



STATE OF NEBRASKA

ROBERT B. EVNEN
SECRETARY OF STATE

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Secretary Evnen is committed to protecting personally identifiable information and our elections

A lawsuit seeking to enjoin Secretary of State Bob Evnen from sending the Nebraska voter registration list to the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) has been dismissed by the court. An appeal has been filed, however, the plaintiff's motion for an injunction preventing the provision of the information during the appeal has been denied.

Secretary Evnen announced in December last year that he would provide the list to the DOJ on February 12 unless there was an order from the court to the contrary.

"We will be sending the information to the DOJ this Thursday, as I announced in December," Secretary Evnen said.

The stated reason for the DOJ's request was to assess states' compliance with statewide voter registration list maintenance provisions of the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) and the Help America Vote Act (HAVA). The Nebraska Attorney General had previously advised that the DOJ request was lawful and proper.

Secretary Evnen assured Nebraskans that he is dedicated to protecting their personally identifiable information from misuse. The DOJ request letter states that privacy laws concerning the data will be observed. When the data is sent to the DOJ, the Secretary of State's office will include a cover letter reminding the DOJ of those requirements.

The request from the DOJ asked for information in the publicly available voter registration list. Additionally, they requested data fields containing the last four digits of social security numbers or driver's license numbers, and exact dates of birth.

"For 99% of our registered voters, we have the last four digits of the social security number, so that's what we will be providing. For those voters, we will not be providing a driver's license number," Secretary Evnen said.

"We will be providing only the last four digits, not the entire nine-digit social security number. The federal government already has your social security number. After all, the federal government gave it to you, and they have your birthdate associated with that number too."

"Nebraska is in compliance with those laws," said Evnen. "I am glad that the Department of Justice is reviewing other states to be sure that they also are in compliance."

Secretary Evnen assures Nebraskans that our elections here continue to be safe and secure.

"There is no evidence of significant voter fraud here in Nebraska," Evnen said. "The few isolated instances that we have seen were promptly caught by the systems we have in place to prevent fraud. That is because our systems are solid and the public servants who run them are doing their jobs well."

Common Cause, one of the plaintiffs in the dismissed case, has opposed several recent improvements to election administration systems including voter identification requirements and President Trump's executive order aimed at protecting the integrity of elections.

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