



DON HUFFINES
STATE SENATOR • DISTRICT 16

October 8, 2018

The Honorable Bryan Hughes
Chairman, Senate Select Committee on Election Security
P.O. Box 12068
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Chairman Hughes:

Thank you for your skilled and capable leadership of the Senate Select Committee on Election Security. Since our February 22, 2018 hearing, more information has come to light on the issue of non-citizens registering to vote in Texas and potentially casting ballots in our elections, making a new and more focused hearing an urgent priority that I hope you will pursue.

The allegations - brought forth, in part, by concerned citizens and grassroots leaders - are deeply troubling:

- The Office of the Attorney General of Texas (OAG) prosecuted a non-citizen in Harris County who, in September 2018, pleaded guilty to illegally voting in the 2016 election and will be deported after serving her 10 year jail sentence.
- Based on research they have conducted, grassroots leaders claim that more than 4 million registered voters' identifications cannot be verified by the Department of Public Safety's records. Their research also showed that 280,000 registered voters were not citizens at the time DPS issued them an identification card.
- Harris County officials continue to seek to withhold voter registration records from public inspection, despite ongoing litigation to disclose such. Their conduct casts significant doubts on the integrity of the voter rolls in Texas' most populous county.
- Although the Dallas County Elections Administrator, Toni Pippins-Poole, promptly responded to my initial inquiry about non-citizens registering and voting in Dallas County [see enclosed], she has not yet answered important follow-up questions I posed to her on August 27, 2018 regarding voter integrity, election security, and her office's referrals of illegal voting for prosecution [see enclosed]. One of those questions, which remains unanswered, concerns county election officials referring suspected violations of the law to the local District Attorney for investigation and possible prosecution.

These revelations and allegations are in addition to facts that we knew at the time of our hearing, including the 2017 OAG prosecution of a non-citizen in Tarrant County who illegally voted "in the DFW area for over ten years." Additionally, the OAG conducted an investigative survey in just four counties, it found that 165 non-citizens were registered to vote, 100 of whom voted illegally, and OAG claims Texas has a "significant problem" with non-citizens illegally registering and voting in elections.

As you know, the U.S. Constitution, our Texas Constitution, and state law clearly state that only qualified U.S. citizens may vote. State and county election administrators are not enforcing this requirement, and there are still too many unanswered questions about non-citizen voting.

Voters and taxpayers deserve answers. They deserve clarity and transparency, and they should expect that their elected and appointed leaders are upholding the rule of law. We have an opportunity and an obligation to hold election administrators accountable.

I respectfully request that you call a hearing of the Senate Select Committee on Election Security to specifically examine voter registration and voting by non-citizens. We should also consider the enforcement and prosecution of state and federal election laws (more pertinently: the lack thereof). State and county election administrators should be compelled to answer questions on the record and under oath, and concerned citizens and grassroots leaders who have done diligent, thorough work on this issue should have an opportunity to publicly present their findings to the committee.

I would be happy to assist the committee in scheduling a hearing in Dallas, which has been ground-zero for many of the state's election security related issues. The failure to prosecute illegal voting is just as troubling as the failure to enforce state law that limits the right to vote to U.S. citizens only. I would hope that Dallas' District Attorney, Faith Johnson, would attend and participate in the hearing, as well.

I will not tolerate illegal voting in Texas elections. It is demoralizing and demeaning for a U.S. citizen to have her vote cancelled out by a non-citizen or illegal immigrant who has no permanent allegiance to our country, our Constitution, or our values. Our committee has an opportunity to send several important messages:

- To non-citizens and illegal immigrants: do not register to vote and do not cast a ballot;
- To election administrators at the state and local level: we will not tolerate your failure to enforce state laws;
- To prosecutors: stop turning a blind-eye toward illegal voting; and, finally,
- To legally qualified voters: we hear your frustrations, and we are going to act with commitment and a sense of urgency to make sure our elections are fair and free of undue influence by non-citizens and illegal immigrants.

Thank you for your leadership and your attention to this matter. It is an honor to serve with you in the Texas Senate, and to have the opportunity to work together on major issues such as election security.

Sincerely,



Don Huffines

Cc: The Honorable Dan Patrick, *Lieutenant Governor of Texas*
The Honorable Faith Johnson, *Dallas County District Attorney*
The Honorable Clay Jenkins, *Dallas County Judge*
Ms. Toni Pippins-Poole, *Dallas County Elections Administrator*

Enclosures [3]