



March 11, 2026

Rep. Robert Garcia  
Ranking Member  
U.S. House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform  
109 Cannon HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Rep. Joseph D. Morelle  
Ranking Member  
U.S. House Committee on House Administration  
570 Cannon HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Rep. John B. Larson  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Social Security  
U.S. House Committee on Ways and Means  
1501 Longworth HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515

**RE: DOGE inquiry**

Dear Ranking Members Garcia, Morelle, and Larson:

I am writing on behalf of the Public Interest Legal Foundation in response to your February 25, 2026, letter. The Foundation is a nonpartisan, nonprofit, public-interest law firm that studies voter list maintenance procedures throughout the nation.

Depending on which press release you read about this inquiry, at least 15 “election denial” organizations received your form letter, accusing recipients of working to “overturn election results.”<sup>1</sup> How do you credibly label the Foundation this way? We have done no such thing.

We share your core concern: neither do we want to see federal data improperly impacting registered voters. Perhaps we’re studying the same problem, but from different vantage points.

Your Request 1 seeks: “All nonpublic documents and information referring or relating to the use of government data derived from [the Social Security Administration (“SSA”)] or any

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<sup>1</sup> Rep. John B. Larson press release; Ranking Members Larson, Garcia, and Morelle Investigate ‘DOGE’ Scheme... (February 25, 2026), <https://larson.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/ranking-members-larson-garcia-and-morelle-investigate-doge-scheme-share>

federal agency to conduct election monitoring in U.S. states.” The Foundation has a *growing* number of records that may fit your description.<sup>2</sup>

Since 2024, the Foundation has collected Deceased Retraction Reports – data initially compared to SSA and distributed by the Electronic Registration Information Center (“ERIC”) to member states. As you surely know, ERIC is a nonprofit organization that markets itself as “the most effective tool available to help election officials maintain more accurate voter rolls and detect possible illegal voting.”<sup>3</sup> Today, 25 states plus D.C. are members.<sup>4</sup> Many, if not all these states, rely on ERIC for Social Security Death Index updates to inform voter registration list maintenance decisions. Unfortunately, ERIC sometimes passes on living registrants’ names as deceased and must correct the record at least quarterly.

The full scale of the problem remains unknown as of this letter. In February 2025, we informed the Justice Department of our partial findings.<sup>5</sup> Seven member states disclosed that 55 percent of retracted death records had already triggered erroneous removals of registrants from voter rolls. In 2026, we expanded our study to all member states to gather: the full sum of retractions; calculate an average time from erroneous removal to correction (while accounting for missed voting opportunities); and study individualized impacts on those not-dead citizens.

Although we are exercising our document inspection rights under the National Voter Registration Act of 1993,<sup>6</sup> progress is slow. We’ve successfully litigated against Oregon to secure access to their records, which were systematically deleted before federal document retention laws were met.<sup>7</sup> That office had to recover the deleted records from ERIC to satisfy a settlement agreement.

Ranking Members, we believe our inquiries converge at a root problem: election officials often operate with the breadth of government data bureaucratically obscured from view when making voter list maintenance decisions. Thankfully, and as Rep. Morelle is certainly aware, the Make Elections Great Again (MEGA) Act offers a negotiable framework to fix these longstanding issues.<sup>8</sup> As introduced, it provides ways federal laws could be modernized to cross data silos—which slow and potentially compromise effective voter list maintenance. The ideas could foster an environment where data already held by federal and state governments are securely shared among officials to make necessary and properly timed adjustments to voter rolls. We even contend that if these modernized elements were already law, the circumstances would not exist for a bad actor to *wrongfully believe* they needed to act in the way you describe.

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<sup>2</sup> Regarding “derived” and “nonpublic”: these records pass through multiple parties. When SSA “retracts,” they retract false, albeit protected information like dates of death into a new record with no statutorily protected data. To be clear, these records contain no Social Security numbers.

<sup>3</sup> <https://ericstates.org/about/>

<sup>4</sup> Virginia is likely to rejoin later this year.

<sup>5</sup> <https://publicinterestlegal.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/2.6.2025-PILF-Letter-to-CRT-re-ORSOS.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> 52 U.S.C. § 20507(i).

<sup>7</sup> PILF; Oregon SOS Concedes, Agrees to Retain Deceased Retraction Reports (April 8, 2025),

<https://publicinterestlegal.org/press/settlement-oregon-secretary-of-state-concedes-to-pilf-agrees-to-retain-deceased-retraction-reports/>

<sup>8</sup> Committee on House Administration; Chairman Steil Unveils the Make Elections Great Again Act (January 29, 2026), <https://cha.house.gov/press-releases?ID=460DC098-9C01-4F60-8BA5-E795D1501893>

These may not be the records you hoped for with “all,” but they are what we have to provide. They speak to what reasonably appears to be your ultimate concern: voters getting hurt by misapplied federal data. Indeed, the records demonstrate improper voter roll removals occurring on a regular basis with the use of SSA data.

Your Request 2 seeks: “All agreements that bear the signature of any member of the U.S. DOGE Service or SSA, including but not limited to: Elon Musk...” Unfortunately, we do not have Elon’s autograph. As for the rest of the names mentioned in your letter and the various means of potential communication (Request 3), we have no records.

You’re right to want to prevent erroneous voter roll removals using SSA or other government data. We can help you with your underlying goal if you really want it. Next time, resist the urge to publicly name-call and round up the usual suspects.

We stand ready to brief your respective staffers on these SSA-adjacent records. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Logan Churchwell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent loop at the end.

Logan Churchwell  
Research Director  
Public Interest Legal Foundation

CC:

The Hon. James Comer, Chairman | Committee on Oversight and Government Reform  
The Hon. Bryan Steil, Chairman | Committee on House Administration  
The Hon. Ron Estes, Chairman | Ways and Means Subcommittee on Social Security

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, D.C. 20515**

February 25, 2026

Mr. J Christian Adams  
President and General Counsel  
Public Interest Legal Foundation  
107 S. West Street, Suite 700  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Mr. Adams:

Americans entrust the federal government with their sensitive personal information with the expectation—and legal guarantee—that it will be safeguarded according to federal cybersecurity, privacy, and information security laws. Yet recent court filings from the Social Security Administration (SSA) corroborate whistleblower disclosures brought to the attention of Committee Democrats: Elon Musk’s Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) employees, embedded in SSA at President Donald Trump’s behest, had access to Americans’ most sensitive data and engaged in the unauthorized, improper handling and sharing of this data. Among other alarming revelations, the new filing also reveals evidence that these employees signed a “Voter Data Agreement” with a political organization that works to “overturn election results.”<sup>1</sup> We believe that your organization may have information directly related to this egregious misuse of Americans’ data. Accordingly, we demand that you provide the Committees any information regarding interactions between your organization and SSA or DOGE pertaining to Americans’ data.

In August 2025, a whistleblower from SSA—former Chief Data Officer Charles Borges—came forward with a protected disclosure that DOGE operatives had accessed a database containing “the entire country’s Social Security information,” copied it to a high-risk external system potentially connected to third party interests, and violated a March 20, 2025, court order barring them from continued access to the data.<sup>2</sup> In his whistleblower disclosure, Mr. Borges outlined the “apparent systemic data security violations, uninhibited administrative

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<sup>1</sup> *Trump Administration Concedes DOGE Team May Have Misused Social Security Data*, Politico (Jan. 20, 2026) (online at [www.politico.com/news/2026/01/20/trump-musk-doge-social-security-00737245](http://www.politico.com/news/2026/01/20/trump-musk-doge-social-security-00737245)).

<sup>2</sup> Letter from Government Accountability Project to Chair Rand Paul and Ranking Member Gary Peters, Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, Chair Mike Crapo and Ranking Member Ron Wyden, Senate Committee on Finance, Chair James Comer and Ranking Member Robert Garcia, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Chair Jason Smith and Ranking Member Richard E. Neal, House Ways and Means Committee, and Acting Special Counsel Jamieson Greer (Aug. 26, 2025) (online at <https://static01.nyt.com/newsgraphics/documenttools/a9f2afd18a79e330/b181d62a-full.pdf>).

access to highly sensitive production environments, and potential violations of internal SSA security protocols and federal privacy laws;” a statement that directly contradicts then-SSA Administrator Dudek’s March 24, 2025, sworn statement that “DOGE Defendants have never had access to SSA systems of record.”<sup>3</sup>

In an apparent realization that SSA employees had misrepresented facts to a federal court, the Department of Justice (DOJ) posted a series of “corrections” to testimony from senior staff at SSA in a January 2026 filing.<sup>4</sup> Among the updates, DOJ disclosed that DOGE employees at SSA had corresponded with “a political advocacy group” that sought to “overturn election results in certain states,” and that a Voter Data Agreement was signed and sent to the group on March 24, 2025.<sup>5</sup> These revelations raise serious concerns as to whether DOGE shared Americans’ sensitive Social Security data with a non-governmental organization, jeopardizing the security of millions of Americans, and for overtly political purposes.<sup>6</sup>

This disclosure comes as various organizations, including several with a history of manufacturing pretextual voter fraud allegations, continue to advance baseless attempts to undermine election integrity and voting rights.<sup>7</sup> The American people deserve transparency and justice if DOGE shipped a trove of Americans’ personal data to an external party.

Accordingly, we request that you provide the following documents and information in your custody, or in the custody of your organization or any of its agents, to the Committees by March 11, 2026:

1. All nonpublic documents and information referring or relating to the use of government data derived from SSA or any federal agency to conduct election monitoring in U.S. states.
2. All agreements that bear the signature of any member of the U.S. DOGE Service or SSA, including but not limited to:

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<sup>3</sup> Letter from Ranking Member Robert Garcia, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform to Ms. Michelle L. Anderson, Acting Inspector General for Audit Performing the Duties of the Inspector General, Social Security Administration (Sept. 23, 2025) (online at <https://oversightdemocrats.house.gov/imo/media/doc/2025-09-22.garcia-to-ssa-oig-re-doge-whistleblower.pdf>); Notice of Corrections to the Record, *American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO et al. v. Social Security Administration et al.* (Case No. 1:25-cv-00596-ELH) (D. Md. 2026).

<sup>4</sup> Notice of Corrections to the Record, *American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO et al. v. Social Security Administration et al.* (Case No. 1:25-cv-00596-ELH) (D. Md. 2026)

<sup>5</sup> *Id.*

<sup>6</sup> *Id.*, *Trump Administration Concedes DOGE Team May Have Misused Social Security Data*, Politico (Jan. 20, 2026) (online at [www.politico.com/news/2026/01/20/trump-musk-doge-social-security-00737245](http://www.politico.com/news/2026/01/20/trump-musk-doge-social-security-00737245)).

<sup>7</sup> See *Dark Money Groups Push Election Denialism on US State Officials*, The Guardian (Apr. 5, 2023) (online at [www.theguardian.com/us-news/2023/apr/05/heritage-foundation-election-voting-rights-republican-states](http://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2023/apr/05/heritage-foundation-election-voting-rights-republican-states)); Protect Democracy, *Deceive, Disrupt, Deny* (Oct. 2024) (online at <https://protectdemocracy.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/DDD-Subversion-Guide-102424.pdf>).

- a. Elon Musk;
  - b. John Solly;
  - c. Edward Coristine;
  - d. Michael Russo;
  - e. Steve Davis;
  - f. Akash Bobba;
  - g. Scott Coulter;
  - h. Marko Elez;
  - i. Luke Farritor;
  - j. Antonio Gracias;
  - k. Gautier Cole Killian;
  - l. Jon Koval;
  - m. Nikhil Rajpal;
  - n. Payton Rehling; or
  - o. Ethan Shaotran.
3. All nonpublic communications and records of communications, such as phone logs or Signal call histories, with any employee, official, or agent of DOGE, SSA, any other federal agency, or any component of the Executive Office of the President, including but not limited to:
- a. Elon Musk;
  - b. John Solly;
  - c. Edward Coristine;
  - d. Michael Russo;
  - e. Steve Davis;
  - f. Akash Bobba;

- g. Scott Coulter;
- h. Marko Elez;
- i. Luke Farritor;
- j. Antonio Gracias;
- k. Gautier Cole Killian;
- l. Jon Koval;
- m. Nikhil Rajpal;
- n. Payton Rehling; or
- o. Ethan Shaotran.

Any records potentially responsive to this and other requests must be preserved. Destruction, removal, or other efforts to obstruct or prevent the production of evidence may be the basis for legal liability. The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is the principal oversight committee of the House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate “any matter” at “any time” under House Rule X. The Committee on House Administration has oversight jurisdiction over matters regarding federal elections under House Rule X. The Committee on Ways and Means has jurisdiction over Social Security under House Rule X.

If you have any questions about this request, please contact Democratic staff for the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform at (202) 225-5051, the Committee on House Administration at (202) 225-2061 and the Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Social Security at (202) 225-4021. Thank you for your prompt attention to this request.

Sincerely,



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Robert Garcia  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Oversight and  
Government Reform

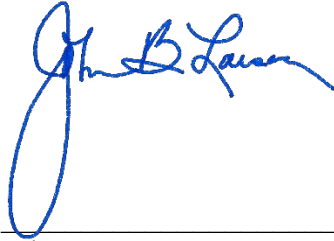


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Joseph D. Morelle  
Ranking Member  
Committee on House  
Administration

Mr. J Christian Adams

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John B. Larson  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Social Security  
Committee on Ways and Means

cc: The Honorable James Comer, Chairman  
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

The Honorable Bryan Steil, Chairman  
Committee on House Administration

The Honorable Ron Estes, Chairman  
Subcommittee on Social Security  
Committee on Ways and Means