



June 30, 2017

Steve Sandvoss
Executive Director
Illinois State Board of Elections
2329 S. MacArthur Blvd.
Springfield, IL 62704

Dear Mr. Sandvoss,

On behalf of Just Democracy Illinois, I write to urge you to respectfully deny the request of Kris Kobach, Vice Chair of the Presidential Advisory Commission on Election Integrity, to share the Illinois voter file including sensitive personal information that is not, and should not be, public information.

Just Democracy Illinois is a broad-based and diverse coalition that works to protect and promote the value of a single vote, no matter the geographic, racial, ethnic, or party affiliation of the voter. We understand that Mr. Kobach has asked you to send him personal information on each of Illinois's eight million voters, including their dates of birth, last four digits of their Social Security numbers, political affiliations, voting histories, felony convictions, and military status. He has not set forth the reason that this massive amount of personal information is needed or explained what the commission will do with it. Given the sensitive personal nature of this information and Mr. Kobach's assertion that the commission will make it public, we have serious concerns that the privacy of Illinois voters would be violated by fulfilling this request. As a sovereign state, Illinois has no obligation to comply with Mr. Kobach's intrusive request.

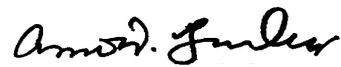
Although some voter data might be helpful to a national body if it were operating in good faith to improve our voting systems and voter access, we have grave reservations about the purposes and actions of the Presidential Advisory Commission on Election Integrity and its leadership. As the secretary of state of Kansas, Mr. Kobach has a history of advocating for and enforcing voter suppression laws that have disenfranchised voters in his home state. Just last week, a federal judge sanctioned Mr. Kobach for his "patently misleading representations," "deceptive conduct and lack of candor" defending these laws against a voting rights challenge. For your reference, here

is a link to states' responses to the commission's request:
<https://www.brennancenter.org/latest-updates-fraud-commission>

This history stands in opposition to the voting rights principles that our state has embraced. In the last decade, Illinois has led the nation in expanding access to the ballot from online voter registration and Election Day registration to automatic voter registration, which the state legislature passed unanimously thanks to the leadership of Democratic and Republican lawmakers working together with public servants in the State Board of Elections, Office of the Secretary of State, and other state agencies.

The voters of Illinois deserve better than to have their personal information manipulated to suppress the voting rights of fellow citizens and perpetuate myths about widespread voter fraud and rigging of elections. As we continue to work with you to improve our voting systems for the citizens of Illinois, we ask that you not participate in the efforts of the Presidential Advisory Commission on Election Integrity to sabotage our joint efforts to ensure fair elections in Illinois. We must protect the right of every eligible voter, regardless of their political affiliation or identity, to have a voice in our democracy.

Sincerely,



Ami Gandhi
Director of Voting Rights and Civic Empowerment
Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights

Just Democracy Illinois is led by a steering committee that includes Asian Americans Advancing Justice | Chicago, CHANGE Illinois, Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights, Chicago Votes, Common Cause Illinois, Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, and Illinois PIRG