

# EXHIBIT F

**PUBLIC INTEREST**  
— LEGAL FOUNDATION —

February 21, 2020

**VIA CERTIFIED MAIL**

Ms. Cheryl Hobson  
Deputy Director of Voting and Registration  
2329 S. MacArthur Blvd.  
Springfield, IL 62704

**VIA CERTIFIED MAIL**

Steven S. Sandvoss  
Executive Director of ISBOE  
2329 S. MacArthur Blvd.  
Springfield, IL 62704

**VIA CERTIFIED MAIL**

Bernadette Matthews, Esq.  
Acting General Counsel for State Board of Elections  
100 W. Randolph, Suite 14-100  
Chicago, IL 60601

**RE: NOTICE OF NVRA VIOLATION**

Dear Deputy Hobson, Ms. Matthews and Mr. Sandvoss:

This letter serves as notice to you that the Illinois State Board of Elections (“ISBOE”) is in violation of 52 U.S.C. § 20507(i)(1), the records inspection rights of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (“NVRA”), because it has refused to “make available for public inspection and, where available, photocopying at a reasonable cost, all records concerning the implementation of programs and activities conducted for the purpose of ensuring the accuracy and currency of official lists of eligible voters.” The requested registration list falls within the scope of this requirement and it is therefore a public record.

**Factual Background**

On October 16, 2019, the Foundation sent a letter to Mr. Steve Sandvoss, the Executive Director of the Illinois State Board of Elections, requesting a copy of the state’s voter registration list. On October 29, 2019, Mr. Menzel, counsel for the State Board of Elections at the time, denied the request for a copy of the voter registration list. Instead, he stated that the Foundation could “view the centralized statewide voter registration list on a computer screen at the Springfield office of the State Board of Elections, during normal business hours other than during the 27 days before an election.” This offer was made pursuant to 10 ILCS 5/1A25. The Foundation replied on November 14, 2019, seeking clarification as to whether the Board would provide a copy of the list if we went to the Springfield office to view it.

In response, Ms. Hobson and Noel Johnson of our firm communicated via email regarding a visit. On January 24, 2020, Ms. Hobson stated that the “statewide database is available for public viewing” at her office in Springfield. She also advised that the Board of Elections office in Springfield did not have any voter list maintenance records.

### Inspection Violations

On January 31, 2020, I traveled to Springfield to the State Board of Elections Office to view the statewide registration list on a computer screen in your office. Unfortunately, the statewide registration list was not available to me to be viewed on the computer. Nor was a printed or electronic copy made available to me. Instead, I was told I could perform rudimentary database searches for a specific name or birthdate, and perhaps such a search would result in a record being pulled up. This in no way complies with either federal law requiring that a statewide voter list be available for inspection, nor state law expressly mandating that a LIST would be available for viewing. At no time was a “statewide voter registration list” provided for my inspection, nor was there a way for me to retrieve any type of list using the database search parameters. This constitutes a violation of 52 U.S.C. § 20507. Additionally, I was not allowed to print or make copies of any information on the screen, nor was I allowed to copy or download voter registration list data onto my own electronic storage device.

As a result, this letter serves to notify you that the ISBOE is in violation of the National Voter Registration Act for failure to permit inspection and duplication of public records as required by 52 U.S.C. § 20507(i). Illinois state law identifies the State Board of Elections as having “all duties and responsibilities of the State Electoral Board and the Secretary of State.” 10 ILCS 5/1A-8. Such responsibilities include to “[s]upervise the administration of the registration and election laws throughout the State.” 10 ILCS 5/1A-8(12). Thus, notice is being given to the Executive Director of the ISBOE as chief election official of the state of Illinois, as required by 52 U.S.C. § 20710(b)(1). Courtesy notice is also being given to Secretary of State White.

Because the state has a primary election within 120 days of this notice, the ISBOE is required to correct the violation within 20 days of receipt of the notice. 52 U.S.C. § 20510(b)(2). If the violation is not corrected within 20 days of this notice, then a lawsuit under the NVRA may be filed. 52 U.S.C. § 20510(b)(2). The NVRA authorizes private lawsuits to enforce its provisions. 52 U.S.C. § 20510(b). For lawsuits initiated by a private party, an award of attorney’s fees, expenses, and costs incurred are available under 52 U.S.C. § 20510(c).

Please contact me at your earliest convenience to advise whether or not the ISBOE intends to correct the violation in order to avoid litigation. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Sue Becker

Cc: VIA CERTIFIED MAIL  
Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White  
Secretary of State’s Office  
213 Capitol  
Springfield, IL 62756