

20240916 Comments to Montgomery County BOE by

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In my comments to the Board at the June meeting, I expressed concern that non-citizens may vote in the upcoming federal election. Non-citizens will be applying for social benefits and driver's licenses at Maryland agencies that are also intake points for voter registration. The personnel in these agencies are supposed to ensure that the persons filing a registration application meet the requirements to register including being a U.S. citizen. HAVA requires states to verify the information of newly registered voters for federal elections. At the June BOE meeting, the discussion of this concern concluded that the signing of the voter application under penalty of perjury was sufficient for verification of citizenship. However, with the large numbers of non-citizens applying for services, I am concerned that corners may be cut; and non-citizens may end up on the Maryland registration list. Data available from the Social Security Administration (SSA) underscores the concern. I refer to the SSA website that provides Help America Vote Verification (HAVV) Transactions by State <https://www.ssa.gov/open/havv/>. Maryland has had a dramatic increase in HAVV transactions in recent months. The table below reflects this. The worrisome numbers in this table are the Total Non-Matches. (HAVV uses the last four digits of the SSNs.)

State	Total Transactions	Total Non-Matches	% Non-Match	Total Matches	Single Match Alive	Single Match Deceased	Multiple Matches Alive	Multiple Matches Deceased	Multiple Matches Mixed.
MD Wk end 9/7/24	2484	1747	70.3	737	737	0	0	0	0
MD 2024	74942	64640	86.3	10302	10302	0	0	0	0
MD 2023	18015	6367	35.3	11648	11639	7	1	0	1

Non-Matches are social security numbers presented to the SSA for verification that are invalid. Note the year-over-year increase from 2023 to 2024. I believe the large numbers of non-matches indicate that many persons are trying to register to vote using fictitious SSNs. The following link is to a video that summarizes my concerns <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4u4luG9UcKE>; (Warning: You may have to ignore some political ads at the beginning of the video.) However, the concern about non-citizens registering to vote has been broached on myriad platforms in recent months.

In the June BOE meeting I asked what steps the Montgomery County BOE will take to ensure that the votes of eligible voters are not canceled by the votes of non-citizens in the upcoming election. The response from the Board was that the applicant signing the application under penalty of perjury was sufficient.

Is there anything under the purview of the Montgomery County BOE that could be done to ensure my vote is not cancelled by an ineligible voter.