

2021 Voter File Removal Confirmation Project

WHAT: Localized volunteer project to verify or protect voters from being falsely removed from the voter registration rolls.

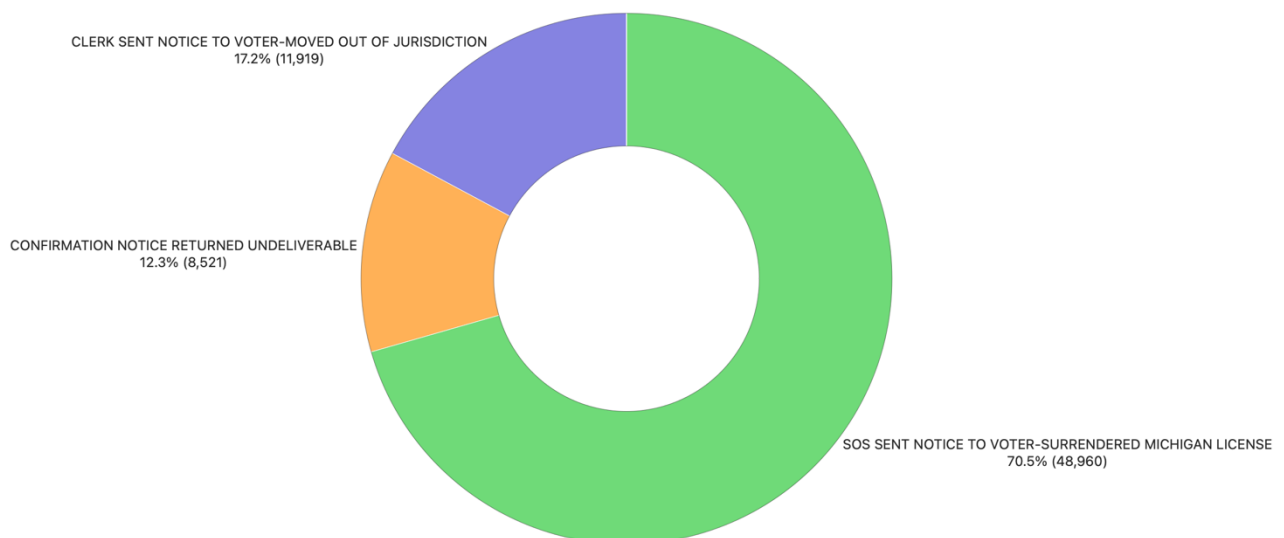
WHEN: There is a tight timeline to get this project done. We need to complete this project by the first of March, before the Voter File purge takes place.

BACKGROUND INFO: The Secretary of State is required by the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to remove Voter Registrations from inactive voters and maintain the state voter file (in Michigan this is called the Qualified Voter File or QVF). It is not some nefarious voter suppression tactic. This is a normal and required action. For the first time ever, the Secretary of State's office has made the list of potential deactivations public and available to us.

Our data team at MDP has narrowed this list to include only Democratic voters or likely Democratic voters so that we can reach out to those in danger of having their voter registration deactivated, to confirm or ensure that they are being removed accurately.

There are four main reasons that people have been added to the annual list. Obviously, death is reason to remove voter registrations. Those who have deceased have been removed from OUR list of follow-up calls. ALL of those that remain (about 58,000 statewide) were mailed a postcard or letter from the Secretary of State. Some were returned as undeliverable mail, some required action from the voter to send a card back to their clerk or Sec. of State but did not do so, and some have applied for drivers licenses in some other state (thus surrendering their Michigan driver's license).

Distribution of Purge_Reason



HOW TO GET STARTED: Your MDP Project 83 organizer will work with you to create a Virtual Phone Bank and script for your county party or club. Ideally, best-practices show us that it is more effective for local volunteers to call local voters. We feel that this neighbor-to-neighbor approach is far more effective over a single statewide phone bank. Once your phone bank is live and ready to go, you and your volunteers can log-in to make calls whenever it is convenient – anytime between 10am and 8pm.

HOW ELSE YOU CAN HELP: Please communicate with your Project 83 Organizer. This is a pilot program. This is the first time that we have been supplied with this data from the Secretary of State. We are just as new to this as you are. The more that we share and communicate about what works, what doesn't, feedback from volunteers, and feedback from voters we speak to... the better we can make this program. Important feedback like this will also help us develop new programs for voter outreach.

RESOURCES: You can learn more about this voter file maintenance at the link or VOTER REGISTRATION CANCELLATIONS section provided below.

The following might help you to understand the process better. It is the applicable section from the Sec. of State- ELECTIONS OFFICIALS' MANUAL

https://www.michigan.gov/documents/sos/II_Voter_Registration_265983_7.pdf

VOTER REGISTRATION CANCELLATIONS:

A clerk is only authorized to cancel a voter's registration record under the following circumstances. A notice of the cancellation is not required, except where specifically noted.

(Requires Update of Voter Record in QVF and Adjustment of Master Card):

- The voter directs the cancellation of his or her registration record in a written, signed communication.
- The clerk receives or obtains information that the voter has died. Sources: QVF inbox notification; county clerk; death notices published in newspaper; personal firsthand knowledge.
- The clerk receives notice that the voter has registered to vote in another jurisdiction through another election official or through a QVF inbox notification.
- The voter verifies his or her residency in a different jurisdiction for voting purposes on a confirmation notice sent to the voter on "reliable information" that the voter has moved to a different jurisdiction.
- The voter's registration is challenged, and it is revealed through questions directed to the voter in the polls on Election Day that he or she is not qualified to vote in the jurisdiction. Requires update of Master Card only:
- The clerk determines that the voter has registered to vote in another jurisdiction through the QVF.
- No response is received from the voter over the course of two, successive statewide November general elections to a confirmation notice sent to the voter on "reliable information" that the voter has moved to a different jurisdiction. If the Cancellation Countdown was set in the QVF when the notice was sent, then the voter's QVF record will be updated automatically and only adjustment of the Master Card is needed.
- The voter fails to reply to a confirmation notice re-affirming residence in the community or engage in another voting or voter registration transaction by the second November General federal election after a confirmation sent to the voter on "reliable information" that the voter has moved within the jurisdiction or to a different jurisdiction is returned by the post office as "undeliverable".