



True the Vote Research <ttvresearch2025@gmail.com>

Request for Records Related to Executive Order 14248

3 messages

True the Vote Research Team <ttvresearch2025@gmail.com>
To: berghl@bethel-ct.gov

Sat, Oct 11, 2025 at 10:06 AM

To Whom it May Concern,

Pursuant to applicable state public records laws, including any freedom of information or open records statutes in your jurisdiction, True the Vote respectfully submits this request for access to and copies of records as described below.

This request seeks all records, communications, directives, or guidance created or received by your office since March 25, 2025, related to Executive Order 14248, titled *'Preserving and Protecting the Integrity of American Elections'*, including but not limited to:

1. Actions taken or planned to comply with, respond to, or evaluate the order;
2. Communications with federal agencies (including the Election Assistance Commission or Department of Justice) concerning implementation or challenges to the order;
3. Any internal analyses, meeting notes, or correspondence with state officials, election vendors, or other stakeholders related to voter roll verification, mail-ballot receipt deadlines, or documentary proof-of-citizenship requirements.

Additionally, please include any records, guidance, or communications your office has received from state or federal agencies in connection with Executive Order 14248.

True the Vote recognizes that portions of Executive Order 14248 are currently subject to judicial review and preliminary injunctions. This request is not intended to seek privileged legal materials but to understand what steps, if any, your office is taking to assess compliance, improve election integrity procedures, or prepare for potential implementation.

We request that you provide all responsive records in electronic format, preferably as searchable PDF files transmitted by email to research@truethevote.org. We also respectfully request acknowledgment of this request within five (5) business days and full production of responsive records within the statutory period provided by your state's public records law.

If you determine that portions of this request are exempt, please provide any segregable portions of responsive records and identify the specific legal basis for any withholdings.

Thank you for your time and assistance.

Sincerely,

Meg Denning
True the Vote Research Team

713.401.6017 | 3120 Southwest Freeway Ste 101, Houston, TX 77098-4520

Lisa Bergh <BerghL@bethel-ct.gov>
To: True the Vote Research Team <ttvresearch2025@gmail.com>
Cc: Melanie OBrien <melanie@mpobrienlaw.com>

Good Morning Meg-
I have not heard from the Attorney General's Office, nor the Secretary of State.

I am including the correspondence I received in March and April of 2025.
I am also attaching the fact sheet SOTS sent us.

TC Recording & Reminders

Inbox



Thomas, Stephanie <Stephanie.Thomas@ct.gov>
to Jennifer, Kristin, Laura, Lindsay

Dear Town Clerks,

Happy official start of spring!

For those who were unable to attend our meeting last week, you can find the recording below.

Link: <https://vimeo.com/1068142552?ts=0&share=copy>

Password: SOTS2025

As some of you may know, the President issued an Executive Order Tuesday afternoon regarding the implementation of elections. Many of the provisions are due to go into effect within Connecticut. Our attorney general and others around the country are looking into the constitutionality of the order, but as of today, a suit has yet to be filed. We will keep you updated. P

- [The executive order](#)
- [A synopsis](#)
- [Press Conference by Secretary Thomas](#)

Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 15, from 3-4PM. I look forward to seeing you then.

Best,



Stephanie Thomas

Connecticut Secretary of the State

From: **Thomas, Stephanie** <Stephanie.Thomas@ct.gov>
Date: Thu, Apr 24, 2025 at 2:16 PM
Subject: Information Regarding EO as Requested
To:

Dear Registrars of Voters and Town Clerks,

As you know, President Trump issued an Executive Order (EO) on March 25, 2025, entitled *Preserving and Protecting the Integrity of American Electic* early as April 25, 2025, though there are pending judicial challenges to the order that may delay implementation.

We are working with the Attorney General's office, our vendors, and the Elections Assistance Commission (EAC) to better understand the EO's require to update you as we learn more. As requested on our monthly call, attached, we provide you with an analysis of the provisions that, at this time, we be recommendations for how best to proceed at this time pending any updates. Please note: the National Association of Secretaries of State prepared th understanding among Connecticut's local election officials.

We will continue to update you on what we learn about the EO generally and the provisions discussed in the attached, in particular.

Best,

Stephanie Thomas

Connecticut Secretary of the State

If I happen to hear back from the SOTS or AG Office I will forward that correspondence to you.

if I happen to hear back from the SOLS or AG Office I will forward that correspondence to you.

Sincerely,

Lisa Bergh

[Quoted text hidden]



Input on EO for Local Election Officials_April 24 2025.docx
18K

True the Vote Research <ttvresearch2025@gmail.com>

To: Lisa Bergh <BerghL@bethel-ct.gov>

Wed, Oct 15, 2025 at 2:32 PM

Cc: Melanie OBrien <melanie@mpobrienlaw.com>, research@truethevote.org

Thank you so much for your follow up. I really appreciate it!

[Quoted text hidden]



Input on EO for Local Election Officials_April 24 2025.docx
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Input from the Connecticut Office of the Secretary of the State for Local Election Official on the March 25, 2025, Executive Order: *Preserving and Protecting the Integrity of American Elections*

Changes to the National Mail Voter Registration Form [Section 2]

1. Requires the EAC to take the following actions with respect to the National Mail Voter Registration Form (the “Federal Form”) within 30 days of the EO:
 - a. Require documentary proof of citizenship (DPOC), defined as a copy of:
 1. a U.S. passport
 2. a REAL ID-compliant identification document that indicates U.S. citizenship
 3. an official military identification card that indicates U.S. citizenship
 4. a valid federal or state government-issued photo ID that indicates U.S. citizenship or is accompanied by proof of U.S. citizenship
 - b. Require a state or local official to record on the form the type of document provided as DPOC, including the issuance date, expiration date, office that issued the document, and any unique identification number associated with the document.

Impact

At present, this section requires no action by the state or local election officials. **The action falls first to the EAC, which must make changes to the Federal Form.** Of note, the EAC must update the Federal Form within 30 days of this EO, but the Department of Homeland Security is not required to begin sharing access to its database for registrars to verify these applications until 90 days from the EO. This creates a 60-day window in which no verification can occur.

Currently, Connecticut’s Centralized Voter Registration System (CVRS) does not have a field for indicating citizenship or type of DPOC provided to comply with this requirement. Further, the EAC has not made the changes to the Federal Form and federal law does not allow you to require any documents or information that does not appear on the federal form to register someone to vote in a federal election in Connecticut. Because Connecticut has chosen to have a unified registration process for both state elections and federal elections, Connecticut’s registration form must comply with the Federal Form. As the Federal Form has not been amended, Connecticut’s registration form has also not been amended.

Recommendations

We recommend you continue to register individuals under the current Federal Form requirements since requesting voters to provide information that is not currently required by the form may subject you to civil liability for violating an applicant’s civil rights. If or when the forms are changed, you will likely need to train staff on the changes and conduct voter outreach to inform voters of the new requirements. Thus, you may want to consider discussing these budgetary and staffing impacts with your town officials.

Access to Federal Systems for Citizenship Verification [Section 2]

1. Requires DHS to ensure that state and local officials have access to appropriate systems (without requiring a fee) for verifying citizenship or immigration status of individuals registering to vote or already registered.
2. Requires the State Department to make information in relevant federal databases available to state and local election officials to permit verification of an individual's citizenship, both new applicants and current enrolled electors.

Impact

Under the EO, registrars of voters and town clerks must have access to relevant databases necessary for verifying citizenship. It is not clear what type of login information would be required or what sort of system capabilities will be required for such access. Further, training on such systems is another outstanding question at this time. Another question is what compatibility these databases have with either CVRS or TotalVote and if the cross-check must be done by individual entry. Individual entry would be an incredibly time-consuming process.

Recommendations

We recommend that you begin discussing staffing and budget requirements with your town officials as the above requirement may result in a need for additional staffing hours or training hours. You may also find that you need additional staff.

Assistance to States Verifying Voter Eligibility [Section 3]

1. Availability of Social Security Administration Data

- a. Requires the Social Security Administration (SSA) to make information available to state and local election officials engaged in verifying the eligibility of individuals registering to vote or already registered, including the Social Security Number Verification Service, the Death Master File, and any other federal databases containing relevant information.

Impact

Requires SSA to provide both the Secretary of the State and local registrars of voters and town clerks with access to its databases. The usefulness of SSA data as a tool for confirming citizenship is likely limited because non-citizens are eligible for social security numbers. The EO raises many questions for state and local officials, such as the following:

- How will state and local officials access the databases?
- Is our CVRS compatible with these databases, and if not, how will that be addressed? Currently we have access to the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AMVAA) through the state Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV).

- What format will the data be in?
- Will the federal government or some other entity provide training?
- Since the databases contain sensitive information, raising privacy concerns, will a vetting process be implemented?

Recommendation

Our recommendation is to continue using the AMVAA through DMV and to continue registrations under the current registration requirements. We will update you regarding any training necessary for compliance with the EO when we learn more either from the EAC or through the federal government's statements in the pending court actions. You may wish to include this information in your discussions with your town officials as you will need to train your staff and may require more hours and or staff in your offices.

2. State List Maintenance Compliance

- a. Requires the Department of Justice (DOJ) to take appropriate action with respect to states that fail to comply with the list maintenance activities under the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) and Help America Vote Act (HAVA).

Impact

Connecticut currently complies with NVRA and HAVA requirements regarding the canvassing of voters and management of the registration list database. The EO establishes additional requirements. Specifically, it requires that DPOC be provided at registration and that the record reflects what DPOC was provided.

Recommendation

As indicated above, the registration forms have not been amended to require DPOC and accordingly, we recommend that you do not require information not currently required by the Federal Form. We suggest you continue registering individuals under the existing Federal Form to prevent possibly liability for violating an applicant's civil rights.

3. Changes to the Federal Post Card Application

- a. Requires Department of Defense to update the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) to require DPOC (as defined above), and proof of eligibility to vote in elections in the state where the individual is attempting to vote.

Impact

Currently under HAVA, the FPCA does not require DPOC or any identification to be provided to vote for federal offices only. The EO would require registrars of voters to reject any FPCA that is received without appropriate identification. The EO's requirement directly conflicts with HAVA's requirements for overseas voters. HAVA requires states to accept ballots for federal offices only from overseas voters who are former state residents. Currently, an overseas voter who is not eligible to register as a Connecticut voter may, nonetheless, receive a federal office only ballot under HAVA.

The EO does not provide guidance on what constitutes “proof of eligibility to vote in elections in the state where the individual is attempting to vote” and at this point, it is unclear how Connecticut would comply with this requirement regarding overseas voters. We hope that through continued communications with the EAC and the pending court matters, we will be able to provide more information and clarity on how overseas voters should be handled going forward.

Recommendation

As indicated above, the FPCA and Federal Form have not been amended by the EAC to require DPOC and accordingly we recommend that you do not require information not currently required by the FPCA and Federal Form. We suggest you continue registering individuals under the current forms to prevent possible liability for violating an applicant’s civil rights.

Improving Security of Voting Systems [Section 6]

1. Non-Citizen Involvement in Election Administration

- a. So long as the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) maintains the designation of election infrastructure as critical infrastructure, DOJ and DHS must take all appropriate actions to prevent non-citizens from being involved in the administration of any federal election, including by accessing election equipment, ballots, or any other relevant materials used in the conduct of any federal election.

Impact

Connecticut is currently in compliance with this. To be an elector, one must be a citizen. To work during an election or be an election official, one must be an elector in the state. No additional action is needed on your part for this provision.