



FRANKLIN COUNTY

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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County Administrator Brian Dandel

Board of County Commissioners
Franklin County Auditor

September 14, 2026

The Honorable Steve Hobbs
Secretary of State
Office of the Secretary of State
Legislative Building
P.O. Box 40220
Olympia, WA 98504-0220

Re: Formal Request for Written Authorization to Verify Franklin County Voter Registration Records Using the SAVE Program, Including Compliance with RCW 29A.08.125(9)(d) and (10)

Dear Secretary Hobbs:

The Franklin County Board of County Commissioners, together with the Franklin County Auditor, writes as the county's legislative authority and chief registrar of Franklin County. We formally request written "...authorization by the Office of the Secretary of State" per RCW 29A.84.150 so that Franklin County may verify its voter registration database using the federal Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) program. We must address Franklin County citizens' concerns about the integrity of voter rolls and meet our statutory duty. Those concerns have been heightened by a recent, documented election-fraud case in Pasco in which an apartment manager was convicted of filling out and submitting ballots belonging to former tenants from the 2024 general election. Public polling shows strong support for common sense measures that improve the accuracy and integrity of voter registration lists.

Statutory duty to screen for lack of citizenship.

RCW 29A.08.125(9) requires that the statewide voter registration database be designed, at a minimum, to:

*(d) Screen against any available databases maintained by other government agencies to identify voters who are ineligible to vote due to serving a sentence of total confinement as the result of a felony conviction, **lack of citizenship**, or a court finding of mental incompetence.*

RCW 29A.08.125(10) further provides that the Secretary of State may, upon agreement with other appropriate jurisdictions, screen against any available databases maintained by election officials in other states and databases maintained by federal agencies including, but not limited to, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the federal court system, the Federal Bureau of Prisons, and the Bureau of Citizenship and immigration services.

SAVE is a federal government database available for that purpose. Franklin County therefore requests written authorization so that we may either (1) complete SAVE screening of Franklin County records or (2) receive from your office written proof that the citizenship-screening obligation in RCW 29A.08.125(9)(d) has already been met for those records. Without that screening or proof, Franklin County does not meet the statutory design requirement for the database.

Identity-verification procedures.

Where identity cannot be confirmed from the information already on file, WAC 434-324-045 authorizes the county auditor to use other government resources and public records, and to contact the applicant, to verify identity. We request that any SAVE authorization be implemented consistent with WAC 434-324-045 where that rule applies to provisional or unverified records.

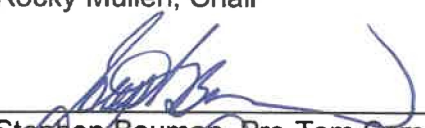
Franklin County wishes to work cooperatively with our federal election partners at the U.S. Department of Justice and consistent with applicable executive orders. We note that data of the type needed for list-maintenance and eligibility checks has, according to recent reporting, been provided for years to a private 501(c)(3) organization, Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC), that is now the subject of a Department of Justice referral concerning privacy violations for sharing the data with non-governmental organizations (NGO), while comparable access for federal partners has been restricted.

We therefore request that your office issue written authorization permitting Franklin County to submit its voter registration records for SAVE verification, or alternatively provide written documentation that the screening required by RCW 29A.08.125(9)(d) has been completed. We stand ready to work with your office on procedures that respect both state privacy statutes and the public's interest in accurate rolls. Due to the urgency of the issue, we request a response from your office within 10 business days. Staff from the Auditor's Office and the Board are available to discuss implementation details.

Respectfully submitted,
Franklin County Board of County Commissioners

Rocky Mullen
Approved Telephonically

Rocky Mullen, Chair



Stephen Bauman, Pro-Tem Commissioner



Clint Didier, Member Commissioner



Matt Beaton, Franklin County Auditor

cc: Franklin County Prosecuting Attorney
Franklin County Canvassing Board file