



Dear Nebraska Voter,

Last Wednesday state election officials, including Nebraska's Secretary of State John Gale received a letter requesting the list of registered voters in that state. The letter came from the Presidential Advisory Committee on Election Integrity, created by President Trump to investigate voter fraud and voter suppression. Many voting rights organizations, including Nebraskans for Civic Reform, have been weary of this commission since its creation, fearful that its true aim was to pursue restrictive legislation, decrease accessibility, and suppress certain voters. The letter sent last week has not alleviated our concerns. Kris Kobach, co-chair of the commission, included in his letter a request for personal and sensitive data including partial social security number, full name and address, birth dates, and felony convictions. It is the Commission's intention to make all of this information publicly available online.

While the list of the registered voters under Nebraska law is a public record, limitations and restrictions are also in place to preserve the privacy and safety of Nebraska voters. The Secretary of State or county election official is required to make the list of registered voters available to purchase (no more than 3 cents per name), but the lists may only be used for elections, political activities, voter registration law enforcement or jury selection. It is unclear under which category the Commission's intended use would fall. Furthermore, the information provided is restricted and does not include everything requested by the Commission. The election official cannot share the records of those victims of stalking or domestic abuse covered under the Address Confidentiality Program and voter lists shared only include the following: (1) voter's name, (2) voter's address (3) voter's contact information if they agreed to share it, (4) voter's birthdate, (5) voter's party affiliation.

The Commission has not been clear about how it intends to use this data and [Mr. Kobach's recent announcement](#) that he, as Kansas Secretary of State, cannot comply with its request calls into question the legitimacy of the request and the legality of their actions. Mr. Kobach should know better what information is publicly available and know of other programs and institutions available to states share data to ensure election integrity, such as [ERIC](#) (Election Registration Information Center), without compromising voter privacy. Mr. Kobach has a history of voter suppression in Kansas, refusing to process federal voter registration forms submitted by Kansas voters, passing unconstitutional voter registration laws struck down in courts.

The culmination of these concerns leads Nebraskans for Civic Reform to ask Secretary of State John Gale to protect Nebraska voters and not provide the information requested in the letter, regardless of what is permitted under Nebraska law. We don't know how the data will be used, whether it will be made publicly available on the web, and what consequences will come from exposure of such personal data. Secretary Gale's priority, first and foremost, should be to protect Nebraska voters. As of Sunday, Secretary Gale has not commented on how he will respond. Nebraskans for Civic Reform intends to send a letter to his office formally requesting he not provide the information requested.

Please contact our Director of Voting Rights with concerns and questions at elections@nereform.org