

Exhibit 4

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
Office of the Director
Camp Springs, MD 20588-0009



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

October 10, 2024

Frank La Rose
Ohio Secretary of State
180 Civic Center Dr.
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Secretary LaRose:

Thank you for your July 19, 2024, letter to Secretary Mayorkas requesting a process to check Ohio's voter registration against USCIS's data and systems. I am responding on his behalf. My staff has discussed with your team that the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) program is the most secure and efficient way to reliably verify an individual's citizenship or immigration status, including for verification regarding voter registration and/or voter list maintenance.

In June 2024, your office expressed interest in entering into an agreement to use the SAVE program. That agreement was finalized on July 2, 2024, and your office has been using the SAVE program for voter registration purposes since then.

Federal law prohibits non-U.S. citizens from registering and voting in Federal elections; violators are removable and face up to five years in prison.¹ The evidence is clear that these laws are working as intended—it is extremely uncommon for noncitizens to vote in Federal elections.

As you know, SAVE is a Congressionally-mandated online service implemented broadly in 1986 to help state and local agencies determine certain point-in-time immigration and citizenship information on individuals seeking benefits and licenses. Several agencies in the State of Ohio currently participate in the SAVE program to verify immigration status for 12 different benefits.²

Since 2009, SAVE has been used by elections authorities in states for voter registration and/or voter list maintenance. Ohio is one of ten states that have registered to use SAVE for these purposes.³ The process has been the same since the program's inception. By inputting an

¹ 18 U.S.C. §§ 611, 1015; 8 U.S.C. §§ 1182(a)(6)(C)(ii), 1227(a)(3)(D), 1227(a)(6).

² This information is available to the public at <https://www.uscis.gov/save/agency-search-tool>

³ In addition to Ohio, Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Mississippi, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia use SAVE for voter registration and/or voter maintenance purposes.

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individual's name, unique DHS-issued immigration identifier,⁴ and birthdate, registered agencies can determine whether that person obtained U.S. citizenship through the naturalization process or, for certain other individuals born abroad, whether USCIS has information confirming their U.S. citizenship. Each registered agency determines the best process to obtain the required identifiers.

Given the very serious consequences of the results produced by SAVE and its import in ensuring the right to vote for U.S. citizens, USCIS takes this process very seriously and has confidence in the SAVE program.

We currently cannot offer an alternative process to any state. The process you referenced—using the Person Centric Query Service (PCQS) to perform voter verification—does not return a definitive answer on immigration status and thus is not an appropriate use for voter registration and/or list maintenance purposes.⁵

We appreciate your feedback and will review whether there are possible changes to our process and technology that might improve the convenience of using our systems. Likewise, we will continue to engage with and develop resources that educate elections authorities in states with an interest in using SAVE for voter registration and/or voter list maintenance.

Your letter also mentioned the fees associated with the use of SAVE as a barrier to obtaining information. Unlike most other federal agencies, USCIS is almost entirely fee funded; only about 4% of its overall funding is from congressional appropriations. The transaction cost is necessary to support program costs as required by law and Federal agency guidance.

Thank you again for your letter and interest in this issue. Should you or your staff have any other questions, please feel free to contact my staff.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ur M. Jaddou", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ur M. Jaddou
Director

⁴ *I.e.*, USCIS/Alien Registration Number; Form I-94 Arrival/Departure Record Number; Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) ID Number; Naturalization/Citizenship Certificate Number; or Card Number/I-797 Receipt Number.

⁵ PCQS returns aggregated results across many different immigration systems and can only perform one query at a time. Using PCQS would require manual review of the results in each case to determine immigration status, as the systems may return disparate or conflicting results. As such, PCQS is not an option for state and local agencies to use for voter verification purposes.