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One Hundred Seventeenth  
Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives

**COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION**

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November 4, 2022

Jeff Roberts  
Administrator  
Davidson County Election Commission  
P.O. Box 650  
Nashville, TN 37202

Dear Mr. Roberts:

As Ranking Member of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on House Administration, which has broad oversight jurisdiction over our nation's federal elections, I write today to express my concern about a recent report that "an unknown number of voters have cast ballots in the wrong congressional [district]" in the metro Nashville area due to an apparent error on the part of the Davidson County Election Commission.<sup>1</sup>

America's decentralized elections system is the best in the world. Since last Congress, I have met with Secretaries of State, Lt. Governors, and local election administrators in states as wide-ranging as Alaska, Iowa, New York, and Utah, as well as Tennessee, to learn about and promote the many first-rate examples of election administration across the country. Unfortunately, it's situations like this—even if accidental or inadvertent—that have the potential to damage voter confidence in our election systems when we can least afford it.

As you may know, the Committee on House Administration is charged by House Rules<sup>2</sup> to exercise the House's constitutional responsibility to serve as the final "Judge of the Elections, Returns and Qualifications of its Members."<sup>3</sup> As in past elections,<sup>4</sup> the House will use this legal authority to credential and deploy trained congressional staffers to serve as official House election observers in close, or particularly cumbersome congressional elections, in the coming weeks. This allows us to prepare for the possibility that a candidate could later contest the race in the House of Representatives.<sup>5</sup> The Committee takes seriously its responsibility regarding federal elections, and we are committed to making sure all lawful ballots in congressional races are counted fairly, accurately, and according to law.<sup>6</sup>

In the interest of ensuring that all individuals eligible to vote have the opportunity to do so and that only lawful ballots are counted in the next federal election, please explain, in detail, the steps your office has undertaken or will undertake to rectify this situation for the on-going congressional election and for future contests.

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<sup>1</sup> Jonathan Mattise and Kimberlee Kruesi, *Some voters cast wrong ballots in split Nashville district*, AP (Nov. 2, 2022), <https://apnews.com/article/2022-midterm-elections-legislature-tennessee-nashville-95eb0aa188874f9cb223074917bf7943>.

<sup>2</sup> Rules of the United States House of Representatives, Rule X, <https://rules.house.gov/sites/democrats.rules.house.gov/files/117-House-Rules-Clerk.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Const. Art. 1, Sec. 5, cl. 1.

<sup>4</sup> *House Election Observer Program*, Comm. on H. Admin. (Republicans), <https://republicans-cha.house.gov/election-observer-program>.

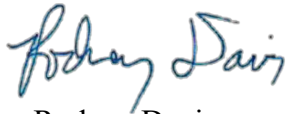
<sup>5</sup> See Rita Hart, Notice of Contest, Comm. on H. Admin. (filed Dec. 22, 2021), [https://cha.house.gov/sites/democrats.cha.house.gov/files/documents/committee\\_docs/Notice%20of%20Contest%20Hart%20v%20Miller-Meeks.pdf](https://cha.house.gov/sites/democrats.cha.house.gov/files/documents/committee_docs/Notice%20of%20Contest%20Hart%20v%20Miller-Meeks.pdf).

<sup>6</sup> Correspondence from Ranking Member Davis to the Illinois State Board of Elections (Oct. 20, 2022)

Jeff Roberts, Administrator  
Davidson County, Tenn., Elections Commission  
November 4, 2022  
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Please send your written response and any questions to Caleb Hays, Republican General Counsel & Deputy Staff Director, at [Caleb.Hays@mail.house.gov](mailto:Caleb.Hays@mail.house.gov) no later than November 11, 2022.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rodney Davis". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R".

Rodney Davis  
Ranking Member  
Committee on House Administration

CC: Jim DeLanis, Chairman, Davidson County Elections Commission  
Hon. Tre Hargett, Tennessee Secretary of State