



## House Democratic Lawmakers

Secretary of State Frank LaRose  
180 East Broad St. 16<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

August 19, 2019

Dear Secretary LaRose,

We write with urgency as the purge deadline you have imposed on the counties is approaching in a few short weeks. We opposed your discretionary purge of infrequent voters since its announcement, but now we have discovered new problems with the purge list. Many Ohioans who are still eligible to vote are on the purge list and shouldn't be. After the problems already reported in Franklin and other counties, we want to be sure the purge does not move forward with eligible voters' names mistakenly on the list. Here is what we found in the few counties we have looked at so far:

- Franklin County's list contains at least 2,200 eligible Ohio voters.
- Summit County's list contains at least 903 eligible Ohio voters.
- Lucas County's list contains 1,035 eligible Ohio voters.
- Cuyahoga County's list contains 2,371 eligible Ohio voters.

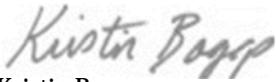
Let's not lose sight of this important fact: the voter purging laws are about removing people who are no longer eligible to vote in Ohio, not about removing voters for infrequent voting or removing people who moved just minutes away within their home city. Let's not allow one single person who is still a registered, eligible voter in Ohio to be purged. That's not the law and that's not right.

In consulting with elections attorneys, voting rights advocates, and the Legislative Service Commission, we have uniformly received the same guidance- that the "Supplemental Process" of purging infrequent voters is in fact not mandated or required by state law. The U.S. Supreme Court gave you the authority to make this decision and you can choose not to do it. Only those who've lost eligibility – for example, deceased voters or those who have left the state – should be removed. Your purge even reverses course from some the improvements made by Secretary Husted allowing address updates instead of purging.

Importantly, this distraction is delaying progress on the development of Automated Voter Registration (AVR) for Ohio, which both the Akron Beacon Journal and the Toledo Blade have called for implementing before the 2020 election. AVR is how we make sure that all those who are properly eligible to vote can, while also guaranteeing that our voter rolls are as accurate and secure as possible. We look forward to getting back to work on this bill and passing it through the General Assembly with your help.

The evidence is clear. Too many eligible Ohioans are still on this list and the purge must stop. We hope you will see fit to look into these problems we've discovered and cancel the purge of eligible Ohioans' voter registrations. Thank you for your attention to this pressing matter.

Sincerely,



Kristin Boggs  
State Representative, District 18



Janine Boyd  
State Representative, District 9



Juanita Brent  
State Representative, District 12



Randi Clites  
State Representative, District 75



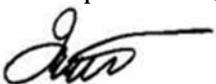
Erica C. Crawley  
State Representative, District 26



Jeffrey A. Crossman  
State Representative, District 15



Sedrick Denson  
State Representative, District 33



Tavia Galonski  
State Representative, District 35



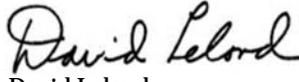
Paula Hicks-Hudson  
State Representative, District 44



Catherine Ingram  
State Representative, District 32



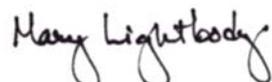
Brigid Kelly  
State Representative, District 21



David Leland  
State Representative, District 22



Michele Lepore-Hagan  
State Representative, District 58



Mary Lightbody  
State Representative, District 19



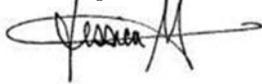
Beth Liston  
State Representative, District 21



Adam C. Miller  
State Representative, District 17



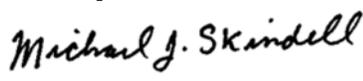
Joseph A. Miller, III  
State Representative, District 56



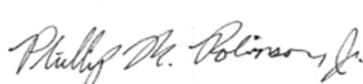
Jessica E. Miranda  
State Representative, District 28



John Patterson,  
State Representative, District 99



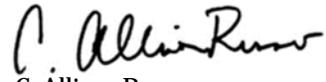
Michael J. Skindell  
State Representative, District 13



Phillip M. Robinson, Jr.  
State Representative, District 6



John M. Rogers  
State Representative, District 60



C. Allison Russo  
State Representative, District 24



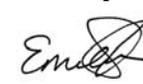
Kent Smith  
State Representative, District 8



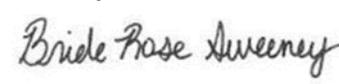
Lisa A. Sobeci  
State Representative, District 45



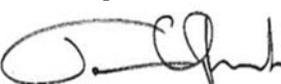
Fred Strahorn  
State Representative, District 39



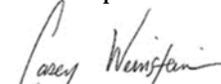
Emilia Strong Sykes  
Minority Leader, District 34



Bride Rose Sweeney  
State Representative, District 14



Terrence Upchurch  
State Representative, District 10



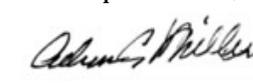
Casey Weinstein  
State Representative, District 37



Thomas E. West  
State Representative, District 49



John Patterson  
State Representative, District 99



Adam C. Miller  
State Representative, District 17