

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 6, 2026

The Honorable Harmeet Dhillon
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Assistant Attorney General Dhillon,

Recent requests for voter data by the Department of Justice's (DOJ) Civil Rights Division raise serious concerns about the Department's efforts to undermine future elections.

Soon after being confirmed to lead the Civil Rights Division, you issued a new policy directive to the Division's Voting Section, directing staff to help the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) obtain voter database information from states—purportedly to identify ineligible voters.¹

Following this policy directive, the Civil Rights Division has asked states for full access to their voter rolls, including sensitive and private information such as Social Security numbers, driver's license numbers, and dates of birth.²

The pursuit of this data raises two important concerns. First, the Department does not have the statutory authority to request this information.³ Second, the efforts to obtain this information will undermine electoral integrity, not protect it.

States led by both Republicans and Democrats have appropriately rejected the Department's request for its voter rolls, citing privacy concerns and potential violations of state and federal law.⁴ So far, your Division has filed lawsuits against 30 such states, as well as the District of

¹ See U.S. Senator Peter Welch, Supplemental Memo on Shifting Enforcement Priorities and Staffing Changes at the Civil Rights Division to Members of the Subcomm. On the Const. at 12, S. Judiciary Comm. (July 23, 2025), available at <https://www.welch.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/2025.07.23-Welch-Memo-DOJCRT.pdf>.

² See Kaylie Martinez-Ochoa et al., *Tracker of Justice Department Requests for Voter Information*, BRENNAN CENTER (April 17, 2026), <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/tracker-justice-department-requests-voter-information>.

³ See Order Granting Defendant's Motion to Dismiss and Intervenors' Motions to Dismiss, *U.S. v. Weber*, No. 2:25-cv-09149-DOC-ADS (C.D. Cal. Jan. 15, 2026); Complaint at 45, *Common Cause v. U.S. Dep't of Justice*, No. 1:26-cv-01352 (D.D.C. Apr. 21, 2026) (hereinafter *Common Cause*).

⁴ See Tierney Sneed, *Internal Documents Shed Light on Trump's Crusade to Vet State Voter Rolls*, CNN (Apr. 22, 2026), <https://www.cnn.com/2026/04/21/politics/state-voter-rolls-trump-justice-department>.

Columbia.⁵ Every court that has reviewed these cases on the merits has dismissed the Division’s claims.⁶

On January 6, 2026, you justified the collection and review of states’ “voter rolls [as] essential to ensuring that American citizens’ votes count only once, and only with other eligible voters[.]”⁷ The mass collection and verification of American voters’ eligibility—with outdated, inaccurate information—risks eliminating eligible voters from state voter rolls.⁸ DOJ attorneys have confirmed both in court and in internal communications that the Division intends to run states’ voter roll data against DHS’ “SAVE database” to verify voters’ citizenship status.⁹ This database is estimated to falsely flag voters as noncitizens at least 14% of the time.¹⁰

Some states have complied with your requests for data. The Civil Rights Division now houses the personal information of tens of millions of Americans, which it has begun disclosing to DHS, as well as private contractors.¹¹ The Division does not appear to be adhering to any standards for vetting contractors, performing reliable verification procedures to identify ineligible voters, or installing any data security safeguards.¹² Glaringly, the Division’s non-partisan senior privacy official resigned this month.¹³

In a November 2025 email, the head of the Voting Section, Eric Neff, sent an email to your deputy, advising the Division to deliberately keep election officials uninformed about what the

⁵ Melissa Quinn and Sarah Lynch, *Judge Rejects Justice Department Effort to Get Sensitive Voter Information from Rhode Island*, CBS NEWS (Apr. 17, 2026), <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/judge-rejects-trump-admin-doj-effort-voter-information-rhode-island/>.

⁶ See *id.*; Andrew Garber, *Federal Courts Reject Trump Administration’s Attempts to Obtain Private Voter Information*, BRENNAN CENTER (Mar. 3, 2026), <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/analysis-opinion/federal-courts-reject-trump-administrations-attempts-obtain-private-voter>.

⁷ *Justice Department Sues Arizona and Connecticut for Failure to Produce Voter Rolls*, U.S. DEP’T OF JUST. (Jan. 6, 2026), <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/justice-department-sues-arizona-and-connecticut-failure-produce-voter-rolls>.

⁸ See *Common Cause*, Compl. at 2, 28.

⁹ See *id.* at 29; Andrew Braniff, Re: DOJ SAVE VV MOA Draft_DHS 010926.agb1.13, Email to Jesus Osete (Jan. 13, 2026), produced in *Common Cause*; *U.S. v. Amore*, No. 1:25-cv-00639-MSM-PAS, ECF No. 47 (D.R.I. March 26, 2026) (hereinafter *Amore*).

¹⁰ See *Common Cause*, Compl. at 28; Jen Fifield et al., “Not Ready for Prime Time.” *A Federal Tool to Check Voter Citizenship Keeps Making Mistakes*, PROPUBLICA (Feb. 13, 2026), <https://www.propublica.org/article/save-voter-citizenship-tool-mistakes-confusion>.

¹¹ See *Common Cause*, Compl. at 21–22; Jude Joffe-Block, *The Justice Department Plans to Share Sensitive Voter Data with Homeland Security*, NPR (Mar. 27, 2026), <https://www.npr.org/2026/03/27/nx-s1-5764266/voter-data-trump-doj-dhs>.

¹² See *Common Cause*, Compl. at 19, 23–24.

¹³ See Ja’han Jones, *Privacy Official Resigns at DOJ’s Civil Rights Division as Trump Menaces Midterms*, MS NOW (Apr. 6, 2026), <https://www.ms.now/opinion/privacy-official-resigns-at-dojs-civil-rights-division-as-trump-menaces-midterms>.

Trump Administration intends to do with this data.¹⁴ In March 2026, Mr. Neff admitted that he had made inaccurate statements to the court about the extent to which the Section had begun processing the data of registered voters.¹⁵

Prior to leading the Voting Section, Mr. Neff was sanctioned for withholding evidence and lying to superiors after he brought a voting case based on evidence provided by a conspiracy theory group who believe China was involved in stealing the 2020 election.¹⁶

Your own statements have furthered false narratives to justify the collection of voter data. Last month, you stated that the Division has found “tens of thousands of non-citizens on the voter rolls.”¹⁷ Voting by non-citizens is a widely debunked claim.¹⁸ In an audit carried out by the Michigan Department of State, just 0.00028% of voters in the 2024 general election were found to be noncitizens.¹⁹ You have provided no evidence to support your claims.

Under your leadership, the Civil Rights Division has also moved to discredit recent elections. On April 14, 2026, you made the highly irregular demand for ballots from the 2024 election from Detroit.²⁰ The request was based on three allegations of voter fraud that occurred in the 2020 election—out of 878,102²¹ votes cast—and a prior lawsuit alleging that absentee ballots were not properly processed in that election. A judge previously dismissed that lawsuit on the grounds that the allegations were “not credible.”²²

¹⁴ See Eric Neff, Re: Letter from Secretaries of State to DOJ and DHS, email to Jesus Osete and Maureen Riordan (Nov. 18, 2025), produced in *Common Cause*.

¹⁵ See *Amore*, Clarification of Record (available at <https://www.democracymarket.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/46-2026-03-27-DOJs-clarification-of-record.pdf>).

¹⁶ See James Queally, *Trump’s DOJ Hires Voting Rights Lawyer Behind L.A. Case Cited by Conspiracy Theorists*, L.A. TIMES (Jan. 3, 2026), <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2026-01-03/eric-neff-department-of-justice-la-election-lawsuit>; Sneed, *supra* note 4; Jude Joffe-Block, *As DOJ Prepares to Share State Voter Data with DHS, a Key Privacy Officer Resigns*, NPR (Apr. 3, 2026), <https://www.npr.org/2026/04/03/nx-s1-5768455/privacy-doj-dhs-voter-data>.

¹⁷ Real America’s Voice, *Harmeet Dhillon: DOJ Is Cleaning Dirty Voter Rolls Nationwide — And What They’re Finding Is Shocking*, YouTube (Mar. 10, 2026), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=11ucRFoSJ8E&t=178s> (3:01).

¹⁸ See Jude Joffe-Block, *6 Facts About False Noncitizen Voting Claims and the Election*, NPR (Nov. 5, 2024), <https://www.npr.org/2024/10/12/nx-s1-5147789/voting-election-2024-noncitizen-fact-check-trump>.

¹⁹ See Connor Greene, *Trump Keeps Railing Against Non-Citizen Voting. Research Shows It’s Extremely Rare*, TIME (Feb. 26, 2026), <https://time.com/7381495/trump-non-citizen-voter-fraud-claims-research-immigration/>.

²⁰ See U.S. Dep’t of Justice, Civil Rights Div., *Letter to Wayne County Clerk Cathy M. Garrett* (Apr. 14, 2026) (available at <https://www.michigan.gov/ag/-/media/Project/Websites/AG/releases/2026/April/DOJ-Letter-to-Wayne-County.pdf>).

²¹ See Wayne County, Michigan, *Election Summary Report (2020)* (available at https://www.waynecountymi.gov/files/assets/mainsite/v1/clerk/documents/elections/election-results/2020-november-3/electionsum_11032020.pdf).

²² See Patrick Marley, *DOJ Demands Detroit-Area 2024 Ballots, Escalating Election Scrutiny*, WASH. POST (Apr. 19, 2026), <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2026/04/19/michigan-2024-ballots-harmeet-dhillon/>.

For nearly 70 years, the Civil Rights Division has enforced federal statutes that protect Americans' right to vote.²³ Your leadership represents a marked departure from that tradition.

In order to better understand the work being carried out by the Voting Section of the Civil Rights Division, please provide detailed answers to the following questions by May 31, 2026.

1. Please provide a list of contractors that the Civil Rights Division is disclosing voter data to.
2. Have any officials within the Division communicated with any outside groups or individuals in relation to voter data requests or analysis? If so, please list the names of these entities and provide records of any agreements with these entities.
3. Please provide copies of any analyses DOJ has conducted using voter data, as well as an explanation of any methodology used.
4. What work has the Civil Rights Division undertaken to attempt to enforce Executive Orders 14248 and 14399?
5. Please provide the evidence to support your statement that the Civil Rights Division has found "tens-of thousands of non-citizens on the voter rolls."²⁴

Sincerely,



Peter Welch
United States Senator

cc: Acting Attorney General Todd Blanche
Acting Chief of the Voting Section Eric Neff

²³ See generally U.S. Senator Peter Welch, *supra* note 1.

²⁴ Harmeet Dhillon: *DOJ Is Cleaning Dirty Voter Rolls Nationwide — And What They're Finding Is Shocking*, *supra* note 17, at 3:01.