



**To everyone who believes in the rule of law:**

It is time for the political finger pointing and excuse making to end. The following message is about the sacred civil right to vote with the expectation that your vote will not be canceled out by someone who has **NO LEGAL RIGHT** to vote! We're not talking about a trivial matter. It's not a debate about whether or not we're going to make blue or yellow widgets next Thursday. **This is about VOTING!** Texans need answers from their elected officials, and I'm asking everybody to take this matter explained by Aaron Harris very seriously – **even though the media does not care enough about the issue to even report on it!** **Grassroots America stands with Aaron Harris and Direct Action Texas. Share it.**

**The following message is from Aaron Harris, Executive Director, [Direct Action Texas](#):**

On August 16<sup>th</sup>, Direct Action Texas and Grassroots America held a joint press conference in which we announced a **Texas Conservative Grassroots Coalition** letter to Gov. Abbott asking him to direct the Secretary of State to begin **verifying the citizenship of registered voters in Texas**.

We asked the Governor to do this because 1) the Texas Secretary of State is appointed by the Governor, 2) the Governor has the constitutional executive authority to mandate citizenship verification of registered voters, and 3) Governor Abbott has strongly supported Coalition efforts to pass election integrity and ballot security reforms. In fact, upon signing Senate Bill 5 (increased penalties for people who commit election crimes related to mail-in ballots), Governor Abbott issued a [statement](#) declaring, **"It is a primary function of government to protect citizens' right to vote, and I will not allow the integrity of the ballot box to be compromised in Texas."**

In the press conference, I released figures that have understandably garnered quite a bit of attention and caused heartburn for some government officials. Many questions are circling; I'm going to address several of those now. Some will be better answered at a future time and place, after we've completed necessary follow-up work.

**We can agree that government suffers from a disease of inaction.** Even with the best of intentions, important projects simply die in government, especially those that are political hot potatoes - like election integrity. This is simply a political reality.

For nearly a year, the Texas Attorney General has had information about the problems with Texas' voter rolls, and this project has simply stalled. In January, in discussions with multiple senior level staffers in the AG's office, I predicted they would get nowhere by mid-year in 2018 and promised that – if they did nothing – I would go public in July or August. As I had originally feared, the project has stalled. Last week I followed through on my promise to release the information.

It is important for us to remember that we aren't talking about stalling on a minor issue. Since my discussions with high level Texas AG staffers about **non-citizens being registered to vote in Texas**, the March 2018 Primary Election happened. The May 22 Primary runoff election happened, and the May 2018 local municipal, school board, and bond elections took place, not to mention other local runoffs and special elections. Now, in just a few months, we'll have the November 2018 General Election. **How does this not rise to the level of a priority as election after election goes by?**

In 2017, government analysts compared Texas' voter rolls against the Department of Public Safety (DPS) database. Most Texans don't realize the Secretary of State (SoS) checks the DPS database every time they register a voter. This is done in accordance with federal statute.

They verify the applicant's name, address, and date of birth. **DPS has citizenship information, but the SoS does NOT verify that status, even though it is illegal for non-citizens to vote!**

In checking the voter rolls against the DPS citizenship status, **the analysts found 280,000 registered voters who – at the time they were issued a DPS ID – were not citizens.** Again, non-citizens are illegible to register and to vote.

Some of these were registered to vote when they got their ID (motor voter), and some were registered to vote at a later date. Some of these likely became naturalized citizens since they obtained their DPS ID, but surely not all of them. **The fact is – we simply do not know.**

### **Texans deserve to know.**

There are over 21.5 million DPS-issued IDs in Texas. There are 14 million registered voters. **Of the 14 million registered voters, more than 4 million of them do not match up to anyone in DPS's database or other databases available to the analysts.**

**Who could these people be?** They could be people who have moved out of state. They could be voters who are since deceased. Even though counties are supposed to remove deceased citizens from the rolls, we have seen that counties simply do not routinely do that. They could also be the rare person who votes but has no form of government ID.

There are other reasons someone might be improperly registered to vote, but do not appear in DPS database. The most obvious reason that comes to mind is that they could be illegal aliens.

The problem with both the 4 million pool and the 280,000 pool is the state has so far been unable

or unwilling to give Texans an answer regarding who these people are, or what their citizenship status was when they voted and registered. Also, no one can tell you what their status is today.

**No one knows.**

Even worse, no one seems to be in a hurry to answer that question. The AG's office, the Governor's office, and key members of the Texas Legislature are all aware of the information I released last week. What the Grassroots Coalition did last Thursday (8/16/18) is ask Governor Abbott to take the first step in directing the SoS to begin verifying citizenship in the DPS database as they process voter registrations.

**This is a very reasonable step to take, which must be taken immediately.**

The *Texas Scorecard* reached out to the Attorney General's office for comment on what I released. Mark Rylander, Communications Director, responded, saying "The Office of the Attorney General has an ongoing investigation into noncitizen voting in Texas. We disclosed some detail to the Senate this spring regarding that investigation. We will decide whether to disclose additional information as the investigation unfolds and don't rely on third parties to make that disclosure for us."

As one reporter privately commented, upon reading that statement, "That means it's legit."

Yes, I am blowing the lid off previously unrevealed information. Yes, the government isn't happy I have released these figures. But I don't care what makes government officials happy, or not. I care about Texans having the truth.

It is simply unacceptable that the civil rights of Texas US citizens are not being protected because officials don't want to deal with illegals on our voting rolls.

I have sat by and watched the government do nothing on this for over a year. I can no longer sit by quietly. What we will see now is the Attorney General's office attempt to marginalize me, the messenger. They will deny or obfuscate the data. They will attempt to make this go away.

**Direct Action Texas will not go away.**

Instead, the Attorney General's office should confirm to the public what they know – and don't yet know – about this troubling information. Come clean about the fact they simply cannot account for millions of registered voters. Let us have this conversation in the public domain. To be fair, the AG's office has no ability to fix this problem, other than confirm its existence and prosecute any fraud.

Only the Governor, the SoS, and the Texas Legislature can fix this by verifying the legitimacy of Texas' voter rolls. The AG should release the information they have to the public and let others pick up this hot potato and run with finding a solution.

*That is what should happen next.* But whether or not that happens is completely up to the Attorney General of Texas Ken Paxton, and ultimately, Governor Greg Abbott. But they better hurry - **Texans are fed up with delay, and November is right around the corner.**

Having a public discussion about this problem – and holding the proper offices and agencies accountable – is a **reasonable expectation** Texans should have of this Republican-controlled state.

November's critical election will be the 6<sup>th</sup> election since I've known about this problem. How many more elections are we going to have before this problem is addressed? Texas cannot afford to have the integrity of any more elections being questioned.

**Texans will be watching.**

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