

JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY
9TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
Ranking Member, Digital Commerce
and Consumer Protection
Health
Oversight and Investigations
COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET
CHIEF DEPUTY WHIP

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1309

2367 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
Telephone: 202-225-2111
Fax: 202-226-6890
TTY: 202-224-3901

5533 N. BROADWAY, SUITE 2
CHICAGO, IL 60640
Telephone: 773-506-7100
Fax: 773-506-9202

1852 JOHNS DRIVE
GLENVIEW, IL 60025
Telephone: 847-328-3409
Fax: 847-328-3425

August 8, 2017

William J. Cadigan
Chairman
Illinois State Board of Elections
2329 S. MacArthur Blvd.
Springfield, IL 62704

Dear Chairman Cadigan,

I write to urge the Board to withdraw Illinois from participation in the Interstate Voter Registration Crosscheck System, a step I believe is necessary to protect the right to vote and the personal information of Illinoisans.

The Crosscheck System is designed for states to share voter registration information, in part to identify when a voter might be registered in multiple states. A simple crosscheck without additional verification can generate false matches, which may lead to legitimate voters being purged from voter rolls. In fact, a recent study found that such purging would eliminate 200 legitimate voters from the rolls for every potential double vote.¹

Illinois should not send information to other states that may be used to justify the improper suppression of legitimate votes. Troublingly, one of Crosscheck's biggest promoters is Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach, who also serves as Vice Chair of the Presidential Advisory Commission on Election Integrity. Mr. Kobach has advocated for various methods to suppress voter registration and turnout, including voter identification laws that disproportionately disenfranchise young, low-income, and minority voters. The Illinois Board wisely refused to comply with Mr. Kobach's request for Illinois voter information as part of Presidential Advisory Commission – a move I strongly support – but continues to send information into the Crosscheck System.

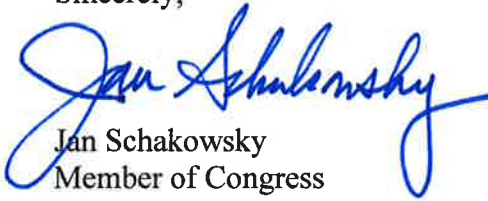
Beyond the potential use for voter suppression, the Crosscheck System may also put Illinoisans' personal information at risk. We know from last year's election that states' voter information can be a target of hackers and foreign actors. Transmitting data among states introduces new vulnerabilities, particularly if databases and passwords are inadequately protected.

When the Board meets this month, I hope members will carefully examine the problems presented by the Crosscheck System and consider alternative options to promote participation of

¹ Goel, Sharad, et al. Submitted. "One Person, One Vote: Estimating the Prevalence of Double Voting in U.S. Presidential Elections." Copy at <http://j.mp/2owWDFm>

all legitimate voters. Voters deserve to know that both their right to vote and their personal information are well-protected.

Sincerely,



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress

cc: Steve Sandvoss, Executive Director, Illinois State Board of Elections