

Attachment Josh Lief email to Citizen Lubeck - Election Integrity - MH

On Wed, Aug 24, 2022 at 4:00 PM Lief, Joshua N. <JLief@oag.state.va.us> wrote:

Dear Ken,

Thank you for email to Attorney General Miyares and meeting with me and others earlier this year. The Attorney General thanks you for taking the time to share your views.\

Over the last several decades, Republicans, Democrats and Independents across the nation have expressed doubt about the integrity of our election systems, and even the results of some elections. The same is true in Virginia. Governor Youngkin, Attorney General Miyares, and Lt. Governor Earle-Sears pledged during the 2021 campaign to pursue policies that would strengthen election integrity and add transparency to our election process.

Attorney General Miyares believes it should be easy to vote, and hard to cheat. The Office of Attorney General is conducting several investigations into election irregularities and election official misconduct. We cannot share the details of these investigations, but the results will be public in due time. Attorney General Miyares has created an election integrity unit composed of attorneys and investigators that will work closely with law enforcement to ensure that future elections are conducted pursuant to law and at the highest level of integrity.

The Office of Attorney General has successfully defeated several election lawsuits, including the one by Paul Goldman that sought to discredit the results of the 2021 election. Governor Youngkin signed several new laws that will promote election integrity including laws that:

- Stop outside interference in elections, including prohibiting money, gifts and services to election offices from private individuals or nongovernmental organizations;
- Increase transparency by providing absentee results by precinct so voters can see who is voting absentee in person and by mail and what precinct they're coming from.
- Make Virginia's voter rolls even cleaner by removing deceased voters every week (up from receiving report from Dept. of Vital Statistics once a month)

While the Governor and Attorney General have accomplished a lot on this issue, there is still more reform needed, but that requires cooperation with the General Assembly. By way of example, the House of Delegates passed legislation to reinstate voter ID and end the use of unattended drop-boxes for ballots, only to see those die in the Senate.

2020 Ballot Retention Process:

- According to Virginia Code 24.2-669, ballots from old elections are discarded once the time has expired for initiating a recount, contest, or other proceeding in which such ballots may be needed as evidence. Therefore, the ballots for the 2020 election are slated to be discarded this Fall.
- However, the Virginia Department of Elections maintains election results records of elections indefinitely.
- The Office of the Attorney General has reviewed the 2020 election results, along with hundreds of documents and concerns from citizens and elected officials and has not seen

any evidence of widespread fraud that would change the results of Virginia's 2020 election. Therefore, we have no justification commence a proceeding to stop the discarding of the ballots this year.

- Attorney General Miyares has pledged to call balls and strikes, and to work to promote free and fair elections conducted pursuant to law, but we cannot create law. Any change to the law regarding ballot retention or other election practices must go through the legislative process.

Thank you again for taking the time to write and please let me know if you have any follow up questions.

Sincerely yours,

Josh Lief



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