



**Requesting Immediate Executive Action:
Mandate Citizenship Verification for Voter Registration
by the Texas Secretary of State**

August 16, 2018

The Honorable Greg Abbott
Governor of Texas

Dear Governor Abbott:

Last year you made election integrity a priority by including it in your call for a special session. That call resulted in the adoption of Senate Bill 5, which increased penalties for people who commit election crimes related to mail-in ballots. Upon signing the bill into law on August 11, 2017, you 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."** Based on your record, Governor Abbott, we believe you, and we thank you.

Texas must continue to improve our election system, ensuring every possible action is taken to guarantee ballot integrity and election security.

Unfortunately, Texans continue to see headlines of non-citizens voting in our elections. In Tarrant County, Rosa Ortega, a legal resident, non-citizen, **had been voting for 10 years** before being caught and convicted. In Beaumont, an El Salvadoran was indicted on multiple federal charges for having voted in the 2016 Presidential election.¹ The list goes on.

In a recent interview Starr County District Attorney Omar Escobar confirmed that non-U.S. citizens are on the voter lists in his county. He is quoted stating, **"That non-citizens are registered to vote is beyond question. That non-citizens are voting in Starr County is also beyond question."** They are registered and voting, the only remaining question is 'how many.'²



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Non-citizens are also being summoned for jury duty. Often they disclose their non-citizen status as they check in for jury duty. Texas has a process for removing these non-citizens from voter rolls. Unfortunately, the Attorney General’s office recently determined that “the process for removing ineligible voters who self-report as non-citizens at jury duty is not being followed correctly, or even at all, in various counties.” **In other words – even after illegals notify county jury clerks during the jury selection process that they are non-citizens, they remain on the voter rolls. This is outrageous and unacceptable!**



Officials representing the Texas Secretary of State, the Texas Attorney General’s office, and Starr County all testified before the [February 22, 2018](#), Texas Senate Select Committee on Election Security that under the state’s current system, **non-citizens can easily register to vote in Texas without being detected.**



To add fuel to our outrage, Keith Ingram, who heads the Texas Secretary of State’s Elections Division, testified that the state cancels the registrations of certain inactive and deceased voters, but declared it’s the responsibility of county elections officials to investigate and remove all other ineligible people on the voter rolls – including non-citizens.



“Voter registration is county-based,” Ingram said. “It’s their voters, not ours. That’s up to them.”

Senator Brian Birdwell asked Ingram what mechanisms the Secretary of State or county voter registration officials have to ensure that non-citizens aren’t registering to vote. “Only the jury summons,” Ingram responded.



When Senator Don Huffines asked Ingram if the Secretary of State’s office, or any other state agency, oversees county elections officials to ensure that they’re maintaining accurate voter rolls, Ingram responded, “No.”



Governor Abbott, as we make more and more Texans aware of this **sorry state of affairs**, they are understandably outraged. While we appreciate public hearings and the voiced indignation of legislators as they learn of the unfettered access – the open door – we have in Texas for illegals to vote, **we are disgusted that nothing is being done to stop it!** A primary election, a runoff election, and local elections have come and gone in the months since the February hearing. The November 2018 General Election is fast approaching. **Something needs to be done, Governor, and we have a solution.**



The Texas Secretary of State, part of the Executive branch, handles voter registrations for Texas. By federal law, the Secretary of State verifies certain information from the Department of Public Safety’s database. This includes addresses, Social Security numbers, and more. The Texas Department of Public

Safety has citizenship information on each person with a state issued identification – approximately 21.5 million Texans; **however, the Secretary of State is NOT checking citizenship information in their processes. This is simply unconscionable to Texans!**



It is a **reasonable expectation** that we Texans would demand that **only citizens** be allowed to vote in our elections! It is time for the finger pointing and excuse making to end, and YOU can end it with executive action.



Governor Abbott – we respectfully write today to ask you, by administrative order³, to adopt a policy similar to other states and mandate the **Secretary of State to check DPS citizenship information when completing voter registrations.**

The information is right at their fingertips. **Why the SOS has not been using this available information to ensure that we don't have illegal aliens on our voter rolls is something we do not understand!**



Such screening could and should begin tomorrow – without waiting for the Legislature. It could begin tomorrow without further excuses, obfuscation from the Democrats, and further delays, all of which continue to compromise the integrity of our elections. **Having the Secretary of State check citizenship status is fiscally responsible. Since the SOS is already checking the DPS database, it adds no expense to the State.**



The fact that our Texas elections are being compromised is beyond question. We must now enact, without delay, solutions that will close loopholes and restore confidence in the cornerstone of our political system – elections.



It is a fact that non-citizens are voting. It is a fact that nobody in state government or county government is exerting due diligence to prevent illegal aliens from voting in our elections. **This is Texas – not California!** We believe the Texas Secretary of State could be and should be checking and removing non-citizens from voter registration rolls. The Secretary of State is under the Governor's purview and authority. **The time is now.**



Governor, until you assume the power of your office to force a resolution for these matters, the legitimacy of every election held in Texas hangs in the balance. **You simply must insist on a rule of law solution to voter fraud in Texas.**

We'll end this strong Texas Conservative Grassroots Coalition request for your action just as we started it – with your [firm statement](#) as you signed SB 5 into law on August 11, 2017, **"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."**



Thank you for your service to the Great State of Texas, Governor. We look forward to hearing from you and seeing you take immediate action to restore integrity to the Texas ballot box!

Sincerely, the undersigned Texas grassroots political leaders,*

Aaron Harris, Founder and Executive Director, Direct Action Texas, LLC
JoAnn Fleming, Executive Director, Grassroots America – We the People PAC
Cathie Adams, Board Member, National Eagle Forum; past President, Texas Eagle Forum
C.R. "Dick" Saulsbury, Saulsbury Companies
Monty Bennett, Chairman, Ashford Hospitality
Michael Quinn Sullivan, President & CEO, Empower Texans
Trayce Bradford, President, Texas Eagle Forum
Michael Olcott, Co-founder, Parker County Conservatives
Alex Kim, President, Tarrant Republican Club; 2016 Trump TX-CD 24 Elector
Anna Bartosh, Treasurer, San Angelo TEA Party
Annette Bennett, Fredericksburg Tea Party
Barb Stauffer, Steering Committee Member, Garland Tea Party
Barbara Harless, North Texas Citizens Lobby
Barry Schlech, PhD, a Founder & President, Texas Patriots TEA Party
Beth Biesel, Leader, Park Cities Preston Hollow Leadership Forum
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Bill Bingham, Vice President, Bryan/College Station Tea Party
Bill Hussey, Founder & Past President, Llano TEA Party
Brady Whatley, Flower Mound Area Republican Club
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Caryl Ayala, Concerned Parents of Texas
Charles Kupinski, Missouri City Conservative, SD 17
Cindi Castilla, President, Dallas Eagle Forum
Connie Curry, West Texas Conservative Leadership
Connie Ratisseau, Clear Lake TEA Party
Craig Cosgray, Past President, Highland Lakes Tea Party
Darl Easton, Tarrant County GOP Chairman
David Carter, Bell County Election Judge, Precinct 311
David Wilson, President, Cypress Texas TEA Party
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Dennis Cable, past State GOP Executive Committeeman, Senate District 1
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Don Dixon, longtime transportation reform activist & blogger, San Antonio
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Fredericksburg TEA Party



Evelyn Montalvo, Sugar Land TEA Party, Spirit of Freedom Republican Women
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 Tanya Robertson, State GOP Executive Committeewoman, Senate District 11
 Teresa Beckmeyer, Precinct Chair Mitchell County Republican Party
 Terri DuBose, Precinct Chair, Real County Republican Party
 Terri Hall, Founder/Director, Texans Uniting for Reform and Freedom (TURF)
 Terry & Joy Putnam, Texans 4 Truth
 Terry Wade, President, Collin County Conservative Republicans
 Tom & Toni Fabry, Chairman & Treasurer, Frisco TEA Party
 Trevor Dupuy, a Founder & Past President, Highland Lakes TEA Party
 Vicki Slaton, Former (term limited) State Republican Executive Committee, SD 2
 Wallace Johnson, Brazos County Republican Precinct Chair
 Wes Brumit, Voices of Conservatism and Liberty PAC (VOCAL)



¹ <https://immigrationreform.com/2018/07/10/aliens-fuel-voter-fraud-in-texas/>

² <https://immigrationreform.com/2018/07/10/aliens-fuel-voter-fraud-in-texas/>

³ <https://immigrationreform.com/2018/04/26/in-texas-a-closer-look-at-illegals-on-voter-rolls/>



Paid for by Grassroots America – We the People PAC

***Organizations listed for identification purposes only.**