

EXHIBIT 1



JENNIFER BRUNNER
OHIO SECRETARY OF STATE

180 EAST BROAD STREET, 15TH FLOOR
COLUMBUS, OHIO 43215 USA
TEL: 1-614-466-2655
FAX: 1-614-644-0649
WWW.SOS.STATE.OH.US

Oct. 14, 2008

For Immediate Release

The following statement may be attributed in whole or in part to State of Secretary of State Jennifer Brunner regarding the statewide voter registration database required by the Help America Vote Act.

Today I directed Ohio's 88 county boards of elections to thoroughly review and investigate specific allegations of voter registration fraud, illegal voting, or voter suppression. Ohio has longstanding election law safeguards, such as confirmation cards for new registrants, and a bipartisan structure for boards and polling places. Ohioans can be confident that voter registration fraud by some paid registration workers will not translate into illegal voting in our state.

In the course of discussing these issues, questions have been raised regarding Ohio's statewide voter registration database. It is important to note that a federal court has determined our database meets the requirements of federal law.

These federal laws, like HAVA, were intended to help maintain databases, not to determine voter eligibility. Nothing in Ohio law permits the use of BMV information to determine voter eligibility. Instead, Ohio law requires boards of elections to use an array of multi-layered systems to confirm every new or updated voter registration.

Like so many recent controversies, this issue has been raised less than one month before the election – and it was only raised by one political party. Before rashly changing a system that has been functioning as required under federal law, we need the input and support of Ohio's bipartisan boards of elections to craft a solution that meets a few important key metrics:

- Creates uniform processes for all 88 counties to properly utilize information about mismatches.
- Protects voters from purges based on a mismatch, because that is illegal.
- Protects boards from litigation by ensuring compliance with the NVRA, which does not allow systematic purges within 90 days of a federal election.

Once we have that solution developed, we will implement an upgrade to our voter query system and will issue instructions to guide counties in their use of this information.

- 30 -

Jeff Ortega, Assistant Director of Communications – Media, (614) 466-0473.

Kevin Kidder, Media Relations Coordinator, (614) 995-2168