



Office of the Commissioner

445 Minnesota Street • Suite 1000 • Saint Paul, Minnesota 55101-5100
Phone: 651.201.7160 • Fax: 651.297.5728 • TTY: 651.282.6555
www.dps.mn.gov

September 12, 2024

Alcohol
and Gambling
Enforcement

Bureau of
Criminal
Apprehension

Driver
and Vehicle
Services

Emergency
Communication
Networks

Homeland
Security and
Emergency
Management

Minnesota
State Patrol

Office of
Communications

Office of
Justice Programs

Office of
Pipeline Safety

Office of
Traffic Safety

State Fire
Marshal

Rep. Paul Torkelson
Deputy House Minority Leader
Republican Lead, House Elections
Committee
District 15B
rep.paul.torkelson@house.mn.gov

Rep. Lisa Demuth
House Minority Leader
District 13A
rep.lisa.demuth@house.mn.gov

Sen. Mark Koran
Republican Lead, Senate Elections Committee
District 28
sen.mark.koran@mnsenate.gov

Sen. Mark Johnson
Senate Minority Leader
District 01
markj@senate.mn

Re: Automatic Voter Registration

Dear Minority Leader Demuth, Representative Torkelson, Minority Leader Johnson, and Senator Koran:

Thank you for your letter regarding the role the Department of Public Safety (DPS) and Driver and Vehicle Services (DVS) plays in the Automatic Voter Registration (AVR) system. DVS is partnering with the Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State to ensure the process works as expected and that only eligible Minnesotans are being registered to vote.

To date, 65,339 Minnesotans have been successfully registered to vote and 25,572 16- and 17-year-old Minnesotans have been pre-registered to vote through the new system. After a manual, two-layered review by DVS of all applicant files, DVS is not aware of anyone voting in Minnesota who was ineligible to vote.

DVS completed its manual review of 103,986 individual records on September 10, 2024. Out of an abundance of caution, the Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State inactivated about 1% of those records pending confirmation of various pieces of voter registration information, including address, name, and citizenship.

That manual review involved DVS employees viewing the file and images of the documents submitted with the application to confirm that they are classified correctly in the system. DVS records with missing or mislabeled documents may be from eligible voters, and the

September 12, 2024

Page 2

lack of citizenship proof in the DVS database does not mean an individual is not a citizen or otherwise ineligible to vote. In the case of driver's license renewals, for instance, citizenship affirming documents may have been scanned before implementation of the AVR system in December 2023 and before the enhanced training and protocols were in place.

DVS and the Office of the Secretary of State have worked together since the rollout of AVR to develop enhanced training and protocols that reduce the risk of human error and ensure that voter rolls are accurate. First, DVS provided additional training for staff on accurate documentation and citizenship verification. Second, it created redundant verification processes to ensure that only individuals who have presented appropriate documentation are sent to the Office of the Secretary of State for AVR. For example, DVS programmed a pop-up screen for the counter staff accepting the application, which serves as a second prompt to confirm that an applicant has presented a qualifying document. This means that counter staff are required to verify that they have correctly identified the documents, which results in two accuracy checks at the counter. In addition, the documentation is reviewed a third time within DVS, as part of the credential-issuing process, before the individual's information is sent to the Office of the Secretary of State.

Minnesota has a proud tradition of broad voter participation and unquestionably fair and secure elections. We are confident the steps taken by DVS to implement these protocols help further these important goals and strengthen the AVR system.

Please reach out with any additional questions.

Sincerely,



Bob Jacobson
Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Public Safety