



*VIA EMAIL*

July 8, 2025

C/O: Division of Elections  
The Hon. Shenna Bellows  
Maine Secretary of State  
Burton Cross Building  
111 Sewall Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Augusta, ME 04330  
Email: [cec.elections@maine.gov](mailto:cec.elections@maine.gov)

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

Dear Secretary Bellows:

I am writing with the goal of scheduling a meeting to discuss our recent, sampled review of Maine's voter registration and voting data. In recent months, the Foundation purchased and 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 in your offices at a mutually convenient time.

**Deceased Registrants**

A grand total of **18,453 registrants** in Maine are flagged as apparently deceased between these research methods.<sup>1</sup> The Maine voter roll was compared against the Social Security Death Index (SSDI) using full SSNs to arrive at matches. To compensate for the SSDI's prioritizing of recording older recipients, the Foundation utilized a skip-tracing process of matching SSNs to published obituary records as well.

<b>Deceased Registrants by Methodology</b>	
SSDI + Obit	4,158
SSDI Only	2,735
Obit Only	11,560
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>18,453</b>

There is a variety of credible methods to positively identify deceased individuals from voter rolls. The Foundation generally promotes an all-of-the-above approach with these tools. Since 2021, our secure database partners have briefed the Foundation about the increasingly noticeable limitations of death coverage for the SSDI. In sum, the earlier in life a person dies (relative to receiving Social Security benefits), the longer that passing can take to be reflected in the SSDI – sometimes measuring in years.

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<sup>1</sup> The grand total adds all deceased findings from various methodologies.

Where possible, the Foundation works to match the voter roll and corresponding Social Security numbers to the SSDI *and* obituaries. We segment SSDI-only matches as a separate conclusion. To compensate for reporting delays of deaths occurring earlier in life, we skip-trace the voter record and SSN to a death notice and then a published obituary. This often helped to lead to deaths occurring outside of Maine, and it guides further confirmation efforts with resources already available to your office.

<b>Top 5 States – Obit Only Matches</b>	
Maine	8,075
New Hamp.	615
Florida	614
Mass.	571
New York	136

The Foundation wishes to focus this area of conversation with you on tools which may be under-utilized or not yet adopted for Maine. Thankfully, these are increasingly available to sovereign actors<sup>2</sup>, and the Foundation has direct experience in advising other states on options with proven track records.

### Same-Address Duplicate Registrants

The Foundation highlights **1,498 instances of duplicated and triplicated registrants** where variations in name spelling or nicknames have generated duplications at same residential addresses. As an example, “William” versus “Willie” at precisely the same address with matching date of birth information were flagged. Although Maine only provides year of birth information, the Foundation was able to backfill full date of birth with Social Security numbers to ensure quality of matches.

The grand total is not the core problem. Duplication happens and states have demonstrated several methods to de-duplicate. Maine’s unique finding is the wide variety of ways in which to generate a duplicate or triplicate registration.

Let’s use the fictional name “Alex St. Claire” as an example. Alex versus Alexander St. Claire can generate a duplicate in nearly any state previously studied by the Foundation. In Maine, an Alex St. Claire gets confused with St.Claire, Saint Claire, SaintClaire, StClaire, and more. These slight keystroke differences lead to second and sometimes third voter registrations. These aren’t voter fraud cases – they are evidence of needed software upgrades in Maine’s voter registration recordkeeping systems. The Foundation hopes to walk through these findings with appropriate staff and identify new efficiencies for de-duplication.

### Interstate Duplicate Registrants

The Foundation highlights **902** Maine registrants holding matched voter registration files in second states as of Spring 2025. The study only compared Maine’s roll to Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, and Washington state. The overwhelming majority matched to New York and Washington’s voter rolls, respectively.

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<sup>2</sup> KERA; Tarrant County adopts new software to clean voter rolls, stay ahead of registration challenges (July 7, 2025), <https://www.keranews.org/government/2025-07-07/tarrant-county-elections-voter-rolls>

The Foundation's relational database was designed to house voter registration rolls from every state to run comparative analytics between them. Like the ERIC system, the Foundation can detect apparent interstate duplicate registrations using several methodologies but only focuses on one in Maine today. The method utilizes the secondary or mailing address data kept by Maine 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 leads to an address in Maine. A registrant is flagged if names and birthdates perfectly match.

### **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 secure transmission of the findings and discuss scheduling. Thank you for your attention on these matters.

Sincerely,



Logan Churchwell  
Research Director  
Public Interest Legal Foundation

CC: The Hon. Harmeet K. Dhillon  
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