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Mr. Jim Gelbmann
Deputy Secretary of State
180 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

October 22, 2008

Dear Mr. Gelbmann,

Thank you for your letter in response to my letter of October 16. While I appreciate your attempt to respond to my inquiry, I find your response to be inadequate. I requested a specific plan on how you intended to investigate and resolve the apparent inconsistencies revealed by our analysis. Instead, I received a response that appears to brush aside our concerns. Please allow me to reiterate my concerns and respond to some of questions raised in your letter to me.

SUSPECT BIRTH YEARS

In your letter, you accounted for the large number of missing or suspect birth years within the voter registration file as the result of the conversion to a new computer system. You also stated that Minnesota law did not require a birth year to be provided until after August 1, 1983. Here are findings after accounting for your explanations:

- After eliminating registration records prior to August 1, 1983, there are still 3,041 voters with suspect birth years.
- 1,308 have no birth years, which according to Minnesota Statute 201.071 subd.3, would render these registrations “deficient”.
- 1,733 have birth years on or before 1908, making them 100 years of age or older (1,041 are 104 or older and 141 are over the age of 108).

We would expect the Secretary of State to notify election judges in the affected precincts to require a new voter registration application from individuals with “deficient” voter registrations before they are allowed to vote in year’s elections. Furthermore, we would recommend that the Secretary of State to conduct an immediate investigation into voter registration records of individuals 104 years of age or older.

SUSPECTED VACANT ADDRESSES

In your letter, you claim that you are not familiar with the term “vacant address”. We clearly stated that we conducted the United States Postal Service Delivery Sequence File (DSF2) address verification process for voters residing in Hennepin and Anoka counties who voted in 2004 or 2006. This process attempts to validate each address and returns one of seven different status codes. One of these codes is code number 6, which is defined as “the address is accurate as it matches the Delivery Sequence File (DSF), but it is undeliverable - these records are considered vacant.” Another status code that can be returned is code number 7, which is defined as “Serious problems prevent the address from matching the Delivery Sequence File (DSF) and ZIP+4. Or possible Canadian/Foreign address, record not processed.” To more clearly reiterate the points made in our letter, we found:

- 10,099 voters who voted in either 2006 or 2004 reside at vacant addresses (status code 6)
- 2,031 voters voting in either 2004 or 2006 reside at undeliverable addresses (status code 7).

We would expect the Secretary of State to flag these voter registration records and ask election judges to request photographic identification in order for these individuals to vote in this year’s election. Furthermore, we would expect the Secretary of State’s office to conduct this type of address verification process on the entire voter registration file on at least an annual basis to identify suspect addresses.

SUSPECTED DECEASED VOTERS

In your letter you state that you receive death notifications from either the Minnesota Department of Health or from a registered voter who is typically next of kin. You also stated that you do not remove dead voters from the roles until there have been two consecutive election cycles in which they did not vote. This explanation begs the questions as to why dead voters would not be immediately removed from the voter registration file and why you need to wait two election cycles to confirm that “dead” voters did not vote? We also would ask why you are not comparing voter registration records to the Social Security Administration’s (SSA) file which is used as the standard in the mailing industry to eliminate deceased individuals from mailing lists?

As stated in our original letter, we used the SSA match and identified a total of 3,689 individuals from Anoka and Hennepin Counties who voted in 2006 who are now deceased. We would expect the Secretary of State’s office to flag these records as possible deceased individuals and notify election judges to request a photographic identification should these individuals attempt to vote in this year’s election. Furthermore, we recommend that the Secretary of State compare all voter registration records to the SSA’s file in order to flag deceased voters.

SUSPECTED DUPLICATE VOTER REGISTRATIONS

We have recently completed some additional analysis matching voter records against one another which suggests that there are likely thousands of duplicate voter registration records on the voter file:

- A total of 261,005 records can be exactly matched on the criteria of First Name, Last Name and Birth Year.
- When Middle Name is included as a criterion, there are a total of 16,578 exact matches.
- When Phone Number is also included as a criterion, there are a total of 488 exact matches.

SUSPECTED FRAUDULANT VOTERS

We have discovered over 100 cases in which there is very strong evidence to suggest that a single voter is casting multiple ballots. There are thousands of additional records which we believe merit additional investigation. We recommend that the Secretary of State immediately investigate these potential cases of voter fraud.

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Questions which remain after reading your letter include:

- How long has the Secretary of State been using the postal verification card mentioned in your letter? What percentage of the voter registration records have been validated using this system?
- When will the system be active which validates new voter registration records against the Department of Public Safety's driver's license records? What verification will be done on existing records using this same system and when?
- Does the Secretary of State possess information suggesting that deceased voters may have voted in past elections?

In conclusion, we once again reiterate that our analysis points to inconsistencies in voter records which merit further investigation by the Secretary of State. We renew our call for the Secretary of State's office to immediately do a complete cross-check between all voter registration records with driver's license records, SSA records and possibly a list of known felons residing in the state of Minnesota. Suspect records should be flagged and election judges should be notified of individuals which require proof of identification before voting in this year's election.

Our sole objective throughout this process has been to help ensure a sound election system in which Minnesota voters can have confidence. Please feel free to contact me directly if I can be of any further assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,



Jeff Davis
President, Minnesota Majority

cc. Governor Tim Pawlenty
Attorney General Lori Swanson