



**State Representatives
Juanita O. Brent
Bride Rose Sweeney**

Sent via electronic mail

February 24, 2023

Dear Secretary LaRose,

We write in response to the news of your latest purge of Ohio voters and to urge your office to engage a third party firm to conduct an audit of the purge. Your initial purge list that you posted one year ago contained 140,782 voters. This week, you purged 124,158 voters. That means at least 16,624 eligible Ohio voters were on that initial purge list in error. How many others were purged in error? We know about the 16,624 voters who were correctly saved from purging because they happened to do something that your office took notice of. But how many more Ohio voters were purged and don't even know it? A third party audit should reveal the answer.

Of the 124,158 voters just purged, our county, Cuyahoga County, saw the most voters removed. How many were from Cleveland or East Cleveland, where thousands of Black voters were targeted by convicted felon Republican operatives' voter intimidation scheme that they called "the black robo?" These men, Jack Burkman and Jacob Wohl, were also given the largest fine in Federal Communications Commission history, \$5.1 Million. What special steps did your office take to protect the Ohio voters whose rights they targeted in a criminal act of anti-democracy?

We find it highly troubling that you say Ohio voters have "abandoned" their voter registrations. They have not abandoned voting. **On the contrary, the state of Ohio has abandoned these voters.** Many thousands of voters on your purge list were removed without one shred of evidence that they no longer live in Ohio. In fact, for many thousands of the purged voters, there is actual evidence that they do still live in Ohio. The National Change of Address service sent this evidence to your office and you should reveal it to the public and show us every single person that you purged who still has a residence address in Ohio and, therefore, is still legally entitled to vote in Ohio.

We request the following information that you should presently have available for the purge that was just conducted:

1. How many people on the purge lists are known to be alive and well and still living in Ohio as eligible voters? Voters who move within the boundaries of the state of Ohio remain eligible to vote under Ohio law, but your office purged thousands of such voters in 2019.

2. How has the collaboration ban imposed on our election officials by the General Assembly affected voter advocates' ability to inspect purge lists and do outreach to voters?
3. Are any of the voters on your purge lists victims of the fraudulent voter suppression scheme perpetrated in Ohio by convicted felons and Republican operatives Jacob Wohl and Jack Burkman? Have you taken steps to protect the targeted voters from purging?
4. Which purged voters also appear on the National Change of Address list still with an Ohio address? Such voters remain eligible to vote in Ohio and should not be removed from the rolls.
5. Are there any counties that your office has ordered not to purge voters? Which counties?
6. What is the age breakdown of voters on these purge lists?
7. What is the geographic region breakdown of voters on these purge lists?
8. What is the urban/rural breakdown of voters on these purge lists?
9. What is the average length of time each person slated for purging was registered to vote?
10. What is the breakdown of when voters on the purge lists last voted?

We want to address another important point from your purge media announcement this week. You stated that Senator Sherrod Brown, one of Ohio's former secretaries of state, also conducted this purge process. Facts matter, and that is simply untrue. An honest review of Ohio's extremely flawed voter purge will reveal the truth.

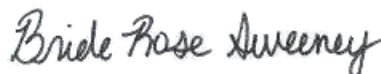
In summary, we ask that you arrange for a third party audit of your purge lists and processes and that you provide our offices with any lists of recently purged voters as well as those who are next set to be purged so we can check them for errors and take action to protect and defend Ohio voters' rights. Another voter purge appears to be coming soon according to your Directive [2019-03](#) "2019 General Voter Records Maintenance Program – NCOA Process Only." Voters deserve to have confidence in their elections, not fear that they will be erased from the voter rolls.

Thank you for your prompt attention.

Sincerely,



Juanita O. Brent
House District 22



Bride Rose Sweeney
House District 16