a team of trained citizen volunteers canvassed a scientifically randomized list of registered voters across all 24 jurisdictions who voted in the 2020 GE. As a result, approximately 79,000 current apparent registration violations and approximately 27,000 voting violations were identified. Registration violations include such things as duplicate registrations, registrations with nonstandard addresses or registrants who moved or are deceased. Voting violations include registrants younger than 16, dates of birth changed, and registration dates after the election.

The purpose of this effort is to identify the problems and then, working with the Boards of Elections, improve the accuracy and security of the voting system in Maryland.

That the voter rolls in Maryland have accuracy problems is not in dispute. Last September, I provided the names of many deceased persons who were not removed from the registration list for Montgomery County. Also, the State Office of Legislative Audits has identified voter roll maintenance as a problem area in the last two audits of the SBE. And I am sure you are aware of the problems with ERIC, the Electronic Registration Information Center, that have resulted in several members of ERIC relinquishing their membership.

I am providing these comments today to alert you to the effort that this team of Maryland citizens has expended to improve the accuracy of the voter rolls and to ask that if you have the opportunity, you recommend to the SBE that they join the team effort proposed by the team of citizens. Based on your response to previous efforts to maintain accurate voter rolls in Montgomery County, I have no doubt that you and your staff will continue to support these efforts.