

VIA EMAIL

July 28, 2025

ATTN: Agency Counsel New York State Board of Elections 40 North Pearl Street, Suite 5 Albany, NY 12207-2729

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# RE: Introduction of Voter Registration Data Findings, Request for Meeting

#### Dear Counsel:

I am writing with the goal of scheduling a meeting to discuss our recent, sampled review of New York's voter registration and voting data. In recent months, the Foundation studied the state's full voter roll to explore opportunities for list maintenance. Below are summaries of findings with general explanations on methodologies. These findings are not intended to be exhaustive. We would very much like to provide detailed data and answer any questions you may have at a mutually convenient time.

### **Interstate Duplicate Registrants**

The Foundation highlights **49,933** New York registrants holding matched voter registration files in second states as of Summer 2025. The study only compared New York's roll to California, Florida, Maine, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, and Pennsylvania.

The Foundation's relational database was designed to house voter registration rolls from every state to run comparative analytics. Like the ERIC system, the Foundation can detect

<b>Interstate Duplicate Counts</b>	
NY – Florida	24,873
NY – North Carolina	6,247
NY – New Jersey	5,724
NY – Pennsylvania	5,722
NY – California	5,191
NY – Ohio	1,550
NY – Maine	626

apparent interstate duplicate registrations using several methodologies but only focuses on one in New York today. The method utilizes the secondary or mailing address data kept by New York to follow the local registrant to that second state address to check if there is a matching registration. This process is then reversed by checking other states' mailing address data, which lead to addresses in New York. A registrant is flagged if names and birthdates perfectly match.

### **Same-Address Duplicate Registrants**

The Foundation highlights **6,788 instances of duplicated and triplicated registrants** where variations in name spelling or nicknames have generated duplications at same residential addresses. The Foundation studies same-address duplicates using the following common patterns of duplication, assuming perfectly matched DOBs:

- Perfect matches potentially due to missing Social Security data (John Doe vs. John Doe);
- Hyphenated/married name confusion (Jane Doe vs. Jane Doe-Surname);
- Typographical errors in last name fields (John Smith vs. John Smiht); and,
- Typographical errors in first name fields (John Smith vs. Jon Smith).

According to data review conversations in other states, missing or transposed Social Security numbers can stifle standard de-duplication procedures.

### **Inter-County Duplicates**

The Foundation also highlights a **sample of 2,823 inter-county duplicates**. These follow the same research methodology as the interstate study, yet the data analytics are turned inward to only focus on the New York voter roll. The fact these findings exist within a statewide voter registration database is more important than the current volume. Within the sample of 2,823, we see:

- 1,018 pairs are active/active status;
- 1,773 pairs are active/inactive status; and,
- 32 pairs are inactive/inactive.

We hope to explore the factors driving this type of finding with your office very soon.

### Placeholder/Fictitious Dates of Birth

Lastly, the Foundation's latest count shows at least **3,845 registrants** in New York are flagged for having placeholder or potentially false dates of birth in the public record.

As you likely know, holding fictitious dates of birth risks complicating future voter registration list maintenance efforts when you cannot match these dates to resources like the Social Security Death Index (SSDI) and others. The Foundation is pleased to report on an effective solution to replace these placeholders with accurate data.

While reviewing placeholder records, the Foundation took a random sample of 20 active registrants who were credited for voting in the November 2024 Presidential Election and successfully backfilled the missing birthdates with full Social Security number validation to ensure quality control. Registrants with placeholder dates commonly reading as "1/1/1900" or "1850-01-01" within the sample were commonly revealed to be aged 70 and well beyond,

meaning they could soon cause additional list maintenance concerns if their records are not corrected before death. Given their recent vote credits, your offices would be justified in wanting to know why correct dates were not captured during polling place check-ins in the past year.

Later, the Foundation sampled another 15 records showing implausibly old dates of birth, despite recent voting histories or other actions, such as changes of address. As an example, a registrant showing to be born "3/21/1901" in Brooklyn is alive and well, because their real birthdate is March 21, 1941. The Foundation does not have a full accounting of all incorrect dates of birth within the active voter roll, as this would require more collaboration with your offices. The 15-registrant sample helps to demonstrate the need for more official review:

- 5 registrants' data contained incorrect dates of birth;
- 6 registrants were found to have already died with dates stretching back to 1998; and,
- 4 registrants' data in the roll could not be matched to any known Social Security number or alias known by Experian at those addresses. The only proof of their existence as described in the New York voter roll is the voter roll.

The Foundation would be pleased to advise New York further on its methodology and experiences using credit bureau and other federal resources to complete or correct these records.

## **Request for Meeting**

PILF representatives would like to discuss these findings further at a mutually convenient time in your offices. Please contact me to arrange for the secure transmission of the findings and discuss scheduling. Thank you for your attention to these matters.

Sincerely,

Logan Churchwell

Research Director, Public Interest Legal Foundation

CC: The Hon. Harmeet K. Dhillon

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