



## The Office of Secretary of State

*Brian P. Kemp*  
SECRETARY OF STATE

January 30, 2017

The Honorable Scott Holcomb  
511-E Coverdell Legislative Office Building  
Atlanta, GA 30334

Representative Holcomb,

In response to your letter dated January 25, I wanted to let you know that thanks to responsible election laws, Georgia had no cases of illegal voting in the 2016 election. In our state, we benefit from the protection of strict voter ID and voter verification laws as well as regular list maintenance activities.

Georgia was one of the first states in the country to implement a strict statewide Voter ID law in 2008. Despite allegations that this law would suppress minority participation, the state has seen increased minority participation in elections since 2006.

The Voter ID law requires voters to merely present a photo ID when they arrive at the polls to prove their identity, much in the same way as when one cashes a check, boards a plane, or enters a government building. Simply put, this common-sense requirement ensures in-person voter fraud cannot occur at the polls.

Last year set new records in Georgia's elections. With 2,055,617 votes cast in the first-ever SEC Presidential Preference Primary and 4,165,405 ballots cast in the General Election, Georgia saw more voters than ever before go to the polls in 2016. This was thanks in large part to the streamlined registration process my office introduced with Online Voter Registration (OLVR) and the outreach efforts of the Secretary of State's Ambassador Program, a high school leadership program where nearly 1000 students in over 100 high schools work every day to ensure eligible students register to vote.

Our citizens can also have confidence that our voter rolls are secure. When Georgians register to vote, they are required to provide their driver's license number or social security number. These numbers are verified against government records. Also, when a citizen moves, passes away, or fails to make contact with their registrar's office, under Georgia law, that person is removed from the rolls. This protection further prevents voter fraud in Georgia's elections.

We do have an open investigation into allegations of fewer than 10 voters out of more than 4 million that cast their ballots in November who may have double-voted. However, these individuals would only have been able to do so if the county elections office failed to follow state laws and rules in crediting voters when they arrive at the polls. A final adjudication on that issue will not occur until the State Election Board reviews the findings, which will probably occur later this year. Therefore no documents are responsive to your letter submitted pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 50-18-70 et seq.

Although, I have confidence in Georgia's elections, I cannot speak to other states that do not have these same protections. I appreciate the concern you share for protecting Georgia's voter rolls, and I look forward to your support of future legislation that will continue to enhance this security.

Sincerely,

  
Brian P. Kemp