

July 6, 2017

The Honorable Kris W. Kobach
Vice Chairman
Presidential Advisory Commission on Election Integrity
ElectionIntegrityStaff@ovp.eop.gov

Dear Vice Chairman Kobach:

COMMISSIONERS

BILLY WAY, JR.
Chairperson

MARK A. BENSON

MARILYN BOWERS

E. ALLEN DAWSON

NICOLE SPAIN WHITE

MARCI ANDINO
Executive Director

As the chief state election official for the State of South Carolina, I am responding to your letter requesting recommendations and publicly-available voter roll data. The State Election Commission (SEC) is an independent agency with responsibility for the statewide voter registration system, statewide voting system, a training and certification program for county election officials, conduct of elections and supervisory responsibility over county boards of voter registration and elections.

The SEC supports efforts to improve the voter registration and election processes to ensure that every eligible citizen has the opportunity to register to vote, participate in fair and impartial elections and have the assurance that their vote will count.

The SEC has the following recommendations:

Federal laws that would enhance the integrity of federal elections:

- The National Voter Registration Act of 1993 has provided many citizens with the opportunity to register to vote; however, the Act is in need of modernization. First, many state agencies providing public assistance are no longer meeting with clients face-to-face. Allowances should be made for online transactions. Second, the Act relies heavily on the United States Postal Service (USPS) for mailing notifications to voters. The Act should be reviewed for compatibility with current USPS mailing requirements and should allow for the use of electronic communications with voters.

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Page 2
Vice Chairman Kobach

Support state and local election administrators with regard to information technology security and vulnerabilities:

- Provide for improved communications between federal intelligence and law enforcement agencies and states.
- Provide federal funding for enhancements to critical election infrastructure including security of voter registration databases and replacement of voting systems.

The Commission has also requested publicly-available voter roll data for South Carolina. After careful consideration of your request and applicable state laws, we have concluded the SEC does not have the authority to provide publicly-available voter roll data to the Commission. South Carolina Code of Laws Section 7-3-20(12) allows the SEC to "furnish at reasonable price any precinct lists to a qualified elector requesting them."

Thank you for the opportunity to provide recommendations to improve voter registration and elections.

Sincerely,



Marci Andino

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