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Sen. Huffines Gets Answers on Non-Citizens Removed from Dallas Voter Rolls

Huffines to pursue legislation to proactively verify the citizenship of applicants for voter registration

[DALLAS, TX] – In response to an April 23 letter from Senator Don Huffines (R-Dallas), the Dallas County Elections Administrator reports that from 2011 to present, 174 voter registrations were cancelled due to non-citizenship. Of those 174 voters, 22 non-citizens cast ballots in 38 elections from March of 1988 to November of 2016.

Senator Huffines stated, "Our constitution and our laws are crystal clear that only citizens may vote in our elections. It's also crystal clear that our election laws are not living up to voters' expectations of free and fair elections. Voters should be outraged. To restore trust in our elections, and in government, generally, we must make certain that the right to vote is reserved for citizens only."

Previous statistics painted a troubling picture of non-citizens' participation in Dallas County elections. Research conducted by the Texas Conservative Coalition Research Institute (TCCRI) showed:

"From September 1999 to March 21, 2007, Dallas County cancelled the voter registrations of 1,889 individuals because of non-citizenship. Before being deleted from the voter rolls, 356 of those individuals had voted in Dallas County."

More recently, in early 2018, the Office of the Attorney General reported, "...the process for removing ineligible voters who self-report as non-citizens at jury duty is not being followed correctly, or even at all, in various counties."

In response to those who claim that the number of non-citizens found and removed from Dallas voter rolls are statistically insignificant, Senator Huffines stated, "Every vote matters, which is why we will not allow non-citizens and illegal immigrants to shape our future or cancel-out the vote of a registered citizen. All too often, we see major elections that are decided by just hundreds of voters or fewer. Non-citizens and illegal immigrants have no permanent allegiance to our country or our state, and they must not have any voice whatsoever in our elections."

Senator Huffines concluded, "Citizenship verification for voting in Texas isn't just broken, it's non-existent. We currently rely on a haphazard, accidental, and incomplete method to audit voter rolls for citizenship, and the voters deserve so much better. In 2019, when the Texas Legislature reconvenes, I will file and fight for citizenship verification legislation so voters can have more confidence in our elections and our government."

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Senator Don Huffines represents the North half of Dallas County in the Texas Senate. First elected in 2014, he serves as Vice Chairman of the Senate Veteran Affairs & Border Security Committee, and as a member of the Senate Committees on Natural Resources & Economic Development, Education, Intergovernmental Relations, and Administration.