



September 29, 2026

ATTN: Sam Hayes, Executive Director
North Carolina State Board of Elections
P.O. Box 27255
Raleigh, NC 27611-7255
Email: sam.hayes@ncsbe.gov | elections.sboe@ncsbe.gov

RE: Violations of the Help America Vote Act, Request for Action by October 13, 2026

Director Hayes:

We have identified apparent errors on the North Carolina voter roll that need your attention.

We request you immediately investigate the duplicated registration records identified by the Foundation and implement a pollbook verification system to confirm which record is accurate, should the affected registrant appear in the polls this coming election.

Findings

The Foundation identified more than **1,200 instances of duplicated registration records** where variations in name spelling or nicknames have generated duplications with matching residential addresses and years of birth. The 10 largest counties by voter registration totals are represented within this sample. **Guilford** and **Cumberland Counties** account for more than **50 percent** of the flagged registrations.

The Foundation studies same-address duplicates using the following common patterns of duplication, assuming matched year of birth:

- 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);
- Typographical errors in first name fields (John Smith vs. Jon Smith); and,
- Nickname variations (William Smith vs. Bill Smith).

Request for Response

Given the proximity of the 2026 midterm elections, the Foundation requests a response on the new information provided no later than October 13, 2026. The Foundation believes its research

indicates a violation of the Help America Vote Act¹ and, absent action, will be required to file an official HAVA Complaint.

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: Buncombe County Board of Elections (elections@buncombenc.gov);
Cabarrus County Board of Elections (elections@cabarruscounty.us);
Cumberland County Board of Elections (boardofelections@cumberlandcountync.gov);
Durham County Board of Elections (dbowens@dconc.gov);
Forsyth County Board of Elections (fcvotes@forsyth.cc);
Guilford County Board of Elections (guilfordelections@guilfordcountync.gov);
Johnston County Board of Elections (elections@johnstonnc.gov);
Mecklenburg County Board of Elections (Vote@MeckNC.gov);
Union County Board of Elections (union.boe@unioncountync.gov);
Wake County Board of Elections (voter@wake.gov).

¹ 52 U.S.C. § 21083(a)(2)(B)(iii) (requiring “list maintenance ... in a manner that ensures that ... duplicate names are eliminated from the computerized list”).