



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®

December 19, 2016

Dear Congressman Takano,

This is Joan Donahue with Riverside's League of Women Voters. I am writing to follow-up on a conversation we had at Riverside's Latino Network breakfast on December 14th. The conversation concerned voter suppression and the November 8th election.

League members nationwide have been advocating for restoration of the Voting Rights Act. We know you are aware of the current assault on voting rights and we appreciate all steps taken to restore the act's powers.

Given the narrow margins in the last election's swing states, we believe voter suppression may have had a significant impact on the election results.

Riverside's League would like to share our growing concerns about a program called Interstate Crosscheck. We believe this program illegally purges voters from state voter rolls and warrants your attention and action.

We urge you to read Greg Palast's report published in Rolling Stone last August, [The GOP'S Stealth War Against Voters](#), and his follow-up report [The Election Was Stolen - Here's How](#).

Mr. Palast was one of the lone voices who predicted a Trump victory and he makes a strong case for a formal investigation into the methodology and implementation of Interstate Crosscheck.

Briefly, the Interstate Crosscheck system is a database used by state officials to identify voters potentially registered to vote in more than one state.

The program was created by Kansas Secretary of State, Kris Kobach, in 2005 and 28 states participate in the voter roll sharing program.

Palast reports that, "So far, Crosscheck has tagged an astonishing 7.2 million suspects, yet no more than four perpetrators have been charged with double voting or deliberate double registration."

There are large numbers of false positives because the program does use information that would disqualify a match - Social Security numbers, "Jr." and "Sr." distinctions, and many names on the list have different middle names.

Because nonwhite communities share surnames more commonly than white communities, it leads to a greater number of nonwhites flagged as potential double voters. If one's last name is Brown, Washington, Rodriquez, Garcia, Kim, or Chen; it is much more likely that he or she will be flagged as a 'potential criminal.'

In fact, the Asian-American activist group, [18 Million Rising](#), is taking a leadership role in [demanding an investigation of the program](#).

Most troubling is that the final decision to remove names from a voting roll is up to elected state officials. Remember, this program was created by the hyper-partisan Kansas Secretary of State, Kris Kobach, whose zeal is matched by many Republican officials in this year's swing states.

Palast justifies the need for an investigation as there is, "much documentation still to analyze, we'll have to pry it from partisan voting chiefs who stamp the scrub lists, Crosscheck lists and ballot records, 'confidential.'"

Rep. Alcee Hastings (D-FL 20th District) has submitted [a letter](#) to the Department of Justice requesting a formal investigation and Mr. Palast, along with representatives from the Daily Kos and 18 Million Rising, have submitted a petition to the DOJ requesting the same.

It appears both major political parties and the corporate media are unwilling to draw attention to this issue - either for partisan reasons or fear it will weaken voters' faith in our election system. On the contrary, as voting is the starting point for all government action, every effort must be made to prioritize and correct any efforts to diminish the will of the people.

In reference to voter suppression this November, [LWV US President Chris Carson](#) said, "..... we also need to say it out loud: This election was rigged. And it needs to stop." We are hopeful you share the League's sentiment and will actively endorse an investigation into the Interstate Crosscheck program and continue efforts to restore full powers of The Voting Rights Act.

League of Women Voters Riverside wishes you and everyone in your office a peaceful and happy holiday. Thanks very much for all the hard work you do and we look forward to hearing from you in the New Year.

Joan Donahue, President
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