

Submitter: Andrew Telleria

On Behalf
Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Veterans, Emergency Management, Federal
and World Affairs

Measure: SB1577

Honorable Members of the Public Hearing Committee,

I am writing to emphasize the critical importance of safeguarding our election integrity and to underscore the grave risks associated with the proposed initiative to register voters through the Department of Revenue. This initiative not only compromises the security of our elections but also opens the door to potential exploitation, including by ineligible voters such as people who have illegally immigrated into the United States.

Firstly, integrating voter registration with the Department of Revenue significantly heightens the risk of election fraud and abuse. The Department of Revenue's primary function is to collect taxes and manage financial records, not to oversee voter registration. By intertwining these disparate functions, we inadvertently create vulnerabilities that malicious actors could exploit to manipulate the electoral process.

Consider the implications of linking voter registration to the Department of Revenue's database. This database contains sensitive personal information, including social security numbers, addresses, and financial records. If accessed or manipulated by unauthorized individuals, this data could be used to fraudulently register ineligible voters, compromise the identities of legitimate voters, and undermine the integrity of our elections.

Furthermore, the proposal to register voters through the Department of Revenue lacks the necessary safeguards to prevent illegal immigrants from registering and voting unlawfully. Illegal immigrants often possess forms of identification necessary for transactions with the Department of Revenue, such as driver's licenses or tax identification numbers. Integrating voter registration with the Department of Revenue inadvertently provides a pathway for illegal immigrants to exploit these documents and register to vote, thereby diluting the voice of lawful citizens and compromising the democratic process.

It is crucial to recognize that election security is paramount to the preservation of democracy. Any measure that introduces vulnerabilities, undermines trust, or compromises the integrity of our elections must be approached with the utmost caution and scrutiny. Registering voters through the Department of Revenue represents a reckless and ill-conceived approach that jeopardizes the sanctity of our electoral system.

Instead of conflating voter registration with unrelated government functions, we must prioritize solutions that enhance election security while preserving individual privacy and rights. This includes implementing robust voter identification requirements, enhancing voter registration verification processes, and investing in cybersecurity measures to protect voter data from malicious actors.

In conclusion, I urge the Public Hearing Committee to reject SB 1577. Doing so is essential to safeguarding the integrity of our elections, upholding the rule of law, and preserving the democratic principles upon which our nation was founded.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,
Andrew Telleria