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State of New Jersey

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MATTHEW J. PLATKIN
Attorney General

MICHAEL C. WALTERS
Director

January 9, 2026

Via Email (b)(6)

Eric Neff
Acting Chief
Civil Rights Division, Voting Section
U.S. Department of Justice
150 M Street NE, Suite 8-139
Washington, DC 20002

Re: DOJ's Request for Unredacted Voter Registration List Including All Fields

Dear Mr. Neff:

On behalf of the Division of Elections ("DOE") in the New Jersey Department of State, I write in further response to the request of the U.S. Department of Justice ("DOJ") for an electronic copy of New Jersey's statewide voter registration list, including fields containing individual registrants' state driver license numbers and the last four digits of the registrants' social security numbers. This response reflects DOE's consideration of the additional information you provided to Liza Fleming and me in your teleconference and follow-up email on December 19, 2025.

We appreciate you taking the time to provide an explanation of DOJ's position regarding its request for registrants' driver license and social security numbers in response to DOE's letter seeking clarification on several aspects of DOJ's request. We have discussed DOJ's request internally, assessing both applicable federal law and our obligations under state law. As you know, we previously provided DOJ with a copy of New Jersey's registration list identifying individual registrants by name and address and providing, for each such registrant, significant additional information that may be disclosed consistent with federal and state law. After careful consideration, we have concluded that DOE is unable to disclose—in addition to the extensive voter-registration information provided earlier—the confidential, personally identifiable information of each registrant.

As we have previously noted, the information sought implicates significant privacy concerns and is protected from disclosure by state law. See, e.g., N.J. Stat. Ann. § 47:1A-1.1; N.J. Stat. Ann. § 47:1A-5.3(b). We respectfully disagree with DOJ's position that these protections are preempted by the federal statutes DOJ has invoked, namely, the National Voter Registration Act ("NVRA"), 52 U.S.C. §§ 20501–20511; the Help America Vote Act, 52



U.S.C. §§ 20901–21145; and Title III of the Civil Rights Act of 1960, 52 U.S.C. §§ 20701–20706. To the extent these statutes authorize DOJ to obtain voter-registration information from States in certain circumstances, none prohibits the redaction—or requires the disclosure—of discrete, especially sensitive personal data such as driver license and social security numbers. Although DOJ has stated that the purpose of requesting this highly sensitive information is “to assess [New Jersey’s] compliance with the statewide VRL maintenance provisions of the [NVRA],” August 14, 2025 DOJ Letter at 1, the confidential driver license and social security numbers of individual registrants are not needed to determine whether New Jersey has a “general program” that makes a “reasonable effort” to remove the specified categories of ineligible voters. See 52 U.S.C. § 20507(a)(4). To the contrary, we believe that federal law—including the Privacy Act, the Driver’s Privacy Protection Act, and the E-Government Act—imposes barriers to the disclosure sought. See, e.g., 5 U.S.C. § 552a(e); 18 U.S.C. § 2721; Pub. L. No. 107-347, § 208, 116 Stat. 2899 (2002).

We also continue to have concerns about the uncertain fate and use of any confidential personally identifiable information transferred to DOJ. To help assess the implications of DOJ’s request on the privacy rights of New Jersey residents, our August 21, 2025 letter sought clarification as to “whether [] DOJ anticipates disclosing any of the records sought to other federal agencies or other entities or individuals, and if so, under what circumstances and for what purpose or purposes.” August 21, 2025 DOE Letter at 2-3. In your December 19, 2025 communications, you stated that DOJ will comply with all applicable federal laws, including the Privacy Act. Beyond that generalized assurance, however, we understand that DOJ is unwilling to place any limitations on the agencies and persons to whom the personally identifiable information could be disclosed, the circumstances under which it could be disclosed, or the purposes for which it could be disclosed or used. To be sure, your proposed Memorandum of Understanding between DOJ and New Jersey could in theory impose additional limitations. But the Memorandum of Understanding is inadequate to address New Jersey’s confidentiality concerns, and you explained that this Memorandum of Understanding was not subject to any amendment or negotiation.

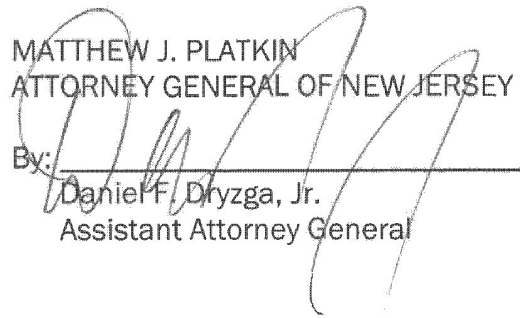
In sum, as we observed in our initial correspondence, DOJ’s request for the confidential driver license and social security numbers of millions of registered New Jersey voters raises profound legal and privacy concerns under both federal and state law. We appreciate the time you have taken to explain DOJ’s position. But the concerns set forth above and in our August 21, 2025 letter remain unallayed. Accordingly, we are unable at this time to provide an unredacted version of New Jersey’s voter registration list including registrants’ driver license numbers or the last four digits of their social security numbers.

Please do not hesitate to contact my office if you would like to discuss these issues further.

AAG Daniel F. Dryzga, Jr.
January 9, 2026

Very truly yours,

MATTHEW J. PLATKIN
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF NEW JERSEY

By: 

Daniel F. Dryzga, Jr.
Assistant Attorney General

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WES ALLEN
SECRETARY OF STATE

December 10, 2025

Maureen Riordan
Acting Chief, Voting Section
Civil Rights Division
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
4CON 8th Floor
Washington, DC 20530
voting.section@usdoj.gov

VIA ELECTRONIC EMAIL TRANSMISSION

Dear Chief Riordan,

Election integrity has been a top priority for Secretary of State Allen since the beginning of his tenure, positioning Alabama as a national leader in effective voter-file maintenance—even in the face of litigation from the Biden administration. Secretary Allen now looks forward to continuing that work in coordination with President Trump’s Department of Justice.

This letter confirms transmission of the State of Alabama’s statewide voter registration list to the Voting Section of the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice on this date, pursuant to the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA), the Help America Vote Act (HAVA), Title III of the Civil Rights Act of 1960, and the Privacy Act of 1974.

As we have discussed with your team, Alabama’s voter-list-maintenance process is comprehensive and multilayered. It involves coordinated efforts by both state and county officials; detailed data analysis; multiple rounds of correspondence with registrants and local election authorities; review of various state and federal records; and the application of several statutory timelines, depending on the circumstances. Alabama has also recently begun incorporating SAVE data in partnership with DHS/USCIS. Using this data, the state is currently in the process of removing 188 non-citizens from the voter rolls, 26 of whom have cast ballots in Alabama elections. A number of additional deceased registrants have likewise been identified and are currently being processed for removal.

Given these complexities, Secretary Allen respectfully requests that the Department share its methodology for reviewing Alabama’s file—as well as any preliminary findings—before issuing any public statements. In his view, this step is essential to preventing inadvertent errors and ensuring that only accurate information is released, thereby protecting public confidence in Alabama’s elections.

In addition, it is our understanding from prior conversations that the Department will not disclose Alabama's statewide voter-registration list, or any portion of it, outside of the Voting Section of the Civil Rights Division, and that the protections of Title III of the Civil Rights Act of 1960 and the Privacy Act of 1974 apply fully to this project.

Secretary Allen appreciates this opportunity for continued cooperation with the Department in support of our shared commitment to election integrity. Please do not hesitate to contact me at (b)(6) or (b)(6) with any questions regarding this matter as we move forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael L. Jones, Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Michael L. Jones, Jr.
General Counsel

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