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One Hundred Eighteenth  
Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives

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1309 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
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(202) 225-8281 | CHA.HOUSE.GOV

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October 2, 2024

The Honorable LaVonne Griffin-Valade  
Oregon Secretary of State  
136 State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97310

Dear Secretary Griffin-Valade,

As Chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on House Administration, which has broad oversight of our nation's federal elections,<sup>1</sup> I write today to express my deep concerns over a recent report that Oregon wrongly registered 1,259 noncitizens to vote, including nine with voter histories.<sup>2</sup> As we enter the 2024 general election, Americans deserve confidence that noncitizens are not on the voter rolls or voting in our elections. While Oregon took the correct step by double-checking its voter rolls after originally finding 306 noncitizen registrants, it is of great concern that some of these individuals have been on the voter rolls for three years.

As you know, federal law and Oregon law prohibit noncitizen voting. However, since 2015, Oregon's Department of Motor Vehicles ("DMV") has automatically registered to vote any person who is at least 17 years of age who has obtained a driver's license or identification.<sup>3</sup> In 2019, the Oregon legislature passed the "Access to Roads Act" that grants undocumented individuals the right to an Oregon driver's license.<sup>4</sup> Because Oregon did not have the proper checks in place for when a noncitizen obtains a driver's license, over 1,200 noncitizens were registered to vote, some of which have been registered since 2021.<sup>5</sup>

Oregon must rectify these automatic voter registration problems concerning noncitizens, particularly as its approach diverges from more effective methods used in other States that have had similar issues.<sup>6</sup> For example, Minnesota inactivated voter registrations flagged by its Department of Vehicle Services as needing additional confirmation of voter registration information, including address, name, and citizenship. The impacted individuals in Minnesota are notified that, if eligible to do so, they will need to register to vote online, with their local election office, or in-person at their polling place.<sup>7</sup> Conversely, Oregon predicts continued "instances" of future inaccurate

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<sup>1</sup> Rules of the United States House of Representatives, Rule X(k)(12), <https://rules.house.gov/sites/republicans.rules118.house.gov/files/documents/Rules%20and%20Resources/118-House-RulesClerk.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> *Oregon DMV mistakenly registered more than 300 non-citizens to vote since 2021*, ASSOCIATED PRESS NEWS, <https://apnews.com/article/oregon-dmv-noncitizens-voter-registration-183e30de6d1c454370e606245ba6fde2> (last visited September 23, 2024).

<sup>3</sup> H.B. 2177, 78<sup>th</sup> Leg. Assemb., Reg. Sess. (Or. 2015).

<sup>4</sup> H.B. 2015, 80<sup>th</sup> Leg. Assemb., Reg. Sess. (Or. 2019).

<sup>5</sup> ASSOCIATED PRESS NEWS, <https://apnews.com/article/oregon-dmv-noncitizens-voter-registration-183e30de6d1c454370e606245ba6fde2> (last visited September 23, 2024).

<sup>6</sup> *Minnesota election officials make changes to automatic voter registration system after issues arise*, ASSOCIATED PRESS NEWS, <https://apnews.com/article/automatic-voter-registration-minnesota-fa4a92b25f71b41ec6a99706ad34581d> (last visited September 23, 2024).

<sup>7</sup> *Update on Automatic Voter Registration System*, MINN. SEC'Y OF STATE, <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/about-the-office/news-room/update-on-automatic-voter-registration-system> (last visited September 23, 2024).

document recording by DMV staff that will likely result in unlawful registrations.<sup>8</sup> Given this track record, relying on the same DMV to manage flagged registrations is impractical.

In the interest of ensuring that voter confidence in our elections processes and outcomes is protected in the next federal election this November, please provide detailed responses to the following questions:

1. Oregon identified 1,259 registered noncitizen voters. What is the current status of their voter registrations?
  - a. If these individuals have not had their voter registrations canceled, how long have you given the individuals to provide proof of citizenship to the State in order to be eligible to vote?
  - b. If these individuals do not provide proof of their U.S. citizenship, will they be removed from the rolls? How long will that process take? What does that process entail?
  - c. What was detailed in the “immediate communication” made to non-citizen registered voters following their identification?
2. Nine of the 1,259 registered voters had voting histories.
  - a. Which elections did these voters vote in? Federal? State? Local? And in what years?
  - b. Will your office recommend these individuals for prosecution at the federal and State level?
    1. If not, why not?
3. Oregon State Treasurer Thomas Reed stated that, “The responsibility for managing our election system lies within the Secretary of State’s office.” However, you personally called upon the DMV to take action.
  - a. If the DMV is to take immediate action to improve its processes, who will be responsible for the oversight and accountability of actions taken by the DMV?
  - b. How will Oregon’s automatic voter registration system be changed to ensure this problem does not happen again?
  - c. What is the DMV’s training for its employees regarding automatic voter registration?
    1. How will that training change following the 1,259 registered noncitizen voters?
4. After identifying 1,259 noncitizens on Oregon’s voter rolls, what additional steps will be taken to ensure there are no citizenship issues with any other registered voter?
  - a. What federal and State databases does Oregon have access to in order to determine a voter’s citizenship status?
  - b. Before finding 1,259 noncitizens on the voter rolls, when was the last time Oregon checked its voter rolls for noncitizen voters?
    1. How many noncitizens did Oregon identify on the rolls when that check occurred?
5. Are the claims accurate that Oregon DMV staff recorded foreign passports as U.S. passports?<sup>9</sup>
  - a. If so, how will that error be corrected moving forward?
6. Federal law requires States to ask applicants to certify their citizenship and eligibility before registering them to vote. Are the claims accurate that for some of these noncitizen registrants, Oregon considered a citizenship status as “unknown” a certification of U.S. citizenship?<sup>10</sup>
  - a. What constitutes certification of citizenship before registering to vote in Oregon?

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<sup>8</sup> *Following DMV review of all relevant records, Oregon Secretary of State identifies 9 potentially ineligible voters with improper registration records*, OR. SEC’Y. OF STATE, <https://apps.oregon.gov/oregon-newsroom/OR/SOS/Posts/Post/dmv-potential-ineligible-voters-improper-registration-records> (last visited September 27, 2024).

<sup>9</sup> Washburn, Logan, *Oregon Secretary of State Defends Law Automatically Registering Hundreds of Noncitizens to Vote*, THE FEDERALIST, <https://thefederalist.com/2024/09/16/oregon-secretary-of-state-defends-law-automatically-registering-hundreds-of-noncitizens-to-vote> (last visited September 30, 2024).

<sup>10</sup> *Id.*

- b. You state that the noncitizen registered voters with illegal voting histories “does not mean those individuals were not U.S. citizens at the time they voted.” What number of those voters were and were not U.S. citizens at the time of voting?
7. Following the identification of 1,259 noncitizen registrants, and nine with voting histories, what steps will your office take to reassure the American people that Oregon’s elections will be administered in a way that ensures only U.S. citizens are voting?
8. If it was not for the inquiry by the Institute for Responsive Government, would the identified 1,259 noncitizen registered voters have been mailed a ballot to participate in the 2024 federal election?
9. Who is the “someone else”<sup>11</sup> assigned to re-verify document validity in the DMV’s two-step identity document verification process?
10. As part of the third step added to the verification process,<sup>12</sup> what training will the manager of each DMV office receive in comparing each transaction’s system code to its scanned document to verify the entries made by DMV staff?
- Thus far, what additional training has been implemented for managers in this role?
  - How does the training differ between DMV managers and the DMV staff that is collecting and reporting the documents?

Please send your response and any questions you may have by October 11, 2024, to Thomas Lane, Elections Counsel and Director of Election Coalitions, at [Thomas.Lane@mail.house.gov](mailto:Thomas.Lane@mail.house.gov).

Sincerely,



Bryan Steil  
Chairman  
Committee on House Administration



Lori Chavez-DeRemer  
Member of Congress  
Oregon’s 5th Congressional District

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<sup>11</sup> Following DMV review of all relevant records, Oregon Secretary of State identifies 9 potentially ineligible voters with improper registration records, *supra* note 8.

<sup>12</sup> *Id.*