



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.”¹ 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

¹ 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.²

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.”³ Today, 25 states plus D.C. are members.⁴ 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.⁵ 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 1993,⁶ 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.⁷ 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.⁸ 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.

² 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.

³ <https://ericstates.org/about/>

⁴ Virginia is likely to rejoin later this year.

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

⁶ 52 U.S.C. § 20507(i).

⁷ 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/>

⁸ 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".

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