



FFEC Opposes Request to States for Private Voter Data

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In solidarity with other election integrity and voting rights organizations across the nation, Florida Fair Elections Coalition (FFEC) strongly opposes the Trump administration's request to the states for personal data on American voters beyond what is already publicly available.

We further object to the apparent purpose for which this information is being sought—the pursuit of baseless claims of voter fraud that only serve as pretexts for erecting new barriers to voter registration and participation. As Kansas Secretary of State, Kris Kobach, who made the request for the newly created Presidential Advisory Commission on Election Integrity, has a long history of making false claims about the prevalence of voter fraud in order to justify restrictions on registration and voting that many believe have disenfranchised thousands of Kansans.

Finally, we are concerned that the aggregation of state voter database records by an arm of the Federal executive branch could pose risks not only to the private data of individuals but to the security of our entire electoral system.

Certainly, FFEC strongly supports access to public records at a reasonable cost as essential to transparency and accountability in our elections. In fact, these records have provided the data that have informed our research since our inception in 2004. But we also recognize that some data collected by elections offices are not publicly available for good reasons. In many cases, the release of this restricted data is prohibited by law or court order.

Our elections are administered by the states—not the Federal government. Collecting, verifying, and protecting the private data of citizens for election purposes is a state responsibility. Sharing that data with a commission set up by a branch of the Federal government presents constitutional and legal questions as well as concerns about who could access the data, for what purposes the data could be used, and how the data would be kept secure from cybercriminals and spies.

The Federal government would do well to refrain from intruding on the prerogatives of the states and instead focus on doing its job properly—setting standards for voting systems and testing equipment to those standards, providing a clearinghouse for information on voting systems and election management practices, and—most important—protecting the rights of Americans to register to vote and exercise their franchise without undue restrictions.

Florida Fair Elections Coalition is a nonpartisan, nonprofit grassroots organization that serves the public good as an election watchdog, educational and research group, and advocate for fair, transparent, accurate, accessible, secure, and verifiable elections throughout Florida.