



December 11, 2019

The Honorable Dave Yost
Ohio Attorney General
30 E. Broad Street, 17th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Re: Referral for Possible Election Law Violations

Dear Attorney General Yost,

One person. One vote. Ohio law makes it abundantly clear that Ohioans may only vote once in an election. The reason is simple and obvious: each of us deserve an equal voice in our democracy and allowing one voter to cast multiple ballots diminishes the value of the legally cast ballot of each other voter.

As Ohio's chief elections officer, I have a duty to implement the tools available to me and to do my part to ensure that law is enforced. That's why I have made it a point to partner with other states who utilize the Electronic Registration Information Center ("ERIC"). The states that comprise ERIC do so with a goal of maintaining more accurate lists through partnership and data sharing.

A portion of the ERIC states joined forces to review voter history data and investigate potential cases of fraud where a voter has voted in two different states in the same election. The review utilized the data within ERIC to conduct a cross-match of voter history among the partner states. Each potential violation was then investigated individually in coordination with the Secretary of State's office in that state.

As a result of this review, my office identified 10 individuals who appear to have voted in Ohio after casting a ballot in a different state in the same election. I included documentation with this letter that my office reviewed regarding each of these individuals, and I am referring this information to your office for additional action pursuant to your authority in R.C. 109.54(A) and 109.95.

Thanks to the controls and processes of our election system, both voter fraud and voter suppression are exceedingly rare and certainly not systemic as some claim. However, neither are ever acceptable – even in rare or isolated instances. The only way to continue this high standard is by committing to enforce the law whenever it is broken. While it's fortunate that so few were potentially caught in violation of the law, the legitimacy of our democratic republic depends on the consistent enforcement of the laws governing our voting processes. I'm confident that you will give this matter the seriousness that our representative democracy deserves by acting quickly to complete your investigations and pursuing prosecution as warranted.

Thank you for your assistance. If you have questions, please feel free to contact my office at (614) 466-2585.

Yours in service,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Frank LaRose". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Frank" and last name "LaRose" clearly distinguishable.

Frank LaRose
Ohio Secretary of State