



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

September 18, 2024

The Honorable Jane Nelson
Texas Secretary of State
P.O. Box 12060
Austin, TX 78701

Dear Secretary Nelson:

As the 2024 election nears, no issue is more important than election integrity. As Secretary of State, you stand on the front lines of the battle to protect the sanctity of the ballot box. I am proud to serve with you in that effort, and I appreciate everything you have done to help keep Texas elections secure.

As you know, the federal government continues to be the most significant challenge we face in securing Texas elections. Texas has acutely felt the pain of nearly four years of the Biden-Harris administration's disastrous open-border policies, which have led to a flood of illegal immigration both in Texas and nationwide. At the same time, federal law has made it nearly impossible for states to verify the citizenship of voter-registration applicants. Although it is a crime for a non-citizen to register to vote, federal law restricts states from requiring proof of citizenship, and state agencies like those we lead have limited means to verify voter citizenship in many cases.

But those same laws place obligations on the federal government to help us identify potential non-citizen voters. And the Office of the Secretary of State possesses the legal authority to demand the federal government do its job in helping states maintain the integrity of their voter rolls. I have attached a letter for your consideration that would demand the federal government's assistance in verifying the citizenship of a relatively small percentage of currently registered voters that registered to vote through means by which citizenship cannot be confirmed.

This letter, along with an accompanying transmittal of registered-voter information that is already public information, would trigger the federal government's statutory duty to help your office—and all of Texas—verify the citizenship of the registered voters who will decide our next election. My office stands ready to assist you in this effort however we can.

Thank you for your service to the people of Texas.

For Texas,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ken Paxton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ken Paxton
Attorney General

cc: The Honorable Greg Abbott, Texas Governor
The Honorable Dan Patrick, Texas Lieutenant Governor