



COUNTY OF TEHAMA



ELECTIONS & DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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On 10/23/26 the Tehama County Elections Office received a letter from the United States Department of Justice along with a hard copy list of suspected noncitizen voters. The letter requested the County sequester any ballots from names on the list and investigate the citizenship status of the named individuals. The list itself did not provide sufficient information to determine citizenship, and some of the data fields were incomplete or cut off. Further, the letter was not accompanied by a subpoena, a search warrant or other court order directing and allowing for the release of information.

The State of California, through the Secretary of State, also received a list of names from the United States Department of Justice and has deemed the information insufficient to take any action. This lack of information puts Tehama County, specifically the Elections Office, in the untenable position of being caught between the State of California and the Federal Government. Alongside this, lawsuits have been initiated by various jurisdictions around California regarding the demand by the United States Department of Justice.

Based on the challenges described, the Tehama County Elections Office has taken proactive steps to address the information provided by the Department of Justice. In Tehama County, when voter fraud is suspected, the standard practice between the Elections Office and the District Attorney is for the Elections Office to refer the matter to the District Attorney for investigation and possible prosecution.

When credible evidence of potential voter fraud comes to light, the Elections Office gathers all available information and turns that information over to the District Attorney for investigation. This situation will be handled in the same manner. The Registrar of Voters and the District Attorney remain committed to investigating and prosecuting any voter fraud in order to ensure fair elections.

The Elections Office will comply with any court rulings that result from this issue, however, removing any voters on this list at this time, and based on the information available, would undoubtedly expose the County to unnecessary litigation.