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**2026CI24681**

Case No. _____

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| **LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS TEXAS, and MOVE TEXAS CIVIC FUND,** ***Plaintiffs*****,** | § | **IN THE DISTRICT COURT** |
| **v.** | § | |
| **TEXAS SECRETARY OF STATE; Robert S. Howden in his official capacity as THE TEXAS SECRETARY OF STATE; TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY; and Freeman F. Martin in his official capacity as DIRECTOR OF THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY,** ***Defendants.*** | § | **_____ JUDICIAL DISTRICT** **BEXAR COUNTY, TEXAS** |

**PLAINTIFFS' ORIGINAL VERIFIED PETITION**

Plaintiffs, MOVE Texas Civic Fund ("MOVE TX") and the League of Women Voters of Texas ("LWVTX") (collectively, "Plaintiffs"), bring this action against the Texas Secretary of State and Robert S. Howden in his official capacity as Texas Secretary of State (collectively, "the SOS") and the Texas Department of Public Safety and Freeman F. Martin in his official capacity as Director of the Texas Department of Public Safety (collectively, "DPS") (together, "Defendants"), seeking a permanent injunction, and equitable relief for breach of the settlement agreement Plaintiffs entered into with Defendants in 2021 in *Stringer v. Hughs*, No. 5:20-cv-46-

OLG (W.D. Tex. 2020) (*Stringer II*) over alleged violations of the National Voter Registration Act ("NVRA") ("*Stringer II* Settlement Agreement").[1]

## I. INTRODUCTION

1. Texas offered no form of online voter registration until 2020, when a federal district court ordered Defendants to comply with the NVRA's "Motor Voter" provisions by offering simultaneous voter registration to individuals updating their driver license or identification card through the DPS website. This injunction was memorialized in the *Stringer II* Settlement Agreement, which requires Defendants to permanently make such voter registration available. Since then, about *six million* Texans have relied on that process to register to vote.[2]

2. As of late 2025, however, Defendants have been in breach of the *Stringer II* Settlement Agreement. The SOS's recent attempts to overhaul the statewide Texas Election Administration Management system ("TEAM") have led to widespread delays in voter registrations, as catalogued by the Texas Association of County Elections Officials ("TACEO"). Meanwhile, due to purported IT vendor errors, DPS has consistently failed to send at least some online voter registration data to the SOS for distribution to local county voter registrars. For example, in internal e-mails sent in March 2026 between the SOS, DPS, and a concerned State lawmaker, DPS acknowledged that an estimated 1,000 voters had reported issues with their online voter registrations during the March primaries. Despite this, when Plaintiff LWVTX and *Stringer II* counsel sent Defendants a demand letter in mid-2026 questioning Defendants' compliance with the *Stringer II* Settlement Agreement, Defendants both claimed full adherence to its terms.

[1] Plaintiffs refer to this lawsuit as "*Stringer II*" to avoid confusion with a predecessor lawsuit involving some of the same parties. *See Stringer v. Pablos*, No. 5:16-cv-257-OLG (W.D. Tex. 2016).

[2] Natalia Contreras, *Unknown Number Of Texas Voter Registrations Went Unprocessed Due to DPS Error*, VOTEBEAT (Sept. 22, 2026), https://perma.cc/8QVP-9BYV.

Defendants have also largely refused to cooperate with Public Information Act requests sent by *Stringer II* counsel in an attempt to shed light on the extent of their breach.

3. Despite Defendants' obfuscation, recent reporting has now revealed that as of September 22, 2026, DPS had failed to send almost 600,000 voter registrations to the SOS to distribute to local county registrars, with some delayed voter registrations stretching back as far as October 2025. Unexpecting counties must now scramble to process this deluge of last-minute voter registrations ahead of the November 2026 election.

4. Absent relief, Defendants' past and continued breach of the *Stringer II* Settlement Agreement injures and will continue to injure each and every voter who must use a non-compliant and unreliable voter registration system for online DPS applications. It also injures currently affected voters because they will need to take extra steps to vote—either casting a provisional or potentially limited ballot—when early voting begins on October 19, 2026, as well as future voters in similar circumstances.

## II. EVIDENCE IN SUPPORT

5. Plaintiffs attach the following document in support of their petition.

- a. Exhibit A: Declaration of Ms. Lee, LWVTX President.
- b. Exhibit B: Declaration of Ms. Altizer.
- c. Exhibit C: *Stringer II* Settlement Agreement (July 26, 2021).
- d. Exhibit D: Declaration of Karla Maradiaga, TCRP Attorney
    - i. Exhibit D-1: K. Follis Email re Constituent Complaint (March 10, 2026).
    - ii. Exhibit D-2: A. Calhoun Email to K. Follis re DPS programming error (March 10, 2026).
    - iii. Exhibit D-3: R. Hibbs Email to S. Gipson re 992 Inquiries (March 12, 2026).

iv. Exhibit D-4: Stringer II Settlement Breach Demand Letter (July 23, 2026).

v. Exhibit D-5: Texas SOS Letter to Texas Civil Rights Project (August 6, 2026).

vi. Exhibit D-6: Letter from D. Phillip Adkins (August 6, 2026).

vii. Exhibit D-7: DPS Letter to AG re TCRP PIA Request (July 30, 2026).

viii. Exhibit D-8: SOS Letter to AG re PIA Request (September 17, 2026).

ix. Exhibit E: Declaration of Ms. Balderas, MOVE TX Interim Executive Director.

## III. DISCOVERY CONTROL PLAN

6. Plaintiffs intend to conduct discovery under Level 3 of Texas Rule of Civil Procedure 190.4 and affirmatively plead that this suit is not governed by the expedited actions process in Texas Rule of Civil Procedure 169 because Plaintiffs seek non-monetary injunctive relief.

## IV. RELIEF

7. Plaintiffs' request for nonmonetary judgment is within this Court's subject matter jurisdiction subject to Article V Section 8 of the Texas Constitution and Sections 24.007, 24.008, and 24.011 of the Texas Government Code.

8. This relief is within this court's subject matter jurisdiction as district courts may grant injunctive relief. TEX. R. CIV. P. 47(c)(5), 301, 683.

## V. PARTIES

9. Plaintiff LWVTX, a membership organization, brings this suit on behalf of its members. LWVTX is a statewide nonpartisan, nonprofit, grassroots organization with 33 chapters throughout Texas. LWVTX is an affiliate of the national League of Women Voters ("LWV"), a

non-profit, non-partisan, grassroots organization working to protect and expand voting rights and ensure everyone is represented in our democracy. Founded in 1920, LWV has over 750 local Leagues in every state and the District of Columbia and more than a million members and supporters. LWV's mission is to empower voters and defend democracy, and all Leagues—local, state, and national—share this mission and regularly engage in efforts to register and encourage individuals to take part in the political process. Ex. A, Declaration of Ms. Lee, LWVTX President.

10. Some of LWVTX's members, like millions of other Texas voters, choose to utilize the DPS website's purported option to simultaneously update their voter registration when updating their address or renewing their driver license or identification card online. Members whose voter registrations are not timely updated are denied the right to simultaneous voter registration guaranteed by the *Stringer II* Settlement Agreement and the NVRA and face the immediate injury of needing to take extra steps to vote because their voter registrations may not be updated before early voting for the 2026 general election. *Id.*

11. Margaret Altizer is a resident of Bexar County and a member of LWVTX. In June 2026, Ms. Altizer moved to a new address in San Antonio. On or around August 24, 2026, Ms. Altizer updated her driver license address online on www.texas.gov. While updating her driver license, Ms. Altizer indicated that she would also like to update her existing voter registration. Ms. Altizer affirmed that she was a resident of Bexar County, a citizen, and otherwise eligible to vote. In early September, Ms. Altizer received her updated driver license by mail. However, six weeks after electing to update her voter registration online, Ms. Altizer remains registered at her old address, which is in a different voting precinct. Ex. B, Declaration of Ms. Altizer.

12. Ms. Altizer thus faces the ongoing injury of outdated registration in violation of the

guarantee of simultaneous voter registration under the NVRA and *Stringer II* Settlement Agreement. Because of this breach she cannot vote an up-to-date regular ballot and instead has only two inferior options to attempt to make her voice heard.

13. First, she may vote a provisional ballot, which requires filling out an affidavit of provisional voter under penalty of perjury. A provisional ballot keeps a record of a voter's vote while the County looks up a voter's eligibility during or immediately after an election. This places an additional burden on Ms. Altizer and requires the County to take additional steps to ensure her vote is counted.

14. Second, she may sign a statement of residence at the polls. While this would allow Ms. Altizer to vote a regular ballot, it would limit her to the options available at her previous residence within Bexar County. Because her current residence is in a different Texas State House district, this would deprive Ms. Altizer of the ability to vote for her current House representative.

15. Additionally, because her outdated registration does not reflect her current voting precinct, Ms. Altizer will not be able to serve as an election judge for the 2026 general election despite wishing to do so. Ex. B, Declaration of Ms. Altizer.

16. Plaintiff MOVE TX, a membership organization, brings this suit on behalf of its members. MOVE TX is a nonprofit organization dedicated to building the power of young people in underrepresented communities through civic engagement, leadership development, and issue advocacy to transform democracy in Texas and beyond. MOVE TX was founded in 2013 at the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) and has expanded to various cities in Texas over the last decade. To fulfill its mission, MOVE TX regularly registers voters, and increases civic education among young people. Ex. E. Declaration of Ms. Balderas, MOVE TX Interim Executive Director.

17. Some of MOVE TX's members, like millions of other Texas voters, choose to utilize the DPS website's purported option to simultaneously update their voter registration when updating their address or renewing their driver license or identification card online. Members whose voter registrations are not timely updated are denied the right to simultaneous voter registration guaranteed by the *Stringer II* Settlement Agreement and the National Voter Registration Act and face the immediate injury of needing to take extra steps to vote because their voter registrations may not be updated before early voting for the 2026 general election. *Id.*

18. Plaintiffs MOVE TX and LWVTX were both parties in *Stringer II* and are parties to the *Stringer II* Settlement Agreement.

19. Defendant Texas Secretary of State is part of the executive branch of the Texas government. The Secretary of State serves as the Chief Election Officer for Texas, assisting county election officials with the interpretation of election laws. TEX. ELEC. CODE § 31.001(a). The Secretary of State is responsible for coordinating the state's compliance with the NVRA. 52 U.S.C. § 20509.

20. Under the Help American Vote Act ("HAVA"), the Texas Secretary of State must implement, maintain, and administer, a state-level computerized list of every legally registered voter in Texas. 52 U.S.C. § 21083(a). The Texas Secretary of State manages Texas's computerized statewide voter registration management system, TEAM. HAVA requires the Texas Secretary of State to provide support to ensure local election officials can enter voter registration information into team "on an expedited basis." 52 U.S.C. § 21083(a)(1)(A)(vi-vii).

21. Defendant Robert S. Howden is the Texas Secretary of State as of July 18, 2026, and is sued in his official capacity. This petition refers to Defendants Secretary of State and Robert S. Howden collectively as "SOS."

22. Defendant Texas Department of Public Safety is Texas's motor vehicle bureau. The Texas Department of Public Safety operates offices around the state, issues driver licenses and other state identification cards, and is responsible under state and federal law for providing voter registration services and transmitting voter registration information to the SOS.

23. Defendant Freeman F. Martin is the current Director of the Texas Department of Public Safety and is sued in his official capacity. This petition refers to Defendants Texas Department of Public Safety and Freeman F. Martin collectively as "DPS."

24. Both the Texas Secretary of State and the Director of the Texas Department of Public Safety, in their official capacities, were parties in *Stringer II* and are parties to the *Stringer II* Settlement Agreement.

## VI. JURISDICTION

25. This Court has jurisdiction over this breach-of-contract suit because this suit is brought to enforce a settlement agreement between Defendants and Plaintiffs that resolved an earlier suit for which immunity was waived. *See Tex. A & M Univ.-Kingsville v. Lawson*, 87 S.W.3d 518, 522–23 (Tex. 2002); 52 U.S.C. § 20510(b).

## VII. VENUE

26. Venue is proper in Bexar County, where LWVTX member Ms. Altizer's voter registration via DPS remains unprocessed, because that is where "all or a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claim occurred," TEX. CIV. PRAC. & REM. CODE § 15.002(a)(1), and because the parties to the *Stringer II* Settlement Agreement agreed "that all claims of breach shall be adjudicated through a new lawsuit brought in state or federal court in the Western District of Texas (San Antonio Division)." *See* Ex. C at ¶ 6.

## VIII. FACTUAL BACKGROUND

### A. Federal courts repeatedly found DPS and SOS in violation of the NVRA's simultaneous voter registration requirements.

27. In 1993, after finding that "discriminatory and unfair registration laws and procedures can have a direct and damaging effect on voter participation," and that state governments have a "duty" to promote voting and voter registration, Congress enacted the NVRA to "establish procedures that will increase the number of eligible citizens who register to vote in elections for Federal office." H.R. Rep. No. 103-9, at 2-3 (1993); 52 U.S.C. § 20501.

28. The House Committee tasked with considering solutions for low voter registration before the law was passed "felt that the broadest, most effective and cost-efficient method of registration would be [a] simultaneous application procedure . . . i.e. a driver's license application serving as an application for registration." H.R. Rep. No. 103-9, at 4 (1993).

29. Through its so-called "Motor Voter" provisions, 52 U.S.C. § 20504, the NVRA imposes voter registration obligations on state motor vehicle bureaus. Specifically, each time an eligible resident obtains, renews, or updates his or her driver license with DPS, Texas's motor vehicle bureau, the State must ensure that the driver license application simultaneously serves as voter registration application or as an update to the voter's registration record. 52 U.S.C. § 20504(a)(1), (d).

30. The Motor Voter provisions require DPS to simultaneously treat: (a) "each . . . driver's license application (including any renewal application) . . . " as an application for voter registration," 52 U.S.C. § 20504(a)(1); and (b) "any change of address form" as a "notification of change of address for voter registration." 52 U.S.C. § 20504(d). Defendants have a legal duty to ensure that every eligible voter who submits a driver license application or renewal, or an update

to his or her address with DPS not less than 30 days before an election, is registered to vote. 52 U.S.C. § 20507(a)(1)(A).

31. The Motor Voter provisions apply to "each" renewal application and "any" change of address form submitted to DPS, unless the applicant "fails to sign the voter registration application" or "states on the form that the change of address is not for voter registration purposes." 52 U.S.C. § 20504(a)(1), (d). Accordingly, outside of those two narrow exceptions, ***all*** driver license transactions are covered by the Motor Voter law, regardless of the method by which an applicant applies, renews, or updates his or her driver license—the NVRA does not discriminate against applicants who choose one transaction method over another. Online renewals and change-of-address transactions are thus expressly covered by the NVRA's plain text.

32. Two decades after Congress passed the NVRA, and years after driver license transactions were modernized and moved online, DPS still had not integrated simultaneous online voter registration into online driver license renewal or change of address transactions to comply with federal law.

33. In 2016, Jarrod Stringer, Benjamin Hernandez, and John Woods were denied simultaneous voter registration applications and ultimately disenfranchised. They sued the SOS and DPS, alleging the DPS voter registration update process violated Texans' right to simultaneous voter registration under the NVRA and Equal Protection Clause. *Stringer v. Pablos*, No. 5:16-cv-257-OG, (W.D. Tex. 2016) ("*Stringer I*").

34. In May 2018, the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas granted declaratory relief in favor of the *Stringer I* plaintiffs, finding that the SOS and DPS violated the NVRA and the Equal Protection Clause by failing to allow simultaneous online voter registration with driver license renewal or change-of-address transactions. The court ordered defendants to

establish procedures for both online driver license and change-of-address applications as a simultaneous application for voter registration that is then submitted to the SOS. *Stringer I*, No. 5:16-cv-257-OG, 320 F. Supp. 3d 862, 901 (W.D. Tex. 2018), *rev'd and remanded sub nom. Stringer v. Whitley*, 942 F.3d 715 (5th Cir. 2019).

35. The defendants appealed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, claiming that the plaintiffs did not have Article III standing to seek prospective relief because they were registered when the suit was filed and had not shown a continuing threat or future injury to their right to vote. The Fifth Circuit agreed with the defendants, vacated the permanent injunction, and remanded to the district court with instructions to dismiss the plaintiffs' claims for lack of standing, reasoning that the *Stringer I* plaintiffs had not proven that they would sustain future injury. *Stringer v. Whitley*, 942 F.3d 715, 723 (5th Cir. 2019).

36. However, in November 2019, Mr. Stringer moved from Bexar County to Harris County. On November 23, 2019, Mr. Stringer asked his wife to change his address on his driver license on the DPS website. Had he been given the option to update his voter registration, he would have asked his wife to update that as well. But he was not given the option to, leaving him registered at his former Bexar County address.

37. John Harms, who was not a plaintiff *in Stringer I*, lived in Bastrop County until mid-July of 2019 when he moved to Travis County. On or about October 8, 2019, he visited the DPS website to complete a change-of-address transaction and was not given an option to update his voter registration, leaving him unregistered to vote in Travis County.

38. Nayeli Gomez, who was not a plaintiff in *Stringer I*, moved from one residence in Bexar County to another residence in Bexar County in the summer of 2019. On December 9, 2019, she changed the address on her driver license using the DPS website but was not offered the option

to update her voter registration, leaving her registered at her old address in Bexar County at the time the *Stringer II* case was filed.

39. On January 14, 2020, Jarrod Stringer, John Harms, Nayeli Gomez, MOVE TX, and LWVTX, sued SOS and DPS, asserting the same claims from *Stringer I* because defendants had not changed their practices. *Stringer II*, No. 5:20-cv-46-OLG (W.D. Tex. 2020), Dkt. 1. The Texas Democratic Party, Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee ("DCCC"), and Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee ("DSCC") intervened as plaintiffs and filed a complaint on January 21, 2020. *Id.*, Dkt. 28.

40. On August 28, 2020, the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas granted a preliminary injunction against the defendants ordering them to take all necessary steps to come into compliance with the NVRA and U.S. Constitution and establish a DPS system that treats driver license or change of address transactions as simultaneous voter registration applications or updates, on or before September 23, 2020. *Stringer II*, No. 5:20-cv-46-OLG, 2020 WL 6875182, at *9, *30 (W.D. Tex. Aug. 28, 2020).

41. The court also ordered that Mr. Stringer be able to use the new system no later than September 30, 2020, so that he could ensure his voter registration would be sent to SOS in a timely manner ahead of the October 5, 2020 voter registration cutoff date for the November 3, 2020 election. The court also ordered the SOS to file an advisory no later than October 2, 2020, confirming that the injunction had been complied with and Mr. Stringer had been registered to vote. *Id.* at *30.

**B. The *Stringer II* Settlement Agreement guarantees a functioning DPS voter registration system and records of voters utilizing the system.**

42. In July 2021, the *Stringer II* parties executed the Settlement Agreement underlying this petition.

43. The *Stringer II* Settlement Agreement has no termination date and remains in effect.

44. The *Stringer II* Settlement Agreement provides that among other promises, the defendants and any of their successors will "continue to utilize and make permanent the changes to the online driver license renewal and change of address process to ensure that simultaneous voter registration is available to applicants renewing their driver license or identification card or changing the address associated with the driver license or identification card." Ex. C, *Stringer II* Settlement Agreement at ¶ 1 (July 26, 2021).

45. It also provides that information related to online voter registration requests and the process to handle them may be public information that is disclosable under Texas public records laws. Specifically, "Defendants agree that information related to the process for handling voter registration requests described in Paragraph 1 may be subject to disclosure under the Texas Public Information Act or other applicable law, pursuant to the statutory provisions governing such disclosures. Moreover, Defendants agree to maintain records regarding individuals who checked 'yes' during the online voter registration process described in Paragraph 1." *Id.* at ¶ 3.

46. The *Stringer II* Settlement Agreement further provides "[i]f there is cause to believe that a breach of this Agreement has occurred, the Parties agree that all claims of breach shall be adjudicated through a new lawsuit brought in state or federal court . . . ." *Id.*at ¶ 6.

### C. Since mid-2025, voters, counties, and an association that represents county election officials have reported issues with timely voter registration due to issues with both the SOS and DPS systems.

47. In July 2025, SOS began a "complete overhaul" of the TEAM system,[3] which one county described as a "migration to a completely different kind of online [] statewide voter registration application system," not merely an update.[4]

48. Counties quickly began to report issues. Annette Ramirez, the Harris County Tax Assessor-Collector and Voter Registrar, reported that the voter registration issues began in July 2025, following the rollout of the updated TEAM system.[5] Once counties were told they could start uploading voter registration applications onto the new TEAM system for verification by the State, she discovered that "the applications were stuck pending for much longer than usual."[6] SOS's verification process, which was once an overnight process, was now sometimes taking weeks to complete due to a backlog.[7]

49. In September 2025, TACEO published a survey about the TEAM system showing that nearly half of election officials found features for processing voter registration applications through DPS "difficult" and over a quarter found those features "[n]ot [f]unctioning."[8]

50. Both SOS and DPS were aware of these issues, not only because each was responsible for their respective aspects of the online voter registration process, but also because individual voters reported deficiencies.

[3] Natalia Contreras, *Texas counties struggle to process voter registrations using the state's new system*, TEX. TRIB. (Sept. 25, 2025), https://perma.cc/NHB6-M2G3.
[4] Kyle McClenagan, *Harris County resolves voter registration backlog issues as early voting begins*, HOU. PUB. MEDIA (Oct. 20, 2025), https://perma.cc/85GQ-6ZU9.
[5] *Id.*
[6] *Id.*
[7] *Id.*
[8] TEAM Survey Summary (Sept. 2, 2025), https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/26105772-teamsurvey-summary-09022025docx/.

51. During spring 2026, TCRP was in touch with such a voter, who had raised her concerns with Defendants. On March 26, 2026, the voter used DPS's online application to update her driver license after moving within Bexar County. On May 6, 2026, she checked her voter registration on the SOS and Bexar County Elections websites and found her address was still not updated. Ex. D-4, Stringer II Settlement Breach Demand Letter (July 23, 2026).

52. The voter reported the issue to the SOS's Elections Division, DPS, and the Bexar County Elections Department.

53. On June 16, 2026, the voter received a response from an attorney at the SOS's Elections Division stating that the night before, the "voter registration team deployed a large production build that was designed, among other fixes to address some outstanding issues relating to DPS applications" and there would be further testing of the system update in the next week. *Id.* One month later, the voter asked for an update to which the SOS attorney responded that he had not heard anything further on the legal side but that regular voter registration system updates would keep rolling out, and he was hopeful that they would be "ironing out" those issues. *Id.* The voter's address is currently updated on the SOS and Bexar County Elections website, only after she went to great lengths to report the issues to DPS and SOS and update her address herself.

54. Shortly after the primary election, a staffer for State Senator Donna Campbell emailed DPS officials, alerting them about a voter who updated her driver license online in December 2025 and whose updated address was not reflected when she attempted to vote during the primary election. Ex. D, Declaration of K. Maradiaga, TCRP Attorney, Ex. D-1, K. Follis Email re Constituent Complaint (March 10, 2026).

55. In an email response sent on March 10, 2026, where SOS officials were copied, DPS officials admitted that it "recently became aware of an issue affecting voter registration

information collected through the online driver license feature on Texas.gov." Ex. D-2, A Calhoun Email to K. Follis re DPS programming error (March 10, 2026).

56. DPS officials explained that due to a "programming change" made by a vendor of the IT department that administers Texas.gov, "customers who selected 'yes' to the voter registration question in the online driver license process received a transaction receipt reflecting that choice, but due to the programming error the data was not transmitted to the department where it would be recorded in the driver record and included in the daily voter registration file sent to [SOS]." *Id.*

57. DPS estimated that nearly 1,000 voters reported issues due to this error when they attempted to vote in the March primaries. Ex. D-3, R. Hibbs Email to S. Gipson re 992 Inquiries (March 12, 2026). Because not every voter reports issues, the true number of impacted voters is unknown.

58. Nonetheless, on March 10, 2026, DPS assured the staffer that the programming error was resolved. Ex. D-2.

59. Defendants were thus aware that the DPS website had not been properly recording voter registration requests and that the error impacted voters during the primary election.

60. Months later, at a Senate State Affairs committee hearing on June 23, 2026, the SOS Director of Elections, Christina Adkins, testified that the SOS was still working through the data conversion that began in July 2025 as part of the TEAM system update.[9]

61. She further stated that the SOS planned to address the backlog of TEAM system issues faced by counties that summer.[10]

[9] S. State Affairs Comm., Testimony of Christina Adkins (June 23, 2026) 2:03:52 https://senate.texas.gov/videoplayer.php?vid=22704&lang=en.
[10] *Id.*

**D. Plaintiff LWVTX sent a demand letter to Defendants in July, and Defendants denied any compliance failures despite the overwhelming evidence.**

62. On July 23, 2026, the Texas Civil Rights Project, Waters Kraus Paul & Siegel, and Plaintiff LWVTX sent a demand letter to Defendants, detailing the issues faced by Ms. Zintgraff, LWVTX, and others, and requesting information about the steps Defendants were taking to ensure DPS voter registration is simultaneous as required under the *Stringer II* Settlement Agreement and the NVRA. Ex. D-4, *Stringer II* Settlement Breach Demand Letter (July 23, 2026).

63. On August 6, 2026, both SOS and DPS responded to the letter. The SOS's response letter was authored by General Counsel Adam Bitter who stated that the "[o]ffice is well aware of its voter registration obligations under federal and state law, as well as the settlement agreement reached in the *Stringer* litigation." Ex. D-5, Texas SOS Letter to Texas Civil Rights Project (August 6, 2026). He then stated that SOS was in "full compliance with [all] requirements" and that it daily "receives voter registration files from DPS" and sends the files to county officials "who are responsible for receiving and acting on voter registration applications under Texas law." *Id.*

64. DPS, in its response letter, acknowledged "isolated issues" but maintained that it carried out its voter registration responsibilities "in full compliance with state and federal law, as well as the settlement agreement in *Stringer v. Hughs.*" Ex. D-6, Letter from D. Phillip Adkins (August 6, 2026). The letter added that while "occasional technical issues may arise . . . the Department works promptly to identify and resolve them in close coordination with the Office of the Secretary of State." *Id.* The letter went on to state that DPS "consistently and timely transmits voter-registration data to SOS each day," and that the DPS's "Information Technology and Driver License divisions maintain ongoing oversight to help ensure that these systems function properly." *Id.*

**E. Defendants have refused to disclose key documents sought under the Texas Public Information Act that would shed light on their compliance with the *Stringer II* Settlement Agreement.**

65. On July 15, 2026, approximately one week before sending the above-described demand letter, the Texas Civil Rights Project sent public records requests to Defendants seeking information about the DPS voter registration failures. *See* TEX. GOV. CODE § 552.221. Defendants have so far refused to disclose core, relevant documents.

66. Specifically, while Defendants disclosed some documents responsive to the public records requests, both have withheld key documents, claiming they are subject to a slew of broadly-invoked exceptions, including attorney-client privilege and deliberative process. Defendants also incorrectly claim key information is private under the Law Enforcement/Network Security and Critical Infrastructure exceptions. Ex. D-7, DPS Letter to AG re TCRP PIA Request (July 30, 2026); Ex. D-8, SOS Letter to AG re PIA Request (September 17, 2026).

67. The documents SOS refuses to disclose include communications about "the operation and ongoing redevelopment of the statewide voter registration system" between SOS staff, the Office of the Governor, DPS, and Civix, the vendor with whom the SOS has contracted to maintain the statewide computerized voter registration system. Ex. D-8.

68. On September 14, 2026, the Texas Civil Rights Project submitted a response brief to the Attorney General's office arguing that the information sought in the public records requests to DPS are public and should be disclosed. The Texas Civil Rights Project also maintains that the information sought in the public records requests to SOS are public and should be disclosed.

**F. In September 2026, notwithstanding their prior claims of compliance, Defendants revealed a backlog of hundreds of thousands of voter registrations submitted via DPS.**

69. The next month, in September 2026, counties across the state noticed a surge of voter files in TEAM from DPS.[11]

70. Every county received delayed DPS voter registrations, "from a few hundred voter registration applications to process in small counties to tens of thousands of applications and updates in the most populous counties[.][12] For instance, Harris County and Dallas County received approximately 75,000 and 68,000 late records from DPS respectively.[13] Because of this deluge of applications, SOS has offered counties grant funding to offset the additional costs of processing the files.[14]

71. The Dallas Morning News reported this week that the current tally of voter registration files sent to counties, just weeks before the midterm elections, totals at least 593,000.[15]

72. On September 23, SOS Director of Elections Christina Adkins "acknowledged in [a] call with county officials that voters and county officials had reported problems with DPS voter registration applications to her agency. She said her office had asked DPS about them."[16]

73. Two days after counties received the surge of files from SOS, DPS officials said "the system issue has been resolved," without providing any detail about what caused the issue or what long-term fixes were in place to ensure the issue would not happen again.[17]

[11] Natalia Contreras, *Unknown Number Of Texas Voter Registrations Went Unprocessed Due to DPS Error*, VOTEBEAT (Sept. 22, 2026), https://perma.cc/8QVP-9BYV.
[12] Natalia Contreras, *Texas Counties Are Receiving Tens of Thousands of Unprocessed Voter Registration Applications Due to State Error*, VOTEBEAT (Sept. 23, 2026), https://perma.cc/979Z-FVWU.
[13] Jennifer Radcliffe, *Texas Clears Voter Backlog as Advocates Warn of Trust Concerns*, NEWSWEEK (Oct. 3, 2026), https://www.newsweek.com/texas-clears-voter-backlog-as-advocates-warn-of-trust-concerns-12521286.
[14] *Id*.
[15] William Tong & Tracey McManus, *Tracking backlogged Texas DPS voter registrations*, DALL. MORNING NEWS (Oct. 5, 2026), https://www.dallasnews.com/projects/2026/texas-voter-registration-backlog-tracker/
[16] Natalia Contreras, *Records show DPS knew of problems with Texas' online voter registration portal as early as March,* VOTEBEAT (Oct 1, 2026), https://perma.cc/S7AJ-FLBH.
[17] Contreras, *supra* note 11.

74. Local election officials have "been working day and night, overtime weekends to try to get caught up."[18]

75. About a week after the large-scale DPS registration issue was uncovered, Texas Senator Paul Bettencourt asserted that the issue "was the consequence of an IT upgrade carried out by [DPS] vendor Deloitte."[19]

76. Some counties have set the deadline of October 19, 2026, the first day of early voting, to update all voter registrations sent from DPS, but may not be able to process their backlogged voter registrations before voters start appearing at the polls or submitting mail ballots.[20] Further, while voters who do not appear on the rolls when voting in person should be offered a provisional ballot, whether voters are reliably offered those ballots hinges on thorough training of local election workers and judges and/or voter awareness and self-advocacy.

77. Over the past year, Defendants have both refused to take voter issues seriously and provided no transparency. When county officials, through TACEO, flagged DPS registration issues in the fall, Defendants did not respond. When voters reported registration delays months ago, Defendants suggested that a system upgrade would solve the issue. It did not.

78. When voting rights groups reported DPS registration issues to Defendants in July, they again denied there were serious issues, and DPS stated that it had checks in place to resolve any issues.

79. Given this track record, Plaintiffs cannot take Defendants at their word that the underlying issues causing voter registration delays are resolved—and the Court should not either.

[18] Adam Schwager & Shreya Vaidhyanathan, *Texas counties work through DPS voter registration backlog on deadline day*, KXAN (Oct. 5, 2026), https://perma.cc/25YN-XNDV.
[19] Rachel Behrndt & Teresa Woodard, *Texas senator calls voter registration backlog a 'two-agency snafu'*, WFAA (DALLAS-FORT WORTH) (Sept. 29, 2026) https://www.wfaa.com/article/news/politics/elections/texas-voter-registration-back-log-funding-glitch-error-pays/287-c61b041d-f622-498d-b971-33838bb88182.
[20] Schwager & Vaidhyanathan, *supra* note 18.

Plaintiff LWVTX attempted to work with Defendants without the need for litigation through its letters in July. Defendants rebuffed Plaintiff LWVTX's request to address the registration delays. Defendants have similarly rebuffed the Texas Civil Rights Project's attempts to shed light on the voter registration issues through public records requests.

80. Plaintiffs are now turning to the Court because they fear that without judicial enforcement of the *Stringer II* Settlement Agreement, the underlying voter registration delays, which has already harmed voters, will continue to harm voters in elections to come.

## IX. CAUSE OF ACTION

Breach of Contract

81. The elements of a breach of contract claim under Texas law are: "'(1) a valid contract; (2) the plaintiff performed or tendered performance; (3) the defendant breached the contract; and (4) the plaintiff was damaged as a result of the breach.'" *Brooks v. Excellence Mortgage, Ltd.*, 486 S.W.3d 29, 36 (Tex. App.—San Antonio 2015, pet. denied) (citation omitted). "A settlement agreement is a contract, and its construction is governed by legal principles applicable to contracts generally." *ASI Techs., Inc. v. Johnson Equip. Co.*, 75 S.W.3d 545, 547 (Tex. App. 2002) (quoting *Donzis v. McLaughlin*, 981 S.W.2d, 503 (Tex. App.—San Antonio 1998, no pet.).

82. On July 26, 2021, the *Stringer II* parties executed a Settlement Agreement that constitutes a valid and enforceable written contract. Plaintiffs attach a copy of the contract as Exhibit C and incorporate it by reference.

83. That contract provides that among other promises, defendants Ruth Hughs, then in her official capacity as Texas SOS, and Steven McCraw, then in his official capacity as Director of Texas DPS, their agencies, and any of their successors, would "continue to utilize and make

permanent the changes to the online driver license renewal and change of address process to ensure that simultaneous voter registration is available to applicants renewing their driver license or identification card or changing the address associated with the driver license or identification card." Ex. C at ¶ 1.

84. The *Stringer II* Settlement Agreement provided that Plaintiffs LWVTX and MOVE TX would release Defendants of any claims, demands, and liabilities that they had or could have asserted in the *Stringer II* litigation. Ex. C at ¶ 10. Plaintiffs LWVTX and MOVE TX have fully performed their duties under the Agreement.

85. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the parties to the *Stringer II* Settlement Agreement agreed that nothing in the contract prevents Plaintiffs from bringing another action "if data, methodological, or other systemic limitations cause the simultaneous registration procedures outlined herein to fail to permit simultaneous voter registration to applicants renewing their driver's licenses or identification cards as well as those who are requesting a change of address." Ex. C at ¶ 10. Since at least October 2025, Defendants have breached and continue to breach the contract by failing to maintain the procedures that ensure simultaneous online voter registration with driver license renewal or change of address transactions.

86. Despite Defendants' repeated empty assurances that DPS registration issues are resolved, voters like Ms. Altizer and other members of Plaintiffs LWVTX and MOVE TX continue to be harmed, and stand to be harmed in the future, by unprocessed voter registrations.

87. Defendants' breach is causing injury to members of the Plaintiff organizations and to other Texas voters who have attempted to use the DPS website to register to vote, as required by the *Stringer II* Settlement Agreement and the NVRA, and who plan to vote during early voting or on election day in the 2026 general election but face barriers to voting because of the non-

compliant DPS and SOS voter registration system. *See Stringer II*, No. SA-16-CV-257-OG, 2020 WL 6875182, at *9 (W.D. Tex. Aug. 28, 2020) (describing the harm of being deprived of their NVRA right to simultaneous voter registration due to the State's unlawful actions). Absent relief, Defendants' breach will continue to cause harm in the future to voters in similar circumstances.

## X. REQUEST FOR RELIEF

88. Plaintiffs seek equitable injunctive relief including specific performance of the contract, and no monetary damages.

89. First, "[a] party seeking specific performance must plead and prove (1) compliance with the contract including tender of performance unless excused by the defendant's breach or repudiation and (2) the readiness, willingness, and ability to perform at relevant times." *Levetz v. Sutton*, 404 S.W.3d 798, 805 (Tex. App.—Dallas 2013, pet. denied).

90. Here it is indisputable that Plaintiffs have complied with, and therefore demonstrated readiness, willingness, and ability to perform, their bargain in the *Stringer II* Settlement Agreement by dismissing their NVRA claims against Defendants. The *Stringer II* Settlement Agreement also contains precise terms that Defendants have affirmed they complied with in the past, and can certainly follow in the future. The injunctive relief Plaintiffs seek expresses the terms of that Agreement, which incorporates the "the changes . . . [that] have already been implemented pursuant to the Court's January 30, 2020, and August 28, 2020 preliminary injunctions, ECF Nos. 46 and 97, [which] constitute a sufficient process." *See* Ex. C at ¶ 1.

91. Second, "[i]n examining whether specific performance via injunctive relief is available as a contractual remedy, courts examine whether (1) an adequate remedy at law exists; (2) present performance is possible; (3) the agreement contains precise terms capable of

enforcement; and (4) the injunction comports with the terms of the agreement." *Cytogenix, Inc. v. Waldroff*, 213 S.W.3d 479, 487 (Tex. App. 2006).

92. Here, Plaintiffs have shown their inadequate remedy at law and irreparable injury "for which actual damages will not adequately compensate the injured party or the damages cannot be measured by any certain pecuniary standard." *Id.* No damages can compensate Plaintiffs' members and other voters for their delayed voter registrations causing disruptions to voting plans and creating barriers to voting via provisional ballots or being forced to vote an outdated ballot not reflecting current representatives. Furthermore, requiring compliance with the NVRA simultaneous registration requirement is in the public interest.

93. Plaintiffs therefore respectfully request the Court permanently enjoini Defendants from breaching the *Stringer II* Settlement Agreement and require Defendants to perform their duties of ensuring simultaneous online voter registration with driver license renewal or change of address transactions in compliance with the terms outlined in the *Stringer II* Settlement Agreement.

94. Plaintiffs additionally request the Court require Defendants to produce information that the *Stringer II* Settlement Agreement mandates they collect, namely "information related to the process for handling voter registration requests described in Paragraph 1" and "records regarding individuals who checked 'yes' during the online voter registration process described in Paragraph 1," subject to any applicable state or federal laws, to ensure similar breaches and backlogs do not occur again in the future. Ex. C, ¶ 6.

95. Absent this injunctive relief, the risk of disenfranchisement for Texans increases exponentially. Millions of eligible voters are relying on a system that is no longer working. This

reliance may lead to voters not knowing they were not properly updated in the system until it is too late to register to vote and, in some cases, until they are already at the polls.

## XI. CONDITIONS PRECEDENT

96. All conditions precedent to Plaintiffs' claim for relief have been performed or have occurred.

## XII. PRAYER

97. For these reasons, Plaintiffs respectfully request that the Court:

a. Enter a permanent injunction against Defendants:

i. Requiring Defendants to perform their duties of ensuring simultaneous online voter registration with driver license renewal or change-of-address transactions.

1. This includes the following process described and ordered in *Stringer II*: "DPS worked with SOS on developing the format and transmission process for the voter registration data it will be sending, and SOS approved the plans. This information will be transmitted to SOS in precisely the same format and layout that voter registration information is already sent from DPS to SOS for in-person and by-mail driver's license transactions, and will only include information for individuals who answer 'yes' to the online voter registration application question. These files will include the electronic signature image for each DPS customer in the same format and process those images are sent for in-person and by-mail transactions. The files also have fields for including answers to additional questions that are asked on paper voter registration forms (such as whether the individual would like to serve as an election judge), but the fields will presently be left blank pending further orders . . . . SOS already receives nightly files from DPS that include the relevant information for processing a voter registration application for in-person DPS transactions, and when DPS has implemented the changes outlined herein, the information for individuals transacting with DPS online will reach SOS in the same format and be indistinguishable from in-person transactions. *Stringer II*, No. SA-16-CV-257-OG, 2020 WL 6875182, at *29–30 (W.D. Tex. Aug. 28, 2020); *see* Ex. C ¶ 1 (incorporating this process into the *Stringer II* Settlement Agreement).

ii. Requiring Defendants to produce information required to be collected under the *Stringer II* Settlement Agreement, namely "information related to the process for handling voter registration requests described in Paragraph 1" and "records regarding individuals who checked 'yes' during the online voter registration process described in Paragraph 1," subject to any applicable state or federal laws, to ensure similar breaches and backlogs do not occur again in the future. Ex. C, ¶ 3.

1. This includes the responsibility to "track, retain, and preserve (1) since November 2016, the total number of persons who renewed or updated their driver's license online, answered 'yes' to the voter registration/application question or indicated that they wanted to register to vote or update their voter registration as part of the same transaction, and were not simultaneously permitted to register to vote or update their voter registration; and (2) since November 2016, the number of persons who renewed or updated their driver's license online, answered 'yes' to the voter registration/application question or indicated that they wanted to register to vote or update their voter registration as part of the same transaction, were not simultaneously registered to vote or their voter registration was not updated, and are still not registered to vote and/or their voter registration has not been updated as a result." *Stringer II*, No. SA-16-CV-257-OG, 2020 WL 6875182, at *29 (W.D. Tex. Aug. 28, 2020); Ex. C ¶¶ 1, 3 (incorporating these responsibilities into the *Stringer II* Settlement Agreement)

iii. Requiring Defendants to file an advisory with this Court no later than one month after entry of the permanent injunction confirming it has fully complied with the Court's order and *Stringer II* Settlement Agreement. *See Stringer II*, No. SA-16-CV-257-OG, 2020 WL 6875182, at *30 (W.D. Tex. Aug. 28, 2020).

b. Issue other and further relief, general or special, that Plaintiffs may be entitled to.

Respectfully submitted this 9th day of October, 2026.

*/s/ Karla Maradiaga*
Karla Maradiaga

**TEXAS CIVIL RIGHTS PROJECT**

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**ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFFS**

## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that on October 9, 2026, a true and correct copy of the foregoing document was served on the following Defendants pursuant to the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure:

DEFENDANT TEXAS SECRETARY OF STATE
1019 Brazos Street,
Austin, Texas 78701

DEFENDANT SECRETARY ROBERT S. HOWDEN
1100 Congress Avenue, Room 1E.8,
Austin, Texas 78710

DEFENDANT TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
Office of the General Counsel
5805 N. Lamar Boulevard,
Austin, Texas 78752

DEFENDANT DIRECTOR FREEMAN F. MARTIN
Office of the General Counsel
5805 N. Lamar Boulevard,
Austin, Texas 78752

*/s/ Karla Maradiaga_*
Karla Maradiaga

# EXHIBIT “A”

**Case No. _____**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS TEXAS, and MOVE TEXAS CIVIC FUND,** | § | **IN THE DISTRICT COURT** |
| | § | |
| | § | **OF BEXAR COUNTY, TEXAS** |
| ***Plaintiffs*,** | § | |
| | § | |
| **v.** | § | |
| | § | |
| **TEXAS SECRETARY OF STATE; Robert S. Howden in his official capacity as THE TEXAS SECRETARY OF STATE; TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY; and Freeman F. Martin in his official capacity as DIRECTOR OF THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY,** | § | **_____ JUDICIAL DISTRICT** |
| | § | |
| | § | |
| | § | |
| | § | |
| | § | |
| | § | |
| | § | |
| ***Defendants.*** | § | |

**Declaration of Tae Mi Lee**

Pursuant to Texas Rules of Civil Procedure 682 and Civil Practice and Remedies Code 132.001(c), I, Tae Mi Lee, declare that:

My name is Tae Mi Lee. My date of birth is June 16, 1979, and my address is 2745 Sherwin St, Houston, TX 77007. I am over eighteen years of age, am of sound mind, and am capable of making this declaration. I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

I am the President of the League of Women Voters of Texas. I have read the above Original Verified Petition. I verify that the facts stated set forth in paragraphs 9 and 10 are within my personal knowledge and are true and correct.

Doc ID: 0552cfe56749004a8c2fb241af77feeb8c1cb3b1

Executed in Harris County, State of Texas on 10 / 08 / 2026.

Tae Mi Lee
President of League of Women Voters of Texas

Doc ID: 0552cfe56749004a8c2fb241af77feeb8c1cb3b1

Dropbox Sign

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| Status | Signed |

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# EXHIBIT “B”

**Case No. _____**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS TEXAS, and MOVE TEXAS CIVIC FUND,** *Plaintiffs*, | § | **IN THE DISTRICT COURT** |
| | § | **OF BEXAR COUNTY, TEXAS** |
| **v.** | § | |
| **TEXAS SECRETARY OF STATE; Robert S. Howden in his official capacity as THE TEXAS SECRETARY OF STATE; TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY; and Freeman F. Martin in his official capacity as DIRECTOR OF THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY,** *Defendants.* | § | **_____ JUDICIAL DISTRICT** |

**Declaration of Margaret Altizer**

Pursuant to Texas Rule of Civil Procedure 682 and Civil Practice and Remedies Code 132.001(c), I, Margaret Altizer, declare that:

My name is Margaret Altizer. My date of birth is November 16, 1959 and my address is 13931 Red Maple Wood, San Antonio, Texas, 78249. I am over eighteen years of age, am of sound mind, and am capable of making this declaration. I am a member of the League of Women Voters of Texas.

I have read the above Original Verified Petition. I verify that the facts stated set forth in paragraphs 11 and 15 are within my personal knowledge and are true and correct.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Doc ID: 1efdc9c24f25fa1c3670d0e31beee4330e6e32c8

Executed in Bexar County, State of Texas, on 10 / 08 / 2026.

_____
Margaret Altizer

Doc ID: 1efdc9c24f25fa1c3670d0e31beee4330e6e32c8

Dropbox Sign

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| Audit trail date format | MM / DD / YYYY |
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# EXHIBIT “C”

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
**FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS**
**SAN ANTONIO DIVISION**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| JARROD STRINGER, *et al.*,<br><br>*Plaintiffs,*<br><br>and<br><br>TEXAS DEMOCRATIC PARTY, DCCC, and DSCC,<br><br>*Intervenor-Plaintiffs,*<br><br>v.<br><br>RUTH HUGHS, in her official capacity as Texas Secretary of State, and STEVEN C. McCRAW, in his official capacity as Director of the Texas Department of Public Safety,<br><br>*Defendants.* | §<br>§<br>§<br>§<br>§<br>§<br>§<br>§<br>§<br>§<br>§<br>§<br>§<br>§<br>§<br>§ | CIVIL NO. 5:20-CV-00046-OLG |

**JOINT MOTION TO DISMISS**

Plaintiffs, Intervenors, and Defendants in this case file this joint motion to dismiss pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(a)(2). The parties have reached an agreement to settle all the claims in this case without further delay and expense. *See* Ex. A. As such, the parties jointly request that the Court dismiss this case with prejudice.

Dated: August 2, 2021

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ *Hani Mirza*
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*/s/ Christopher D. Hilton*
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**COUNSEL FOR DEFENDANTS**

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

By my signature below, I certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing has been served on all counsel of record on August 2, 2021.

/s/ _ *Hani Mirza*_____

# Exhibit A

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
**FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS**
**SAN ANTONIO DIVISION**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| JARROD STRINGER, *et al.*, | § | |
| | § | |
| *Plaintiffs,* | § | |
| | § | |
| and | § | |
| | § | |
| TEXAS DEMOCRATIC PARTY, DCCC, and DSCC, | § | CIVIL NO. SA-20-CV-46-OG |
| | § | |
| *Intervenor-Plaintiffs,* | § | |
| | § | |
| v. | § | |
| | § | |
| RUTH HUGHS, in her official capacity as Texas Secretary of State, and STEVEN C. McCRAW, in his official capacity as Director of the Texas Department of Public Safety, | § | |
| | § | |
| *Defendants.* | § | |

**SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT**

Jarrod Stringer, MOVE Texas Civic Fund, League of Women Voters of Texas, Nayeli Gomez, and John Harms (collectively, the "Plaintiffs"); the individuals named in their official capacities on behalf of the Texas Secretary of State and the Texas Department of Public Safety (collectively, the "Defendants"); and the Texas Democratic Party, DCCC (Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee), and DSCC (Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee) (collectively, the "Intervenors"), all of whom are the "Parties" to the above-captioned "Litigation," have reached a full and final settlement of the Litigation as set forth in this Settlement Agreement (the "Agreement"). Therefore, for the consideration described herein, parties agree as follows:

1. Defendants, their agencies, and any successors to their responsibilities will continue to utilize and make permanent the changes to the online driver license renewal and change-of-

address process to ensure that simultaneous voter registration is available to applicants renewing their driver license or identification card or changing the address associated with their driver license or identification card. Except as otherwise stated in this Agreement, the changes contemplated by this paragraph have already been implemented pursuant to the Court's January 30, 2020, and August 28, 2020 preliminary injunctions, ECF Nos. 46 and 97, and constitute a sufficient process.

2. Defendants will maintain language on the DPS driver license online portal website that reflects accurately the current process for handling voter registration requests as described in Paragraph 1. The language contemplated by this paragraph has already been implemented by Defendants following the Court's May 5, 2021 status conference, and is sufficient.

3. Defendants agree that information related to the process for handling voter registration requests described in Paragraph 1 may be subject to disclosure under the Texas Public Information Act or other applicable law, pursuant to the statutory provisions governing such disclosures. Moreover, Defendants agree to maintain records regarding individuals who checked "yes" during the online voter registration process described in Paragraph 1.

4. This Agreement does not supersede, and is not intended to supersede, any of the Defendants' obligations under federal or state law, whether such obligations exist now or at any time while this Agreement is effective. If Defendants later assert that any such federal or state law obligations require Defendants to modify the process outlined herein, Plaintiffs reserve the right to bring any claim under federal or state law challenging such modifications.

5. Nothing in this Agreement, or any action taken under this Agreement, is an admission of liability—nor should it be interpreted as an admission of liability—by any of the Defendants, or by any current or former employee, agent, or representative of the Defendants.

6. If there is cause to believe that a breach of this Agreement has occurred, the Parties agree that all claims of breach shall be adjudicated through a new lawsuit brought in state or federal court in the Western District of Texas (San Antonio Division).

7. Defendants will pay the Plaintiffs a total of $175,000 for the Plaintiffs' attorneys' fees and costs incurred in this Litigation through checks payable to the Texas Civil Rights Project, with $87,500 payable by the Texas Secretary of State and $87,500 payable by the Texas Department of Public Safety. The Plaintiffs shall provide the Defendants with its IRS Form 1099 for the payee, and the Defendants shall make payment as expeditiously as possible. The Parties agree that other than the payment of the $175,000, each party will bear its own fees and costs incurred in connection with this Litigation.

8. The Intervenors expressly waive any claim for their attorneys' fees and costs incurred in connection with this Litigation.

9. The Parties agree to file joint motions to dismiss with prejudice all of the Plaintiffs' and Intervenors' claims pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(a)(2) within three business days of Plaintiffs' receipt of the fees and costs payment set out above in paragraph 7. The Parties understand and agree that the enforceability and validity of this agreement are expressly conditioned upon entry of an order by the United States District Court for the Western District of Texas, San Antonio Division, dismissing all of the Plaintiffs' and Intervenors' claims against all of the Defendants in all of the consolidated cases in their entirety with prejudice.

10. Upon the Plaintiffs' receipt of the fees and costs payment set out above in paragraph 7, Plaintiffs and Intervenors knowingly and voluntarily agree to fully, finally, and forever unconditionally release, acquit, and discharge all of the Defendants, their agents and employees, including their attorneys and former employees (the "Releasees"), from any and all debts,

demands, actions, causes of action, suits, accounts, covenants, contracts, agreements, damages, losses, expenses (including attorneys' fees and costs incurred), claims or rights under any and all federal and state laws, and any and all claims, demands and liabilities whatsoever of every name and nature, both in law and in equity, whether known or not, which the Plaintiffs and Intervenors now have or could have asserted in this Litigation. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Plaintiffs and Intervenors may bring an action to enforce the provisions of this Agreement as provided for in paragraph 6. The Plaintiffs agree to withdraw any outstanding NVRA notices related to this Litigation. Nothing in this Agreement prevents Plaintiffs and Intervenors from bringing an action against Defendants if data, methodological, or other systemic limitations cause the simultaneous registration procedures outlined herein to fail to permit simultaneous voter registration to applicants renewing their driver's licenses or identification cards as well as those who are requesting a change of address.

11. Subject to and in consideration of the releases from the Plaintiffs and Intervenors, Defendants fully and finally release the Plaintiffs and Intervenors, their agents and employees, including their attorneys and former employees, from any and all debts, demands, actions, causes of action, suits, accounts, covenants, contracts, agreements, damages, losses, expenses (including attorneys' fees and costs incurred), claims or rights under any and all federal and state laws, and any and all claims, demands and liabilities whatsoever of every name and nature, both in law and in equity, whether known or not, which the Defendants now have or could have asserted in this Litigation.

12. The individuals whose signatures are affixed to this Agreement in a representative capacity represent and warrant that they are authorized to execute this Agreement on behalf of, and to bind, the entity on whose behalf the signature is affixed.

13. The Parties acknowledge they have had the right to consult with an attorney before signing this Agreement. The Parties represent and warrant they have read this Agreement and reviewed it with their counsel, and further represent and warrant that they have executed this Agreement of their own free will and accord without further representation of any kind or character not expressly set forth herein.

14. This Agreement shall be construed as if all Parties jointly prepared it, and any uncertainty or ambiguity in this Agreement shall not be interpreted against any one Party.

15. This Agreement contains the entire understanding of the Parties hereto, supersedes any and all prior agreements or understandings, statements, promises, or inducements contrary to the terms of this Agreement, and shall not be amended except by written instrument expressly referring to this Agreement and signed by all of the Parties hereto.

16. This Agreement is binding on the Parties, their successors in office, employees, representatives, delegates, agents, assigns, and all persons acting on their behalf, to the extent permitted by law or required by this Agreement.

17. This Agreement may be executed in counterparts, each of which shall constitute an integrated and enforceable whole.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, having represented and warranted their authority to enter into and execute this Agreement, have executed this Agreement effective as of the last date written below.

DocuSigned by:
Jarrod Stringer
9377F34C2D8A442...

[Signatory for Jarrod Stringer] — July 23, 2021 — Date

DocuSigned by:
Sarahi Rudelo
DC4CEACC205248B...

[Signatory for MOVE Texas Civic Fund] — July 26, 2021 — Date

DocuSigned by:
93979B7BA5B7426...

[Signatory for League of Women Voters of Texas] — July 25, 2021 — Date

DocuSigned by:
NAYELI GOMEZ
48C6E88421D7480...

[Signatory for Nayeli Gomez] — July 26, 2021 — Date

DocuSigned by:
John Harms
A07D48E5C428444...

[Signatory for John Harms] — July 24, 2021 — Date

DocuSigned by:
Adam Bitter
21F78F5D97A743A...

[Signatory for the Texas Secretary of State] — July 26, 2021 — Date

DocuSigned by:
Kathleen T. Murphy
B2F1AC83B82648E...

[Signatory for the Texas Department of Public Safety] — July 26, 2021 — Date

DocuSigned by:
Gilberto Hinojosa
B0DDF59883F7471...

[Signatory for the Texas Democratic Party] — July 26, 2021 — Date

DocuSigned by:
49451F607D264FB...

[Signatory for DCCC] — July 26, 2021 — Date

DocuSigned by:
Allison Wright
66CB5FE5FDD346F...

[Signatory for DSCC] — July 25, 2021 — Date

# EXHIBIT “D”

**Case No. _____**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS TEXAS, and MOVE TEXAS CIVIC FUND,**<br>***Plaintiffs*,** | **§**<br>**§**<br>**§** | **IN THE DISTRICT COURT**<br><br>**OF BEXAR COUNTY, TEXAS** |
| **v.** | **§**<br>**§** | |
| **TEXAS SECRETARY OF STATE; Robert S. Howden in his official capacity as THE TEXAS SECRETARY OF STATE; TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY; and Freeman F. Martin in his official capacity as DIRECTOR OF THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY,**<br>***Defendants.*** | **§**<br>**§**<br>**§**<br>**§**<br>**§**<br>**§**<br>**§**<br>**§** | **_____ JUDICIAL DISTRICT** |

**Declaration of Karla Maradiaga**

I, Karla Maradiaga, declare that:

1. I am over the age of 18, of sound mind, and competent to make this declaration.
2. The facts stated herein are true and within my personal knowledge.
3. I am an attorney licensed in Texas. My State Bar number is 24126746. I am employed by the Texas Civil Rights Project, and my office address is 1405 Montopolis Drive, Austin, TX, 78741. My birthday is August 12, 1993.
4. I am one of the attorneys representing Plaintiffs League of Women Voters of Texas and MOVE Texas Civic Fund in the above-styled case.

Doc ID: 4df93fc635678bf742aefccef690a0d9a9213935

5. I have read the above Original Verified Petition. I verify that Exhibits 1-8 are true and correct copies of documents sent to me by Defendants or that the Texas Civil Rights project sent to Defendants electronically.
6. **Exhibit D-1** is a true and correct copy of a public record I received from Defendant DPS in response to a public record request. The document was sent to me by electronic transmission through the DPS public records portal on July 30, 2026.
7. **Exhibit D-2** is a true and correct copy of a public record I received from Defendant DPS in response to a public record request. The document was sent to me by electronic transmission through the DPS public records portal on July 30, 2026.
8. **Exhibit D-3** is a true and correct copy of a public record I received from Defendant DPS in response to a public record request. The document was sent to me by electronic transmission through the DPS public records portal on July 30, 2026.
9. **Exhibit D-4** is a true and correct copy of a letter that TCRP, Waters Kraus Paul & Siegel, and Plaintiff League of Women Voters Texas sent to Defendants detailing issues with the online DPS voter registration system and requesting information about the steps Defendants were taking to remedy them. I personally emailed the letter to Defendants on July 23, 2026.
10. **Exhibit D-5** is a true and correct copy of Defendant SOS's response to the July 23, 2026 letter from TCRP (Exhibit 4). The letter was sent to me by email on August 6, 2026 on behalf of Mr. Adam Bitter.
11. **Exhibit D-6** is a true and correct copy of Defendant DPS's response to the July 23, 2026 letter from TCRP (Exhibit 4). The letter was sent to me by email on August 6, 2026 on behalf of Mr. D. Phillip Adkins.

12. **Exhibit D-7** is a true and correct copy of Defendant DPS's letter brief to the Texas Attorney General regarding the Texas Civil Rights Project's public record request. The letter was sent to me by electronic transmission through the DPS public records portal on July 30, 2026 by Mr. Brian Riemenschneider.
13. **Exhibit D-8** is a true and correct copy of Defendant SOS's letter brief to the Texas Attorney General regarding the Texas Civil Rights Project's public record request. The letter was sent to me by email on September 17, 2026 by Assistant General Counsel Jennie Hilbig.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed in Harris County, Texas, on 10 / 08 / 2026.

_____
Karla Maradiaga
Texas Civil Rights Project, Staff Attorney

Doc ID: 4df93fc635678bf742aefccef690a0d9a9213935

| | |
|---|---|
| Title | Declaration of K. Maradiaga FINAL FOR SIG.pdf |
| File name | Declaration%20of%...L%20FOR%20SIG.pdf |
| Document ID | 4df93fc635678bf742aefccef690a0d9a9213935 |
| Audit trail date format | MM / DD / YYYY |
| Status | Signed |

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## Document History

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| SENT | **10 / 09 / 2026** 02:24:54 UTC | Sent for signature to Karla Maradiaga (kmaradiaga@texascivilrightsproject.org) by services@clio.com acting on behalf of kmaradiaga@texascivilrightsproject.org IP: 108.244.67.187 |
| VIEWED | **10 / 09 / 2026** 02:25:13 UTC | Viewed by Karla Maradiaga (kmaradiaga@texascivilrightsproject.org) IP: 108.244.67.187 |
| SIGNED | **10 / 09 / 2026** 02:26:19 UTC | Signed by Karla Maradiaga (kmaradiaga@texascivilrightsproject.org) IP: 108.244.67.187 |
| COMPLETED | **10 / 09 / 2026** 02:26:19 UTC | The document has been completed. |

# EXHIBIT “D-1”

record and notify SOS accordingly. It is also worth noting that, separate from the daily voter registration file, the Department sends SOS a daily update file covering all transactions in which a customer has changed their name, address, date of birth, or driver license/ID number. Ms. address change would have been captured in that file and transmitted to SOS. For questions about how SOS processes address change updates, we recommend contacting SOS directly.

Sheri Gipson, Chief
Driver License Division
Texas Department of Public Safety

**From:** Hibbs, Rebekah <Rebekah.Hibbs@dps.texas.gov>
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 10, 2026 8:32 AM
**To:** Gipson, Sheri <Sheri.Gipson@dps.texas.gov>
**Cc:** Gomez, Frances <Frances.Gomez@dps.texas.gov>; Calhoun, Amy D <Amy.Calhoun@dps.texas.gov>
**Subject:** FW: Follow up

Sheri,
Here is my proposed response.

We were recently made aware of an issue with voter registration applications done during online transactions that occurred from December 6, 2025 until it was fixed on February 26, 2026. The Department of Information Resources and their vendor made a programming change to the online process that resulted in voter registration applications not being saved in their system. Customers who selected "yes" were able to see the selection on their transaction receipt, but it was not sent to the Department. We notified the SOS immediately of the situation. DIR and their vendor were unable to identify the impacted records, so we can only update voter registration selections in our system if the customer provides us with a copy of the receipt.

Ms. completed an online address change on December 15, 2025. If she selected "yes" and can provide us with a copy of the receipt she was emailed, we can update her record and notify SOS of the update. While she was not included in the daily voter registration file we send to SOS, we also send a daily update file of all transactions where a customer has changed their name, address, date of birth or driver license/ID card number. Ms. address change would have been included in that file and sent to SOS. The SOS representatives will have to answer your question about how the address change process works in their system.

Rebekah Hibbs
HQ Operations Director
Driver License Division
p. 512-424-5001

**DPS Core Values: Integrity, Accountability, Teamwork and Excellence**

Thank you, Amy. I know you verified that our constituent Bethany Rainwater changed her driver license address on December 15, 2025. I believe you said she made that change online. You said the files transfer from DPS to SOS daily. And of course, SOS sends files to the county elections offices. I can't imagine why Ms. Rainwater's address wasn't updated to reflect her Comal County address by the time the primary election rolled around on March 3. Please advise if anyone can figure out what happened. Thank you!

Kelly Donegan Follis
District Office Caseworker
Senator Donna Campbell, M.D.
229 Hunters Village, Suite 105
New Braunfels, Texas 78132
District Office: 830.626.0065
Capitol Office: 512.463.0125

**From:** Calhoun, Amy D <Amy.Calhoun@dps.texas.gov>
**Sent:** Monday, March 9, 2026 2:07 PM
**To:** Kelly Follis <kelly.follis@senate.texas.gov>
**Cc:** Lillian Eder <leder@sos.texas.gov>; LSalazar@sos.texas.gov
**Subject:** Follow up

You don't often get email from amy.calhoun@dps.texas.gov. Learn why this is important

Ms Kelly,

Per our conversation this afternoon. DPS sends daily files to the Secretary of State (SOS). I am including Lillian Eder and Leticia Salazar on this email for a response on what happens with the files on DPS sends to SOS.

Thank you,

Amy Calhoun
Manager – License & Record Service
Driver License Division
Phone: (512) 424-5492
amy.calhoun@dps.texas.gov

This message contains information which may be confidential and privileged. Unless you are the addressee (or authorized to receive for the addressee), you may not use, copy or disclose to anyone the message or any information contained in the message. If you have received this in error, please delete the message.

# EXHIBIT “D-2”

**From:** Hibbs, Rebekah
**Sent:** Wed, 11 Mar 2026 13:13:40 +0000
**To:** Gomez, Frances
**Cc:** Gipson, Sheri
**Subject:** FW: Follow up

FYI

Rebekah Hibbs
HQ Operations Director
Driver License Division
p. 512-424-5001

**DPS Core Values: Integrity, Accountability, Teamwork and Excellence**
Driver License Division leadership will support a "People Matter" culture that consists of collaborative and trusting relationships where open communication and mutual respect are the cornerstones. S.C.O.R.E.

**From:** Kelly Follis <kelly.follis@senate.texas.gov>
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 11, 2026 7:57 AM
**To:** Calhoun, Amy D <Amy.Calhoun@dps.texas.gov>
**Cc:** Lillian Eder <leder@sos.texas.gov>; LSalazar@sos.texas.gov; Hibbs, Rebekah <Rebekah.Hibbs@dps.texas.gov>
**Subject:** RE: Follow up

**Caution:**
This message came from outside your organization. If you believe this to be a malicious and/or phishing email, please report it using the Phishing Button or send this email as an attachment to .

Thank you. I'll run this by SOS.
Kelly Donegan Follis
District Office Caseworker
Senator Donna Campbell, M.D.
229 Hunters Village, Suite 105
New Braunfels, Texas 78132
District Office: 830.626.0065
Capitol Office: 512.463.0125

**From:** Calhoun, Amy D <Amy.Calhoun@dps.texas.gov>
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 10, 2026 5:52 PM
**To:** Kelly Follis <kelly.follis@senate.texas.gov>
**Cc:** Lillian Eder <leder@sos.texas.gov>; LSalazar@sos.texas.gov; Hibbs, Rebekah

<Rebekah.Hibbs@dps.texas.gov>
**Subject:** RE: Follow up

You don't often get email from amy.calhoun@dps.texas.gov. Learn why this is important

Kelly.

The Department recently became aware of an issue affecting voter registration information collected through the online driver license feature on Texas.gov. This issue impacted transactions completed between December 6, 2025, and February 26, 2026.

The Department of Information Resources (DIR) administers Texas.gov. A programming change made by DIR and their vendor caused affirmative voter registration selections made during online driver license and ID transactions to not be saved or transmitted to the Department. As a result, customers who selected "yes" to the voter registration question in the online driver license process received a transaction receipt reflecting that choice, but due to the programming error the data was not transmitted to the department where it would be recorded in the driver record and included in the daily voter registration file sent to the Secretary of State (SOS).

Upon learning of this issue, DPS immediately notified SOS. Because DIR and their vendor were unable to identify the specific impacted records, the Department has been able to correct voter registration selections only when a customer provides a copy of their transaction receipt. DIR has since resolved the programming error.

Regarding Ms. , she completed an online address change on December 15, 2025. If she selected "yes" on the voter registration question and can provide a copy of her emailed receipt, we can update her driver record and notify SOS accordingly. It is also worth noting that, separate from the daily voter registration file, the Department sends SOS a daily update file covering all transactions in which a customer has changed their name, address, date of birth, or driver license/ID number. Ms. s address change would have been captured in that file and transmitted to SOS. For questions about how SOS processes address change updates, we recommend contacting SOS directly.

Thank you,
Amy

**From:** Kelly Follis <kelly.follis@senate.texas.gov>
**Sent:** Monday, March 9, 2026 2:17 PM
**To:** Calhoun, Amy D <Amy.Calhoun@dps.texas.gov>
**Cc:** Lillian Eder <leder@sos.texas.gov>; LSalazar@sos.texas.gov
**Subject:** RE: Follow up

**Caution:**

This message came from outside your organization. If you believe this to be a malicious and/or phishing email, please report it using the Phishing Button or send this email as an attachment to .

Thank you, Amy. I know you verified that our constituent changed her driver license address on December 15, 2025. I believe you said she

# EXHIBIT “D-3”

**From:** Hibbs, Rebekah
**Sent:** Thu, 12 Mar 2026 19:59:43 +0000
**To:** Gipson, Sheri
**Cc:** Calhoun, Amy D; Gomez, Frances; Dennis, Mimzie
**Subject:** FW: Driver Records Election data Voter Portal 02/16/2026-03/11/2026

Sheri,

Below are the counts and charts from the Voter Portal team for the March election.

This includes the overall number of 3,168 inquiries and 992 of those were conducted online during the DIR programming issue. We changed 449 records to yes due to a clerical error during an in-person transaction. We also responded to 53 election officials to provide an online receipt because the voter claimed they had selected yes during the DIR programming issue, and four records were changed to yes because we received their online receipt.

Please let Amy or I know if you need anything else. Thanks!

Rebekah Hibbs
HQ Operations Director
Driver License Division
p. 512-424-5001

**DPS Core Values: Integrity, Accountability, Teamwork and Excellence**
Driver License Division leadership will support a "People Matter" culture that consists of collaborative and trusting relationships where open communication and mutual respect are the cornerstones. S.C.O.R.E.

**From:** Calhoun, Amy D <Amy.Calhoun@dps.texas.gov>
**Sent:** Thursday, March 12, 2026 2:41 PM
**To:** Hibbs, Rebekah <Rebekah.Hibbs@dps.texas.gov>
**Subject:** RE: Driver Records Election data for Voter Portal/701 Inbox- 02/16/2026 thru 03/11/2026

Rebekah,

From February 16, 2026 till March 11, 2026, Driver records has responded to 3,168 voter portal and 701 Inbox inquires. Of that total amount, 992 inquiries had customer Web/Toll transactions from the period of December 06, 2025 through February 27, 2026. Only 4 have been changed to "yes" with the customer providing us a copy of the receipt indicating they selected "yes".

*the number for canned responses relates to how many emails we responded with the approved canned responses informing them that we will need a copy of the receipt to validate the customer initial response for transactions occurring from December 06, 2025 through February 27, 2026

| Voter Portal | | 701 Inbox | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2/16/2026 | 0 | 2/16/2026 | 0 |
| 2/17/2026 | 16 | 2/17/2026 | 34 |
| 2/18/2026 | 43 | 2/18/2026 | 20 |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2/19/2026 | 60 | 2/19/2026 | 7 |
| 2/20/2026 | 49 | 2/20/2026 | 0 |
| 2/23/2026 | 86 | 2/23/2026 | 40 |
| 2/24/2026 | 25 | 2/24/2026 | 0 |
| 2/25/2026 | 47 | 2/25/2026 | 23 |
| 2/26/2026 | 51 | 2/26/2026 | 6 |
| 2/27/2026 | 194 | 2/27/2026 | 44 |
| 3/2/2026 | 97 | 3/2/2026 | 8 |
| 3/3/2026 | 160 | 3/3/2026 | 16 |
| 3/4/2026 | 425 | 3/4/2026 | 67 |
| 3/5/2026 | 644 | 3/5/2026 | 98 |
| 3/6/2026 | 598 | 3/6/2026 | 65 |
| 3/7/2026 | 29 | 3/9/2026 | 0 |
| 3/9/2026 | 113 | 3/10/2026 | 72 |
| 3/10/2026 | 24 | | |
| 3/11/2026 | 7 | | |
| Total | 2668 | Total | 500 |

# EXHIBIT “D-4”

TEXAS CIVIL RIGHTS PROJECT

P.O. Box 17757
Austin, TX 78760
P: 512-474-5073 | F: 512-474-5074
txcivilrights.org

July 23, 2026

Mr. Robert Howden
Texas Secretary of State
Elections Division
P.O. Box 12060
Austin, Texas 78711-2060
elections@sos.texas.gov
secretary@sos.texas.gov

Mr. Adam Bitter
Texas Secretary of State, General Counsel
P.O. Box 12060
Austin, Texas 78711-2060
generalcounsel@sos.texas.gov

Mr. Freeman F. Martin
Director of the Texas Department of Public Safety
P.O. Box 4087
Austin, TX 78773-0001

Mr. Phillip Adkins
Texas Department of Public Safety, General Counsel
PO Box 4087
Austin, TX 78773-0140
Phillip.adkins@dps.texas.gov

Re: Potential Breach of *Stringer II* Settlement Agreement

Dear Secretary Howden, Director Martin, and General Counsel Bitter and Adkins,

The Texas Civil Rights Project (TCRP), Waters Kraus Paul & Siegel, and the League of Women Voters Texas, are writing to notify you of, and request more information about, delays in voter registration via the Department of Public Safety ("DPS") online driver's license renewal and change-of-address process. We also request prompt resolution of those delays by DPS and the Secretary of State ("SOS").

In 2021, we represented voters and civic engagement organizations in reaching a settlement agreement with SOS and DPS in *Stringer v. Hughs*, No. 5:20-cv-46-OLG (W.D. Tex.) ("*Stringer II*"). The agreement required SOS and DPS to make permanent changes to Texas's online driver license renewal and change-of-address process to ensure that simultaneous voter registration is

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available to applicants who update or renew their driver's license online.[1] Through this settlement agreement, Texas was brought into compliance with Section 5 of the NVRA, which requires that a driver's license application simultaneously serve as a voter registration application. 52 U.S.C. § 20503(a)(1). Since then, millions of voters in Texas have benefitted from the agreement and updated their voter registrations online in a secure and reliable process administered by DPS and SOS.

Recently, however, TCRP has received complaints from eligible voters experiencing serious delays and failures when they update their voter registration through DPS. As a result, Texas voters showed up to the polls during recent elections believing they had successfully updated their voter registration on DPS's website, only to discover their registration was not updated. Several of those stories are included below. Further, in September 2025, the Texas Association of County Election Officials (TACEO) published a survey about the Texas Election Administration Management (TEAM) system showing that nearly half of election officials found features for processing voter registration applications through DPS "difficult" and over a quarter found those features "not functioning."[2] If these issues are not resolved, we fear more voters will be impacted, and potentially disenfranchised, during the general election this November.

1. **The experiences of individual voters.**

On March 26, 2026, Ms. Debbie Zintgraff updated her driver's license address online after moving from one address to another within Bexar County. While updating her driver's license address, she also checked the box to update her voter registration. On May 6, 2026, Ms. Zintgraff checked her voter registration on the SOS and Bexar County Elections website. Her registration address was still not updated for the May 2 Election or the May 26 Runoff Election. Luckily, because Ms. Zintgraff had moved within her Bexar County, she was able to vote in both elections.

[1] The *Stringer II* settlement agreement was executed in July 2021. *Stringer v. Hughs*, No. 5:20-cv-46-OLG (W.D. Tex.), Dkt. 113-1 at 2-12 ("Settlement Agreement"). It requires DPS and SOS to "utilize and make permanent [ ] changes to the online driver license renewal and change-of-address process to ensure that simultaneous voter registration is available to applicants renewing their driver license or identification card or changing the address associated with their driver license or identification card." This duty to make simultaneous online voter registration available to voter entails accepting online voter registration information on the DPS portal, processing and transmitting the information from DPS to SOS electronically, and updating the information on SOS's Texas Election Administration Management (TEAM) system.

[2] TEAM Survey Summary (September 2, 2025), https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/26105772-team-survey-summary-09022025docx/.

TEXAS CIVIL RIGHTS PROJECT

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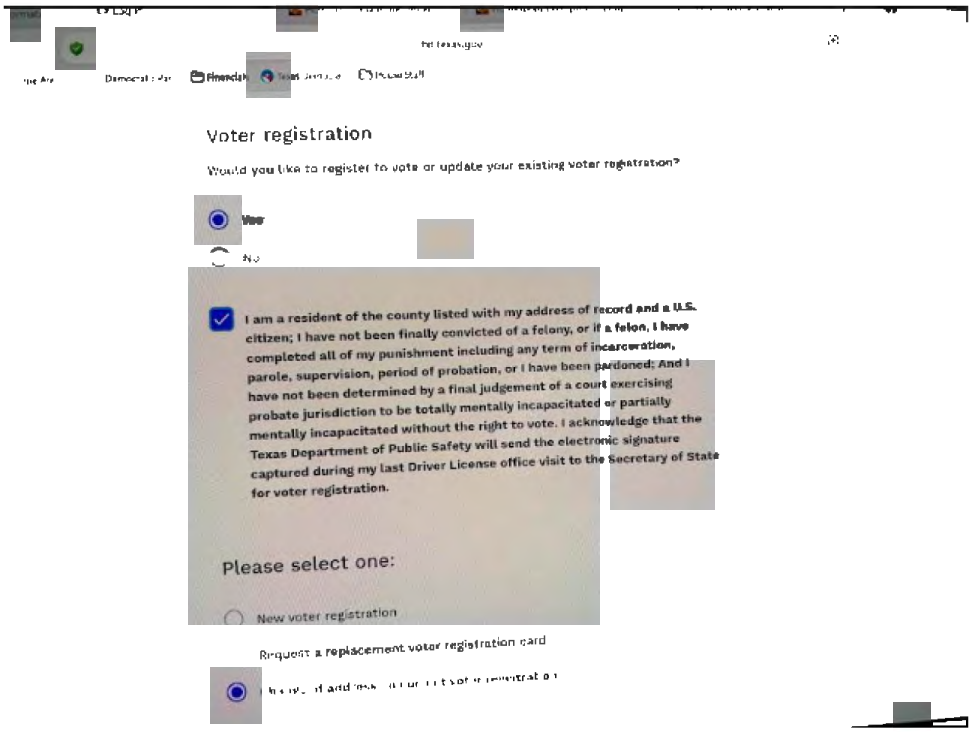



*Image 1: Screenshot from Bexar county voter Debbie Zintgraff, who updated her driver's license on March 26, 2026. By May 6, 2026 her voter registration certificate was still not updated.*

Ms. Zintgraff promptly reported the issue to the SOS's Elections Division, DPS and the Bexar County Elections Department. On June 16, Adam Moses from the SOS Elections Division emailed Ms. Zintgraff that "last night [their] voter registration team deployed a large production build that was designed, among other fixes, to address some outstanding issues relating to DPS applications." He also said there would be further testing of the update the next week. A month later, Ms. Zintgraff emailed Mr. Moses, asking for an update on the issue. On July 20, he responded by email that "[o]n the legal side, I haven't heard anything further, but that's not uncommon since our group has some separation from the voter registration team. Regular updates keep rolling out, however, and I'm certainly hopeful that we're ironing out some of these issues." Ms. Zintgraff's address is now updated on the SOS and Bexar County Election website after she took matters into her own hands and updated her address online herself through both agencies.

On November 29, 2025, Mr. Zachary Dolling updated his driver's license online after moving from one address to another within Travis County. While updating his driver's license address, he also checked the box to update his voter registration. The first time Mr. Dolling attempted to vote in Travis County after updating his voter registration online through DPS, he

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was told his registration had not updated. Mr. Dolling was only able to vote because he submitted a Statement of Residence.

On June 12, 2026, Ms. Stephanie Drenka updated her driver's license online after moving from one address to another within Dallas County. While updating her driver's license address, she checked the box to update her voter registration. As of July 21, 2026, Ms. Drenka's old address is still listed on the SOS and Dallas County voter lookups. Further, Ms. Drenka received in the mail a Notice to Confirm Voter Registration Address dated June 26, 2026, 14 days after she updated her voter registration on the DPS website. The notice provides instructions to update her voter registration address online within 30 days and warns Ms. Drenka "if you do not respond at all to this notice, your registration will be canceled if you have not confirmed your address either by completing the response form or confirming your address when voting before November 30 following the second general election for state and county officers that occurs after the date the confirmation notice is mailed." On July 21, 2026, Ms. Drenka updated her voter registration address online on www.texas.gov.

2. **Widespread concerns about the consequences of noncompliance with the Settlement Agreement and the NVRA.**

The League of Women Voters of Texas ("LWVTX") is a statewide non-profit, nonpartisan organization and its mission includes empowering voters, defending democracy and envisioning a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge and the confidence to participate. LWVTX was a plaintiff in the *Stringer II* litigation and is concerned about registration delays during a midterm election year and following a record-breaking 2026 primary. LWVTX registers eligible individuals to vote and has hundreds of members across Texas. Some of LWVTX's members simultaneously register to vote or update their voter registration while renewing and/or updating the address on their driver's license online using the DPS website. Should the DPS registration failures continue, LWVTX members stand to be harmed.

TCRP and Waters Kraus share these concerns. We are concerned that the individual voter experiences described above are evidence that Texas is frequently failing to register Texas voters when they submit a driver's license renewal or change-of-address application online. Texas voters are checking "yes" when asked whether they would like to register to vote or update their registration on the DPS website, yet their registrations are not being updated. Instead, to be able to vote, the onus is placed on the voter to take some extra step, such as contacting their county registrar to manually update their voter registrations, or submit a statement of residence. This extra step for voter registration is precisely what the Settlement Agreement was meant to prevent. *See Stringer v. Hughs*, No. SA-16-CV-257-OG, 2020 WL 6875182, at *9, 14 (W.D. Tex. Aug. 28, 2020) (noting that where an individual has to take extra steps to register to vote, including delivering their registration to the county registrar, the transaction is not "simultaneous" as required under the NVRA).

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txcivilrights.org

Under the NVRA the Secretary of State *shall* "'ensure that any eligible applicant is registered to vote in an election' whenever a valid voter registration form is [ ] received by the appropriate state official no later than 30 days before the date of the election." *U.S. Student Ass'n Found. v. Land*, 546 F.3d 373, 376 (6th Cir. 2008) (citing 52 U.S.C. § 20507(a)(1) ("In the administration of voter registration for elections for Federal office, each State shall ensure that any eligible applicant is registered to vote in an election . . . ") (emphasis added)). Each voter referenced below is an eligible applicant, and attested as part of the online registration process that she is a U.S. citizen and is not barred from voting due to a criminal record or mental incapacity. Not only must these applications be accepted by law, they must be processed expeditiously. Specifically, a voter registration submitted through DPS must be transmitted to the Secretary of State *within ten days* of acceptance. 52 U.S.C. § 20504(e)(1)(emphasis added). Yet weeks after registering to vote online, Texas voters remain unregistered.

### 3. Request

Since the Settlement Agreement was reached, over a million Texans per year have updated their voter registrations online through DPS.[3] Under the terms of the Settlement Agreement and the NVRA, DPS and SOS must ensure that the driver's license application serves simultaneously for voter registration. The examples of voter registration delays above are emblematic of a larger problem affecting many more Texas voter registrations, and they indicate a lack of compliance with the Settlement Agreement or the NVRA. Failures in the simultaneous registration process stand to harm countless Texans if they are not resolved ahead of November general election. Late summer is a particularly critical period for changes of address, with families and students often required to move before the school year.

We hope DPS and SOS are able to resolve these simultaneous voter registration problems as quickly as possible. To that end, we request a response by **August 7, 2026** describing DPS and SOS's understanding of the simultaneous-registration delay, the steps they have taken to fix the issue, and confirming that the issue has in fact been fixed. In the event that DPS and SOS are not able to correct the issue by **August 7, 2026**, we additionally request (1) that your response set out steps DPS and SOS have taken to fix the issue well before the October 5, 2026 registration deadline for the November general election, including a timeline for planned updates to the TEAM system or any other relevant system; (2) notice to the public about DPS registration issues via a press release, with instructions on where and how the public can report DPS registration issues and clear steps a voter may take to resolve the issue sufficiently in advance of the October 5, 2026 registration deadline; (3) notice to county election administrators about DPS registration issues,

[3] *By the Numbers*, Texas Department of Public Safety Driver License Division, https://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/forms/seminar/2025/43rd-annual-election-law-seminar-for-county-elections-officials-2025/dps-presentation-for-sos-2025.pdf#search=DPS%20registration at 8.

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with instructions for counties on how to update registrations if needed; and (4) county-by-county data about the number of DPS voter registration failures since June 1, 2025. If timely measures are not taken to resolve this issue, we reserve all rights to pursue an action for breach of contract under the Settlement Agreement.

Please respond to this letter by via email to kmaradiaga@texascivilrightsproject.org by **August 7, 2026.** In the meantime, we are available to meet and confer regarding these issues at your earliest opportunity.

Thank you,

Karla Maradiaga
Sarah Chen
Texas Civil Rights Project
1405 Montopolis Drive
Austin, TX 78741-3438
(512) 474-5073
kmaradiaga@texascivilrightsproject.org
schen@texascivilrightsproject.org

Caitlyn Silhan
Waters Kraus Paul & Siegel
3141 Hood Street
Suite 700
Dallas, Texas 75219
(214) 357-6244
csilhan@waterskraus.com

Tae Mi Lee
President, League of Women Voters of Texas
1212 Guadalupe St. #107
Austin, TX 78701
(512) 472-1100
president@lwvtexas.org

*Enclosure: Stringer II Settlement Agreement*

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
**FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS**
**SAN ANTONIO DIVISION**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| JARROD STRINGER, *et al.*, | § | |
| | § | |
| *Plaintiffs,* | § | |
| | § | |
| and | § | |
| | § | |
| TEXAS DEMOCRATIC PARTY, DCCC, and DSCC, | § | CIVIL NO. SA-20-CV-46-OG |
| | § | |
| *Intervenor-Plaintiffs,* | § | |
| | § | |
| v. | § | |
| | § | |
| RUTH HUGHS, in her official capacity as Texas Secretary of State, and STEVEN C. McCRAW, in his official capacity as Director of the Texas Department of Public Safety, | § | |
| | § | |
| *Defendants.* | § | |

**SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT**

Jarrod Stringer, MOVE Texas Civic Fund, League of Women Voters of Texas, Nayeli Gomez, and John Harms (collectively, the "Plaintiffs"); the individuals named in their official capacities on behalf of the Texas Secretary of State and the Texas Department of Public Safety (collectively, the "Defendants"); and the Texas Democratic Party, DCCC (Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee), and DSCC (Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee) (collectively, the "Intervenors"), all of whom are the "Parties" to the above-captioned "Litigation," have reached a full and final settlement of the Litigation as set forth in this Settlement Agreement (the "Agreement"). Therefore, for the consideration described herein, parties agree as follows:

1. Defendants, their agencies, and any successors to their responsibilities will continue to utilize and make permanent the changes to the online driver license renewal and change-of-

address process to ensure that simultaneous voter registration is available to applicants renewing their driver license or identification card or changing the address associated with their driver license or identification card. Except as otherwise stated in this Agreement, the changes contemplated by this paragraph have already been implemented pursuant to the Court's January 30, 2020, and August 28, 2020 preliminary injunctions, ECF Nos. 46 and 97, and constitute a sufficient process.

2. Defendants will maintain language on the DPS driver license online portal website that reflects accurately the current process for handling voter registration requests as described in Paragraph 1. The language contemplated by this paragraph has already been implemented by Defendants following the Court's May 5, 2021 status conference, and is sufficient.

3. Defendants agree that information related to the process for handling voter registration requests described in Paragraph 1 may be subject to disclosure under the Texas Public Information Act or other applicable law, pursuant to the statutory provisions governing such disclosures. Moreover, Defendants agree to maintain records regarding individuals who checked "yes" during the online voter registration process described in Paragraph 1.

4. This Agreement does not supersede, and is not intended to supersede, any of the Defendants' obligations under federal or state law, whether such obligations exist now or at any time while this Agreement is effective. If Defendants later assert that any such federal or state law obligations require Defendants to modify the process outlined herein, Plaintiffs reserve the right to bring any claim under federal or state law challenging such modifications.

5. Nothing in this Agreement, or any action taken under this Agreement, is an admission of liability—nor should it be interpreted as an admission of liability—by any of the Defendants, or by any current or former employee, agent, or representative of the Defendants.

6. If there is cause to believe that a breach of this Agreement has occurred, the Parties agree that all claims of breach shall be adjudicated through a new lawsuit brought in state or federal court in the Western District of Texas (San Antonio Division).

7. Defendants will pay the Plaintiffs a total of $175,000 for the Plaintiffs' attorneys' fees and costs incurred in this Litigation through checks payable to the Texas Civil Rights Project, with $87,500 payable by the Texas Secretary of State and $87,500 payable by the Texas Department of Public Safety. The Plaintiffs shall provide the Defendants with its IRS Form 1099 for the payee, and the Defendants shall make payment as expeditiously as possible. The Parties agree that other than the payment of the $175,000, each party will bear its own fees and costs incurred in connection with this Litigation.

8. The Intervenors expressly waive any claim for their attorneys' fees and costs incurred in connection with this Litigation.

9. The Parties agree to file joint motions to dismiss with prejudice all of the Plaintiffs' and Intervenors' claims pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(a)(2) within three business days of Plaintiffs' receipt of the fees and costs payment set out above in paragraph 7. The Parties understand and agree that the enforceability and validity of this agreement are expressly conditioned upon entry of an order by the United States District Court for the Western District of Texas, San Antonio Division, dismissing all of the Plaintiffs' and Intervenors' claims against all of the Defendants in all of the consolidated cases in their entirety with prejudice.

10. Upon the Plaintiffs' receipt of the fees and costs payment set out above in paragraph 7, Plaintiffs and Intervenors knowingly and voluntarily agree to fully, finally, and forever unconditionally release, acquit, and discharge all of the Defendants, their agents and employees, including their attorneys and former employees (the "Releasees"), from any and all debts,

demands, actions, causes of action, suits, accounts, covenants, contracts, agreements, damages, losses, expenses (including attorneys' fees and costs incurred), claims or rights under any and all federal and state laws, and any and all claims, demands and liabilities whatsoever of every name and nature, both in law and in equity, whether known or not, which the Plaintiffs and Intervenors now have or could have asserted in this Litigation. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Plaintiffs and Intervenors may bring an action to enforce the provisions of this Agreement as provided for in paragraph 6. The Plaintiffs agree to withdraw any outstanding NVRA notices related to this Litigation. Nothing in this Agreement prevents Plaintiffs and Intervenors from bringing an action against Defendants if data, methodological, or other systemic limitations cause the simultaneous registration procedures outlined herein to fail to permit simultaneous voter registration to applicants renewing their driver's licenses or identification cards as well as those who are requesting a change of address.

11. Subject to and in consideration of the releases from the Plaintiffs and Intervenors, Defendants fully and finally release the Plaintiffs and Intervenors, their agents and employees, including their attorneys and former employees, from any and all debts, demands, actions, causes of action, suits, accounts, covenants, contracts, agreements, damages, losses, expenses (including attorneys' fees and costs incurred), claims or rights under any and all federal and state laws, and any and all claims, demands and liabilities whatsoever of every name and nature, both in law and in equity, whether known or not, which the Defendants now have or could have asserted in this Litigation.

12. The individuals whose signatures are affixed to this Agreement in a representative capacity represent and warrant that they are authorized to execute this Agreement on behalf of, and to bind, the entity on whose behalf the signature is affixed.

13. The Parties acknowledge they have had the right to consult with an attorney before signing this Agreement. The Parties represent and warrant they have read this Agreement and reviewed it with their counsel, and further represent and warrant that they have executed this Agreement of their own free will and accord without further representation of any kind or character not expressly set forth herein.

14. This Agreement shall be construed as if all Parties jointly prepared it, and any uncertainty or ambiguity in this Agreement shall not be interpreted against any one Party.

15. This Agreement contains the entire understanding of the Parties hereto, supersedes any and all prior agreements or understandings, statements, promises, or inducements contrary to the terms of this Agreement, and shall not be amended except by written instrument expressly referring to this Agreement and signed by all of the Parties hereto.

16. This Agreement is binding on the Parties, their successors in office, employees, representatives, delegates, agents, assigns, and all persons acting on their behalf, to the extent permitted by law or required by this Agreement.

17. This Agreement may be executed in counterparts, each of which shall constitute an integrated and enforceable whole.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, having represented and warranted their authority to enter into and execute this Agreement, have executed this Agreement effective as of the last date written below.

DocuSigned by:
Jarrod Stringer
9377F34C2D8A442...

[Signatory for Jarrod Stringer] — July 23, 2021 — Date

DocuSigned by:
Sarahi Rudelo
DC4CEACC205248B...

[Signatory for MOVE Texas Civic Fund] — July 26, 2021 — Date

DocuSigned by:
93979B7BA5B7426...

[Signatory for League of Women Voters of Texas] — July 25, 2021 — Date

DocuSigned by:
NAYELI GOMEZ
48C6E88421D7480...

[Signatory for Nayeli Gomez] — July 26, 2021 — Date

DocuSigned by:
John Harms
A07D48E5C428444...

[Signatory for John Harms] — July 24, 2021 — Date

DocuSigned by:
Adam Bitter
21F78F5D97A743A...

[Signatory for the Texas Secretary of State] — July 26, 2021 — Date

DocuSigned by:
Kathleen T. Murphy
B2F1AC83B82648E...

[Signatory for the Texas Department of Public Safety] — July 26, 2021 — Date

DocuSigned by:
Gilberto Hinojosa
B0DDF59883F7471...

[Signatory for the Texas Democratic Party] — July 26, 2021 — Date

DocuSigned by:
49451F607D264FB...

[Signatory for DCCC] — July 26, 2021 — Date

DocuSigned by:
Allison Wright
66CB5FE5FDD346F...

[Signatory for DSCC] — July 25, 2021 — Date

# EXHIBIT “D-5”

# The State of Texas

Executive Division
Capitol Building, 1E.8
P.O. Box 12887
Austin, Texas 78711-2887

Phone: 512-463-5770
Fax: 512-475-2761
Dial 7-1-1 For Relay Services
www.sos.texas.gov

Robert S. Howden
Secretary of State

August 6, 2026

Karla Maradiaga
Texas Civil Rights Project
1405 Montopolis Drive
Austin, Texas 78741

Dear Ms. Maradiaga:

Thank you for contacting the Office of the Texas Secretary of State (the Office). We have received your July 23, 2026 letter regarding alleged "delays in voter registration via the Department of Public Safety . . . online driver's license renewal and change-of-address process."

Rest assured that the Office is well aware of its voter registration obligations under federal and state law, as well as the settlement agreement reached in the *Stringer* litigation. We have been—and remain—in full compliance with these requirements. Every day, the Office receives voter registration files from DPS and sends the records to county voter registrars, who are responsible for receiving and acting on voter registration applications under Texas law.

Your reliance on *three* purported instances across the State—out of more than 18 million registrants—is sorely misguided. Indeed, nothing in your letter establishes—or even suggests—that the Secretary of State or DPS has failed to comply with the *Stringer* settlement or is otherwise violating federal or state law.

Should you choose to proceed with litigation on this matter, we stand ready to vigorously contest your allegations.

Sincerely,

Adam Bitter
General Counsel
Office of the Texas Secretary of State

cc: Caitlyn Silhan
Waters Kraus Paul & Siegel

Tae Mi Lee
League of Women Voters of Texas

Freeman F. Martin
Phillip Adkins
Texas Department of Public Safety

# EXHIBIT “D-6”

kmaradiaga@texascivilrightsproject.org (
schen@texascivilrightsproject.org (Via e

csilhan@waterskraus.com (

president@lwvtexas.org (

# EXHIBIT “D-7”

# TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

**5805 N LAMAR BLVD • BOX 4087 • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78773-0001**
**512/424-2000**
www.dps.texas.gov


07/30/2026

***Via EFile***

Office of the Attorney General
Open Records Division
PO Box 12548
Austin, TX 78711-2548

RE: Public Information Request for variety of information related to online voter registration – DPS PIR P019285-071626

**DATE AMENDED REQUEST RECEIVED BY DPS: 07/16/2026**
**DATE REQUEST FOR RULING SUBMITTED TO ATTORNEY GENERAL: 07/30/2026**

Dear Open Records Division:

The Department of Public Safety (Department) received the above-referenced amended/follow up request for information from Karla Maradiago on July 16, 2026. The Department has provided some responsive information to the requester. The Department believes the remaining responsive information is excepted from required public disclosure pursuant to section 552.101, 552.107, 552.111, 552.139, 418.177, 418.181, 2059.055, and 552.305 of the Government Code. Accordingly, we are requesting a ruling regarding the release of these records.

*Deliberative Process/Privity of Interest*

Section 552.111 states that "[a]n interagency or intraagency memorandum or letter that would not be available by law to a party in litigation with the agency is excepted from the requirements of Section 552.021." Section 552.111 encompasses the deliberative process privilege. *See* Open Records Decision No. 615 at 2 (1993). The purpose of this exception is to protect advice, opinion, and recommendation in the decisional process and to encourage open and frank discussion in the deliberative process. *See Austin v. City of San Antonio, 630* S. W.2d 391, 394 (Tex. App.-San Antonio 1982, orig. proceeding): Open Records Decision No. 538 at 1-2 (1990). Section 552.111 can also encompass communications between a governmental body and a third party, including a consultant or other party with a privity of interest. See Tex. Att'y Gen. Open Records Decision No. 561 at 9 (1990) (section 552.111 encompasses communications with party with which governmental body has privity of interest or common deliberative process).

Your office has also concluded a preliminary draft of a document intended for public release in its final form necessarily represents the drafter's advice, opinion, and recommendation with regard to the form and content of the final document, so as to be excepted from disclosure under section 552.111. *See* Open Records Decision No. 559 at 2 (1990) (applying statutory predecessor). Section

552.111 protects factual information in the draft that also will be included in the final version of the document. *See id.* at 2-3. Thus, section 552.111 encompasses the entire contents, including comments, underlining, deletions, and proofreading marks, of a preliminary draft of a policymaking document that will be released to the public in its final form. *See id.* at 2.

In Open Records Decision No. 615, your office re-examined the statutory predecessor to section 552.111 in light of the decision in *Texas Department* of *Public Safety v. Gilbreath,* 842 S.W.2d 408 (Tex. App.-Austin 1992, orig. proceeding). Your office determined section 552.111 excepts from disclosure only those internal communications that consist of advice, opinions, recommendations, and other material reflecting the policymaking processes of the governmental body. *See* ORD 615 at 5. Further, section 552.111 does not protect facts and written observations of facts and events that are severable from advice, opinions, and recommendations. *Arlington Indep. Sch. Dist. v. Tex. Attorney Gen..,* 37 S.W.3d 152 (Tex. App.-Austin 2001, no pet); *.see* ORD 615 at 5.

*Law Enforcement Sensitive/Network Security*

Section 552.101 of the Government Code states that "[i]nformation is excepted from the requirements of Section 552.021 if it is information considered to be confidential by law, either constitutional, statutory, or by judicial decision." As part of the Texas Homeland Security Act, sections 418.176 through 418.182 were added to chapter 418 of the Government Code. These provisions make confidential certain information related to terrorism and related criminal activity.

Section 552.101 encompasses section 418.177 of the Government Code, which states:

> Information is confidential if the information:
> (1) is collected, assembled, or maintained by or for a governmental entity for the purpose of preventing, detecting, or investigating an act of terrorism or related criminal activity; and
> (2) relates to an assessment by or for a governmental entity, or an assessment that is maintained by a governmental entity, of the risk or vulnerability of persons or property, including critical infrastructure, to an act of terrorism or related criminal activity.

Section 552.101 also encompasses Section 418.181 of the Government Code that "[t]hose documents or portions of documents in the possession of a governmental entity are confidential if they identify the technical details of particular vulnerabilities of critical infrastructure to an act of terrorism or a hostile act by a foreign adversary of the United States.
Critical infrastructure is defined as "all public or private assets, systems, and functions vital to the security, governance, public health and safety, economy, or morale of the state or the nation." Gov't Code § 421.001(2).

Section 552.101 also encompasses Section 2059.055 of the Government Code which provides, in pertinent part:

> (b) Network security information is confidential under this section if the information is:
> (1) related to passwords, personal identification numbers, access codes, encryption, or other components of the security system of a state agency;
> (2) collected, assembled, or maintained by or for a governmental entity to

prevent, detect, or investigate criminal activity; or
(3) related to an assessment, made by or for a governmental entity or maintained by a governmental entity, of the vulnerability of a network to criminal activity.

In addition, Section 552.139 of the Government Code states:

(a) Information is excepted from the requirements of Section 552.021 if it is information that relates to computer network security, to restricted information under Section 2059.055, or to the design, operation, or defense of a computer network.
(b) The following information is confidential:
(1) a computer network vulnerability report; and
(2) any other assessment of the extent to which data processing operations, a computer, a computer program, network, system, or system interface, or software of a governmental body or of a contractor of a governmental body is vulnerable to unauthorized access or harm, including an assessment of the extent to which the governmental body's or contractor's electronically stored information containing sensitive or critical information is vulnerable to alteration, damage, erasure, or inappropriate use.
(c) Notwithstanding the confidential nature of the information described in this section, the information may be disclosed to a bidder if the governmental body determines that providing the information is necessary for the bidder to provide an accurate bid. A disclosure under this subsection is not a voluntary disclosure for purposes of Section 552.007.

*Attorney-Client Communication*

Section 552.101 of the Government Code states that "[i]nformation is excepted from the requirements of Section 552.021 if it is information considered to be confidential by law, either constitutional, statutory, or by judicial decision." Rule 503(b)(1) of the Texas Rules of Evidence provides as follows:

A client has a privilege to refuse to disclose and to prevent any other person from disclosing confidential communications made for the purpose of facilitating the rendition of professional legal services to the client:
(A) between the client or a representative of the client and the client's lawyer or a representative of the lawyer;
(B) between the lawyer and the lawyer's representative;
(C) by the client or a representative of the client, or the client's lawyer or a representative of the lawyer, to a lawyer or a representative of a lawyer representing another party in a pending action and concerning a matter of common interest therein;
(D) between representatives of the client or between the client and a representative of the client; or
(E) among lawyers and their representatives representing the same client.

Tex. R. Evid. 503(b)(1). A communication is "confidential" if not intended to be disclosed to third persons other than those to whom disclosure is made in furtherance of the rendition of professional legal services to the client or those reasonably necessary for the transmission of the communication.

*Id.* 503(a)(5). Thus, to withhold attorney-client privileged information from disclosure under rule 503, a governmental body must:

> (1) show that the document is a communication transmitted between privileged parties or reveals a confidential communication;
> (2) identify the parties involved in the communication; and
> (3) show that the communication is confidential by explaining that it was not intended to be disclosed to third persons and that it was made in furtherance of the rendition of professional legal services to the client.

Upon a demonstration of all three factors, the information is privileged and confidential under rule 503, provided the client has not waived the privilege or the document does not fall within the purview of the exceptions to the privilege enumerated in rule 503(d). *See Pittsburgh Corning Corp. v. Caldwell*, 861 S.W.2d 423, 427 (Tex. App.—Houston [14th Dist.] 1993, no writ).

Information coming within the attorney-client privilege is also protected by section 552.107(1) of the Government Code. In Attorney General Decision ORD No. 676, your office held that a governmental entity asserting attorney-client privilege has the burden of demonstrating the elements of the privilege. First, the governmental body must demonstrate that the information constitutes or documents a communication. *Id.* at 7. Second, the communication must have been made "for the purpose of facilitating the rendition of professional legal services" to the client governmental body. Tex. R. Evid. 503(b)(1). Third, the privilege applies only to communications between or among clients, client representatives, lawyers, and lawyer representatives. Tex. R. Evid. 503(b)(1)(A)-(E). Finally, the attorney-client privilege applies only to a confidential communication. *Id.* 503(b)(1).

*Records in Question*

The representative samples provided to your office are divided according to the relevant part of the request that they would be responsive to if they were disclosed. These parts of further subdivided by the portion or portions of the Public Information Act applicable to them.

The sample labeled part 2-1 contains internal records that provide the layout of the complex database system used to issue driver licenses and identification cards. This system also serves as the database for records related to all of the driver license or identification cards issued by the state of Texas and holds personal identifying information regarding more than 40 million individuals. This makes this system critical infrastructure for the state. Not only does the document demonstrate the layout of the system, but it also provides step by step instructions on how to alter information within it. This record coupled with the others not provided as samples would show someone outside this agency how to alter information in the driver license system and database or potentially gain unauthorized access. These insights, if disclosed via the PIA, could release information that could compromise the system, which is the source of the information transmitted to the Secretary of State for voter registration purposes. The security of the driver license system is paramount, and the release of any information about how these systems are displayed or function could jeopardize their security or integrity. Thus, the Department believes this information is confidential pursuant to sections 552.101, 552.139, 418.177, 418.181, and 2059.055 of the Government Code and therefore must be withheld from public disclosure.

The sample labeled part 2-2 contains highly confidential and critical internal records that provide the layout of the complex database system used to issue driver licenses and identification cards.

This system also serves as the database for records related to all of the driver license or identification cards issued by the state of Texas and holds personal identifying information regarding more than 40 million individuals. This makes this system critical infrastructure for the state. Specifically, this document is one of many used by the Department's Information Technology Division to track and make changes to the driver license system. This document provides detailed information regarding how the system works. This record coupled with the others not provided as a sample would show someone outside this agency how to alter the driver license system and database that is used to issue and maintain records regarding every driver license or identification card in the state of Texas. These insights, if disclosed via the PIA, could release information that could compromise the system, which is the source of the information transmitted to the Secretary of State for voter registration purposes. The security of the driver license system is paramount, and the release of any information about how these systems are displayed or function could jeopardize their security or integrity. Thus, the Department believes this information is confidential pursuant to sections 552.101, 552.139, 418.177, 418.181, and 2059.055 of the Government Code and therefore must be withheld from public disclosure.

The sample labeled part 4-1 constitute communications between an attorney for the Department and employees of the Department. The communications were made for the purpose of facilitating the rendition of professional legal services to the Department, and all of the marked entries were discussed and communicated between the attorneys and their clients. The communications were not intended to be disclosed, nor have they been disclosed, to third parties. Accordingly, the marked portions of the submitted records must be withheld under Rule 503 of the Texas Rules of Evidence and section 552.107 of the Government Code.

The sample labeled part 4-2 includes communications between Secretary of State employees and Department officials communicating in their official policy-making capacities. The Secretary of State, as the chief elections officer of the State of Texas, shares a privity of interest and common deliberative process with the Department who is a voter registration entity and provides large volumes of information with the Secretary of State's office for voter registration purposes as required by the Election Code. In the communications, the individuals were providing advice, opinions, and recommendations about matters of broad scope, and the release of these deliberations would have a chilling effect on the frank and open discussion necessary for the decision-making process. The results of these internal deliberations eventually would be reflected in the online processes available to driver license applicants, voter registration applicants, or both. The discussions concern changes or issues with the exchange of highly sensitive driver license record information to the Secretary of State's office for the voter registration purposes. The result of these discussions is also the successful transmission of highly sensitive and protected information between these two agencies. Therefore, the Department believes the marked records are excepted from disclosure under section 552.111 of the Government Code.

The sample labeled part 4-2 also contains sensitive computer security related information that discusses the exact process of how this information is transmitted between the two agencies. The Department regularly provides a large volume of information obtained from driver license or identification card transactions to the Secretary of State's office for voter registration purposes. This data is some of the most sensitive data about a person, and its transmission needs to be made securely. The release of discussions like these could provide information that could compromise the security of these transmissions. Thus, the Department believes this information is confidential pursuant to sections 552.101, 552.139, 418.177, 418.181, and 2059.055 of the Government Code and therefore must be withheld from public disclosure.

The sample labeled part 4-3 includes communications between Secretary of State employees and officials communicating in their official policy-making capacities. The Secretary of State, as the chief elections officer of the State of Texas, shares a privity of interest and common deliberative process with the Department who is a voter registration entity and provides large volumes of information with the Secretary of State's office for voter registration purposes as required by the Election Code.[1] In the communications, the individuals were providing advice, opinions, and recommendations about matters of broad scope, and the release of these deliberations would have a chilling effect on the frank and open discussion necessary for the decision-making process. The results of these internal deliberations eventually would be reflected in the online processes available to driver license applicants or voter registration applicants. The discussion in one part of the sample records concerns changes to a certain form of driver license or identification card transaction that was directly related to the settlement agreement referenced by the requester. This type of transaction also affects the exchange of highly sensitive driver license record information to the Secretary of State's office for the voter registration purposes. The discussions between the Department and Secretary of State's office for the other part of the sample records concern the changes made to comply with the settlement agreement referenced by the requester. The final result of all of these discussions appears in a publicly facing website. Therefore, the Department believes the marked records are excepted from disclosure under section 552.111 of the Government Code.

The sample labeled part 6 includes communications between Secretary of State's office employees and Department officials communicating in their official policy-making capacities. The Secretary of State, as the chief elections officer of the State of Texas, shares a privity of interest and common deliberative process with the Department who is a voter registration entity and provides large volumes of information with the Secretary of State's office for voter registration purposes as required by the Election Code. In the communications, the individuals were providing advice, opinions, and recommendations about matters of broad scope, and the release of these deliberations would have a chilling effect on the frank and open discussion necessary for the decision-making process. The discussion concerns changes or issues with the exchange of highly sensitive driver license record information to local voter registrars via a system created and operated by the Secretary of State's office for these communications. The result of these discussions is the successful transmission of highly sensitive and protected information between these entities used for the maintenance of voter registration information. Anything related to voter registration should be considered critical infrastructure. Therefore, the Department believes the marked records are excepted from disclosure under section 552.111 of the Government Code.

The sample labeled part 6 also contains sensitive computer security related information that discusses the exact process of how the Department gains access to this system set up by the Secretary of State's office. The release of discussions like these could provide sufficient information to compromise the security of this system, which is used to exchange or discuss sensitive information obtained from a driver license transaction used by the Secretary of State's office and local registrars for voter registration purposes. Anything related to voter registration should be considered critical infrastructure. Thus, the Department believes this information is confidential pursuant to sections 552.101, 552.139, 418.177, 418.181, and 2059.055 of the Government Code and therefore must be withheld from public disclosure.

[1] The Department and the Secretary of State were co-defendants in the litigation referenced in the request, which gives them an additional privity of interest in discussions concerning the resolution of that litigation against both entities. The litigation against both agencies further demonstrates the privity of interest between the agencies on the topic addressed in this request.

The sample labeled part 9 contains internal records that provide the layout of the complex database system used to issue driver licenses or identification cards. [2] This system also serves as the database for all of the driver license or identification cards issued by the state of Texas and holds personal identifying information regarding more than 40 million individuals. This makes this system critical infrastructure for the state. Not only do the documents demonstrate the layout of the system, but it also provides step by step instructions on how to alter information within the system. This record coupled with the others not provided as samples would show someone outside this agency how to alter information in the driver license system and database. This coupled with the various layouts may give someone sufficient information to gain unauthorized access to these secure systems that contain sensitive information for every driver license record in the state of Texas. These insights, if disclosed via the PIA, could release information that could compromise the system, which is the source of the information transmitted to the Secretary of State's office for voter registration purposes. The security of the driver license system and the Secretary of State's voter registration system is paramount, and the release of any information about how these systems are displayed or function could jeopardize their security or integrity. Thus, the Department believes this information is confidential pursuant to sections 552.101, 552.139, 418.177, 418.181, and 2059.055 of the Government Code and therefore must be withheld from public disclosure.

Additionally, some of these records (parts 4-2, 4-3, and 6) implicate the interests of another agency. The Department is also withholding these materials at this time to afford the Secretary of State's office an opportunity to assert that these records are excepted from disclosure. Accordingly, we are requesting a ruling regarding the release of these records.

Please find enclosed the request from Karla Maradiago, the samples of the records in question, notice to the third party, and the notice of our request for a ruling sent to the requestor. Please feel free to contact me at (512) 424 2890 if you have any questions.

Cordially,

Brian Riemenschneider
Assistant General Counsel

[2] It should be noted the samples for parts 2-1 and 2-2 also contain information relevant to part 9 of this request and should be withheld based on the arguments discussed in this paragraph as well.

# EXHIBIT “D-8”

# The State of Texas

Executive Division
Capitol Building, 1E.8
P.O. Box 12887
Austin, Texas 78711-2887

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Robert S. Howden
Secretary of State

September 17, 2026

Office of the Attorney General
Open Records Division
1801 Congress Avenue
Austin, Texas 78701

***Via Hand Delivery***

Re: Request for records, considered received: July 16, 2026 (SOS PIR No. 26-0737)

Dear General Paxton:

On July 15, 2026, after business hours (considered received on July 16, 2026), the Office of the Texas Secretary of State ("Office") received a written request for information (the "Request") from Karla Maradiaga (the "Requestor") under the Public Information Act, Chapter 552 of the Texas Government Code (the "PIA"). On August 13, 2026, the Office sent the Requestor a cost estimate for providing copies of public information responsive to the Request. On August 25, 2026, the Office received the Requestor's payment of the estimated costs via credit card through the Office's online payment portal.

Copies of the Request, the Office's August 13 cost estimate and our August 26 email acknowledging receipt of the payment are attached as Exhibit A.[1] A statement regarding the date of receipt is attached as Exhibit B. I hand-delivered this letter to the Open Records Division on September 17, 2026.

The Request seeks records related to certain voter registration procedures. *See* Exhibit A. We intend to produce some responsive information to the Requestor today and provide additional documents, on a rolling basis, by February 17, 2027. The Office asserts that other information responsive to the Request is excepted from public disclosure under Sections 552.101, 552.107, 552.111, and 552.139 of the Texas Government Code.[2] Thus, we are requesting a ruling regarding the release of these records.

[1] August 27, 2026 (Lyndon Baines Johnson Day) is designated as a state holiday under Section 662.003(b) of the Texas Government Code, and September 7, 2026 (Labor Day) is designated as a national holiday under Section 662.003(a). These days thus do not qualify as business days under the Public Information Act. *See* Tex. Gov't Code § 552.0031(a)(2), (a)(3). Therefore, the 15th business day from the date that the Office received payment for the Request is today, September 17, 2026. *See* Tex. Gov't Code § 552.263(e) ("For purposes of Subchapters F and G, a request for a copy of public information is considered to have been received by a governmental body on the date the governmental body receives the deposit or bond for payment of anticipated costs or unpaid amounts if the governmental body's officer for public information or the officer's agent requires a deposit or bond in accordance with this section.").

[2] The responsive records also contain information that is protected from disclosure under Sections 552.130 and 552.147 of the Texas Government Code. *See* Tex. Gov't Code §§ 552.130 (driver's license information); 552.147

SECTION 552.101 OF THE TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE

The Office contends that certain information responsive to the Request is exempt from public disclosure under Section 552.101 of the Texas Government Code. This provision excepts information that is "considered to be confidential by law, either constitutional, statutory, or by judicial decision."

Specifically, the responsive information includes dates of birth of members of the public. In *Paxton v. City of Dallas*, No. 03-13-00546-CV, 2015 WL 3394061, at *3 (Tex. App.—Austin May 22, 2015, pet. denied) (mem. op.), the court determined that citizens' dates of birth are protected by common law privacy and thus can be withheld under Section 552.101 of the Texas Government Code. *See, e.g.*, OR2026-019607 at 5 (dates of birth on records maintained by the Secretary of State must be withheld from disclosure under Section 552.101); OR2026-015176 at 2 (same).

Exhibit C contains a representative sample of the responsive information that the Office asserts is excepted from public disclosure pursuant to Section 552.101, as reflected by the Office's notations on the documents.

SECTION 552.107 OF THE TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE

Some of the responsive information should be excepted from public disclosure pursuant to Section 552.107 of the Texas Government Code. Section 552.107 provides that "[i]nformation is excepted from the requirements of Section 552.021 if: (1) it is information that the attorney general or an attorney of a political subdivision is prohibited from disclosing because of a duty to the client under the Texas Rules of Evidence or the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct; or (2) a court by order has prohibited disclosure of the information." Tex. Gov't Code § 552.107(1).

Relevant here, Texas Rule of Evidence 503 encompasses the attorney-client privilege. The Attorney General has determined that "information that is protected under Texas Rule of Evidence 503 is excepted from disclosure under section 552.107(1)." Open Records Decision No. 676 at 4 (2002). Rule 503(b)(1) provides:

> A client has a privilege to refuse to disclose and to prevent any other person from disclosing confidential communications made to facilitate the rendition of professional legal services to the client:
>
> (A) between the client or the client's representative and the client's lawyer or the lawyer's representative;
>
> (B) between the client's lawyer and the lawyer's representative;
>
> (C) by the client, the client's representative, the client's lawyer, or the lawyer's representative to a lawyer representing another party in a pending action or that

(social security number of living person). The Office is authorized to withhold such information without requesting a ruling from the attorney general. *Id.* §§ 552.130(c), 552.147(b). We will notify the Requestor of her right to appeal the withholding of information under Section 552.130. *See id.* § 552.130(d). In addition, the responsive documents include certain computer information, such as file names, network file locations, web addresses, and other computer programming information, that is not subject to the Public Information Act because it "has no other significance than its use as a tool for the maintenance, manipulation, or protection of public property." Open Records Decision No. 581 at 7 (1990); *accord* OR2026-019607 at 1-2; OR2026-019490 at 1-2. As such, this information will be redacted from the materials provided to the Requestor, as reflected by the Office's notations on the documents in the enclosed representative sample. *See* Exhibit C.

> lawyer's representative, if the communications concern a matter of common interest in the pending action;
> (D) between the client's representatives or between the client and the client's representative; or
> (E) among lawyers and their representatives representing the same client.

Tex. R. Evid. 503(b)(1). Rule 503 further provides that "[a] communication is 'confidential' if not intended to be disclosed to third persons other than those: (A) to whom disclosure is made to further the rendition of professional legal services to the client; or (B) reasonably necessary to transmit the communication." *Id.* R. 503(a)(5). So, to withhold information under Section 552.107 as subject to attorney-client privilege, the governmental body must: (1) show that the document is a communication transmitted between privileged parties or reveals a confidential communication; (2) identify the parties involved in the communication; and (3) show that the communication is confidential by explaining that it was not intended to be disclosed to third persons and that it was made in furtherance of the rendition of professional legal services to the governmental body. *See* Open Records Decision No. 676 at 6-8; *accord* OR2026-020191 at 2-3; OR2026-019607 at 2-3; OR2026-019490 at 2-3.

The information at issue includes internal communications and draft documents exchanged among the undersigned General Counsel, other Secretary of State attorneys, and non-attorney employees of the Office. Specifically, the responsive information encompasses communications reflecting the provision—or a request for the provision—of legal advice by the Office's General Counsel and other staff attorneys (such as Christina Adkins, Chuck Pinney, and Lena Proft) regarding the evaluation of the State's voter registration procedures; proposed responses to inquiries from election officials, the news media, and other individuals or entities; the drafting of Secretary of State guidance to election officials, presentations, correspondence, and other documents; and the analysis of federal and state laws and procedures related to agency operations.

The responsive communications were made in furtherance of the rendition of professional legal services to the Office. The communications were not intended to be disclosed to third persons; nor have such communications been disclosed publicly. Each of these communications satisfies the requirements of Texas Rule of Evidence 503 and is thus entitled to protection under Section 552.107(1). *See, e.g.*, OR2026-020191 at 2-3; OR2026-019607 at 2-3; OR2026-019490 at 2-3; OR2026-017587 at 3-4.

Exhibit C contains a representative sample of the responsive information that the Office asserts is excepted from public disclosure pursuant to Section 552.107, as reflected by the Office's notations on the documents.

SECTION 552.111 OF THE TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE

The Office also asserts that certain information covered by the Request should be excepted from public disclosure pursuant to Section 552.111 of the Texas Government Code.

Section 552.111 of the Texas Government Code encompasses the deliberative process privilege. *See* Open Records Decision No. 615 at 1 (1993). This privilege excepts from disclosure interagency or intraagency memoranda and certain communications "that would not be available by law to a party in litigation with the agency." Tex. Gov't Code § 552.111. The purpose of Section 552.111 is "to protect advice and opinions on policy matters and to encourage frank and open discussion within the agency in connection with its decision-making processes." *Tex. Dep't of Pub. Safety v. Gilbreath*, 842 S.W.2d 408, 412 (Tex. App.—Austin 1992, no writ) (citing *Austin v. City*

*of San Antonio*, 630 S.W.2d 391, 394 (Tex. App.—San Antonio 1982, writ ref'd n.r.e.)).[3] The Attorney General has concluded that Section 552.111 protects preliminary drafts of a document intended for public release in its final form because a draft "necessarily represents the advice, opinion, and recommendation of the drafter as to the form and content of the final document." Open Records Decision No. 559 at 2 (1990). In addition, Section 552.111 extends to "internal communications that consist of advice, recommendations, opinions, and other material reflecting the policymaking processes of the governmental body." OR2026-019607 at 3 (citing Open Records Decision No. 615 at 5); *accord* OR2026-019490 at 3; OR2026-017587 at 4. And if factual information "is so inextricably intertwined with material involving advice, opinions and recommendation as to make separation [of the factual data] impractical," the factual information also may be withheld under Section 552.111. Open Records Decision No. 313 at 3 (1982); *accord* OR2026-019607 at 4; OR2026-019490 at 4; OR2026-017587 at 4-5. Moreover, Section 552.111 may protect communications between a governmental body and a third party—such as a consultant or other governmental entity—with whom there is a privity of interest. *See* Open Records Decision No. 561 at 9 (1990) (communications between parties with a "privity of interest or common deliberative process" may be exempted under Section 552.111); OR2026-019607 at 4; OR2026-019490 at 4.

The responsive information includes draft documents and internal discussions among Office employees containing "advice, recommendations, [and] opinions" reflecting the Office's "policymaking processes." *See* OR2026-019607 at 3. The documents relate to matters such as the preparation and review of guidance to election officials, presentations, correspondence, and other draft materials before their issuance to the general public; advice and recommendations on responses to inquiries from election officials and the general public; internal discussions regarding the operation and ongoing redevelopment of the statewide voter registration system; and the application of statutory provisions involving voter registration and election administration. The responsive records also contain similar communications between staff of the Secretary of State's office, the Office of the Governor ("OOG"), the Department of Public Safety ("DPS"), and the vendor (Civix) with whom the Secretary of State has contracted to maintain the statewide voter registration system.

Each of the records marked for protection under Section 552.111 contains "advice, recommendations, opinions, and other material reflecting the [Office's] policymaking processes." OR2026-019607 at 3; OR2026-019490 at 3. The communications do not relate to "routine internal administrative or personnel matters." OR2026-019607 at 3. And given the nature of the Office's relationship with the OOG, DPS, and Civix on the matters at issue in the documents, there is a privity of interest between the parties to the marked third-party communications, thus entitling them to protection under Section 552.111. *See* Open Records Decision No. 561 at 9; OR2026-019607 at 4; OR2026-019490 at 4.

Exhibit C contains a representative sample of the responsive information that the Office asserts is excepted from public disclosure pursuant to Section 552.111, as reflected by the Office's notations on the documents.

[3] *Accord City of Garland v. Dallas Morning News*, 22 S.W.3d 351, 361, 364 (Tex. 2000); *Arlington Indep. Sch. Dist. v. Tex. Att'y Gen.*, 37 S.W.3d 152, 158 (Tex. App.—Austin 2001, no pet.); *Lett v. Klein Indep. Sch. Dist.*, 917 S.W.2d 455, 456-57 (Tex. App.—Houston [14th Dist.] 1996, writ denied); Open Records Decision No. 615 at 5.

In addition, a portion of the responsive information should be excepted from public disclosure pursuant to Section 552.139 of the Texas Government Code. In relevant part, Section 552.139 protects "information that relates to computer network security, to restricted information under Section 2059.055, or to the design, operation, or defense of a computer network." Tex. Gov't Code § 552.139(a). Section 2059.055 of the Government Code, in turn, provides that "[n]etwork security information is confidential under this section if the information is . . . related to passwords, personal identification numbers, access codes, encryption, or other components of the security system of a governmental entity." *Id.* § 2059.055(b).

The information at issue consists of Secretary of State training manuals provided to county election officials regarding the entry of information in, and the collection of data from, the statewide voter registration system (often referred to as the "TEAM system"). The Office places these technical materials on a secure, restricted site for viewing by the counties. Each manual includes a disclaimer indicating that the information is privileged and confidential.[4] Relatedly, the responsive information encompasses presentations, reports, correspondence, and other materials that contain screenshots of the TEAM system; navigational links, codes, instructions, and similar TEAM information; and other sensitive details reflecting the development and operation of the TEAM system. This information relates intricately to the TEAM system's design and operation, and the public disclosure of such information could subject the TEAM system to unauthorized access. *See* Tex. Gov't Code § 552.139(a); *e.g.*, OR2026-026007 at 2-3 (finding that the Secretary of State must withhold similar information under Section 552.139); OR2026-025760 at 2-3 (same).[5]

Exhibit C contains a representative sample of the responsive information that the Office asserts is excepted from public disclosure pursuant to Section 552.139, as reflected by the Office's notations on the documents.

For the reasons stated above, the Office asserts that certain information responsive to the Request is excepted from disclosure under the Public Information Act. Accordingly, we are requesting a ruling from the Attorney General regarding the release of these records. A representative sample of the responsive information that the Office seeks to withhold is attached as Exhibit C.

If you have any questions or need additional information from our office regarding this request, please contact me at (512) 463-5770.

[4] Likewise, users of the statewide voter registration database sign a security acknowledgement and nondisclosure agreement each time they access the TEAM system, certifying, among other things, that "[t]he training manuals . . . contain information that is privileged and confidential," that the information "is intended only for the use of Texas County Election Officials," and that the manuals (like those encompassed by the Request) will not be shared with any unauthorized parties.

[5] The TEAM system contains highly sensitive personal information of over 18 million registered voters, including dates of birth, driver's license numbers, and social security numbers.

Sincerely,



Adam Bitter
General Counsel
Office of the Texas Secretary of State
generalcounsel@sos.texas.gov

Enclosures

Cc: Requestor (via email) without Exhibits

# EXHIBIT “E”

**Case No. _____**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS TEXAS, and MOVE TEXAS CIVIC FUND,** | § | **IN THE DISTRICT COURT** |
| | § | |
| | § | **OF BEXAR COUNTY, TEXAS** |
| ***Plaintiffs*,** | § | |
| | § | |
| **v.** | § | |
| | § | |
| **TEXAS SECRETARY OF STATE; Robert S. Howden in his official capacity as THE TEXAS SECRETARY OF STATE; TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY; and Freeman F. Martin in his official capacity as DIRECTOR OF THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY,** | § | **_____ JUDICIAL DISTRICT** |
| | § | |
| | § | |
| | § | |
| | § | |
| | § | |
| | § | |
| | § | |
| ***Defendants.*** | § | |

**Declaration of Mia Balderas**

Pursuant to Texas Rules of Civil Procedure 682 and Civil Practice and Remedies Code 132.001(c), I, Mia Balderas, declare that:

My name is Mia Balderas. My date of birth is November 4, 1994, and my address is 14439 NW Military Hwy, San Antonio, Texas, 78231. I am over eighteen years of age, am of sound mind, and am capable of making this declaration. I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

I am the Interim Executive Director of MOVE Texas Civic Fund. I have read the above Original Verified Petition. I verify that the facts set forth in paragraphs 16 and 17 are within my personal knowledge and are true and correct.

Doc ID: ecfe286a74655cde3b2c8526b6cf83d924b06bef

Executed in Bexar County, State of Texas, on 10 / 09 / 2026.

_____

Mia Balderas
Interim Executive Director of MOVE Texas Civic Fund

Dropbox Sign

# Audit trail

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| Title | Declaration of Mia Balderas MOVE Interim ED FINAL FOR... |
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