



ALEX PADILLA | SECRETARY OF STATE | STATE OF CALIFORNIA
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April 7, 2020

Dear Ms. Swensen:

Thank you for your letter dated March 1, 2020, regarding "Possible Double Voting in 2020 Primary Election." The Secretary of State (SOS) shares EIPC's goals of improving the integrity of - and confidence in - California elections, and as a result, we continually work with each county to verify the accuracy of the voter data. Following receipt of your letter, we conducted a detailed analysis of the data included in your letter and have confirmed that all referenced instances are being properly handled and/or have already been resolved by county elections officials through established data verification and validation processes.

Background:

Through the statewide database, the SOS provides match services to assist counties with list maintenance activities. For example, the SOS processes on average 529,000 registrations per month (close to 338,000 of those coming from the DMV) and compares each new and updated registration with every one of the 20 million + voters registered in the state, as well as against records from California's Department of Public Health, Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, and the Employment Development Department. When the statewide database finds a high-confidence duplicate match, the voter records are immediately merged into one. When the statewide database finds a possible duplicate match, a potential match message is sent to the county. These potential match messages require the county(ies) to intervene and determine whether the records are for the same voter. We ask that counties only merge voter records that they are confident are the same voter, in order to reduce the risk of inaccurately merging two or more unique voters and causing potential disenfranchisement.

As you may be aware, the statewide voter registration file and voting history file your team requested from the SOS, and which formed the basis of your letter, is a snapshot in time. At any point in time, counties may have a number of these list maintenance activities in progress or in various states of verification and validation prior to completion. Additionally, counties are currently in the process of adjudicating ballots for the March 3, 2020, Presidential Primary Election. This process will not be completed until the close of canvass on April 24, and therefore counties may still make adjustments up to and including on that date.

Below are the results of the joint analysis conducted by the SOS and associated counties regarding both sets of records included in your March 1 letter and/or email:

1. “Possible Double Voting by Duplicated Registrants (same person registered under two differing RegistrantIDs)” (Swensen, March 1, 2020):

The 13 voter records pairs that were identified as possible duplicate voting scenarios were evaluated as follows:

- One pair was identified to be two siblings who are twins, and correctly remains as two separate voter records.
- Twelve pairs have been confirmed by counties to be duplicates and have since been merged by the respective counties. In each of these cases, voters are suspected to have cast two ballots for the March primary election, and these will be forwarded to investigators to follow-up as necessary with the voters.

2. “Individuals with Two Votes for the Same Registrant ID Number” (Swensen, March 1, 2020):

The results of the 35 voter records that were provided with the same Registrant ID number:

- Thirty-two contained duplicate voter participation history (VPH) due to a defect within one of the county’s Election Management System (EMS) causing the county to send duplicate entries of the same voter participation history to the state.
 - This is a known issue and we can confirm that two votes were not cast. We continue to work with the counties and their EMS vendor to remove these duplicate voter participation histories and remediate the root cause.
- Three records contained duplicate voting history because voter history had been applied to separate voter records that were later merged into one record. These will be forwarded to investigators to follow-up as necessary with the voters.
 - In two of these cases, the county caught the duplicate voter records prior to election day and only one vote was tallied.
 - In the remaining case, the duplicate voting scenario was caught after the election and this resulted in both ballots being opened and counted on election night.

We also received your March 9, 2020, letter regarding “Significant Risks to Los Angeles County Election Integrity if Ballots Mailed to Every Voter” and are in the process of evaluating the allegations. In order for us to ensure we can verify the allegations you have reported, we would like EIPC to provide the Secretary of State with the voter ID’s of the voters referenced in each of the seven different findings. Please send this information to [REDACTED]

Again, thank you for bringing these matters to our attention. We appreciate your willingness to work with us to ensure the integrity of California’s elections.

Sincerely,

Constituent Affairs
Secretary of State