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One Hundred Eighteenth  
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House of Representatives

**SUBCOMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS**  
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May 2, 2023

The Honorable Susan Beals  
Commissioner  
Virginia Department of Elections  
Washington Building  
1100 Bank Street, First Floor  
Richmond, VA 23219

Dear Commissioner Beals,

As Chair of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on House Administration Subcommittee on Elections, which has broad oversight of our nation's federal elections, I write today to express my interest in the Virginia Department of Election's recent streamlining of its list maintenance process.<sup>1</sup>

For voters to have confidence in our elections, it is imperative that States do everything in their lawful power to ensure their voting rolls are current. I want to commend your agency's work in recently identifying 18,990 deceased individuals whose registrations had not yet been withdrawn from the voter rolls.<sup>2</sup>

As the former Secretary of State of Florida, I recognize the critical task of maintaining an accurate voter roll. The results of your administration's efforts will ensure voters throughout the Commonwealth have fair and honest elections. Prioritizing list maintenance should be a bipartisan goal, as it can eliminate delays and issues at the polls.

I would appreciate any insight into this significant achievement that your administration has conducted. The procedural steps that your department followed in order to streamline its list maintenance process could potentially be implemented in other jurisdictions.

If you are inclined to provide any additional information, please explain your agency's recent process in identifying the deceased individuals from the voter rolls. Specifically, what processes do registrars follow when they are notified of a voter's passing? Similarly, what steps do registrars follow to check records of deaths in other states via the National Association for Public Health Statistics and Information Systems?

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<sup>1</sup> Graham Moomaw, *Virginia election officials change process for removing dead people from voter rolls*, VIRGINIA MERCURY (April 18, 2023) <https://www.virginiamercury.com/2023/04/18/virginia-election-officials-change-process-for-removing-dead-people-from-voter-rolls/>.

<sup>2</sup> Virginia Department of Elections. (April 17, 2023). Department of Elections Updates List Maintenance Practices for Deceased Voters [News release]. <https://www.elections.virginia.gov/news-releases/department-of-elections-updates-list-maintenance-practices-for-deceased-voters.html>.

I would also be interested in any suggestions that you may have for other states attempting to improve their list maintenance practices, and if you have identified any areas in federal law that might need improvement.

I look forward to your response. Please send your response and any questions you may have by May 15, 2023, to Caleb Hays, Committee on House Administration General Counsel and Deputy Staff Director, at [Caleb.Hays@mail.house.gov](mailto:Caleb.Hays@mail.house.gov).

Sincerely,

Laurel M. Lee  
Chair  
Subcommittee on Elections  
Committee on House Administration

LML/ad/cjh