



Department of the Secretary of State

Bureau of Corporations, Elections and Commissions

Shenna Bellows
Secretary of State

Julie L. Flynn
Deputy Secretary of State

July 16, 2025

James Deyermond
Chair, Maine GOP
9 Higgins Street
Augusta, ME 04330

Dear James,

I write to follow up on allegations issued by your office on June 26 when the Maine Republican Party issued a press release, claiming election irregularities. Our office takes very seriously our constitutional responsibility to ensure free, fair and accurate elections. In the future, please direct any allegations of voter wrongdoing or election administration errors to the Department of Secretary of State's Division of Elections so that our professional staff can investigate. We were disappointed that you did not contact us, but fortunately, a member of the press shared your list with my office.

At my direction, the non-partisan, civil service staff of the Division of Elections investigated all of the claims made in your press release, reviewing in careful detail each of the names on the list that had been issued by the Maine Republican Party to the media. We are pleased to confirm that there were zero incidents of dual voting in the list of names provided to us. Our investigation cleared all voters of any wrongdoing and confirmed the integrity of our elections.

Specifically, the investigation into the alleged 51 dual voting claims found that:

- 11 of these paired records are not the same voter. For example:
 - In Peru, there were two voters with the same first name, last name, and middle initial but different dates of birth, driver license/state ID numbers, and signatures on their voter registration cards.
 - In Fort Fairfield, there were two voters with the same first name, last name, and middle initial but different dates of birth, driver license/state ID numbers, and signatures on both their voter registration cards and their absentee ballot return envelopes for the November 5, 2024 General Election.
- 19 of these records had voter participation history (the record of someone voting in an election) erroneously assigned twice, but the voter had not in fact voted twice. For example:
 - In Orono, a duplicate voter record was created in error, and both records were assigned voter participation history in error. Elections Division staff confirmed this with municipal staff and will cancel the duplicate record.

- In Palermo, voter participation history was assigned to duplicate records for a voter in error. Elections Division staff confirmed this with municipal staff and will cancel the duplicate record.
- 21 of these records needed an administrative resolution, like duplicate voter record resolution or other minor correction, but had no record of dual voting. For example:
 - In Dover Foxcroft, duplicate voter records existed for one voter. Voter participation history was assigned for the voter on one record for the March 5, 2024 Primary Election and the November 5, 2024 General Election. Voter participation history was assigned to the voter on the other record for the June 11, 2024 State Primary and the June 11, 2024 Municipal Election. While held on the same date, these were separate elections. The voter did not cast multiple ballots in the same election. Elections Division staff ensured all of the voter's voter participation history was accurately recorded on the correct record and cancelled the duplicate record.
 - In Bowdoin, duplicate voter records existed for one voter. The duplicate record had already been resolved by the Elections Division on May 12, 2025.

As I shared with the media, duplicate voter records are not uncommon. When a voter moves from one town to another, the voter will frequently not think to notify the clerk of their previous residence that they have moved, and a duplicate record may be created when they register to vote in their new municipality. Appropriate and ongoing voter list maintenance is part of the routine work of election administrators on an ongoing basis. I issue an annual report of voter list maintenance to the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee, documenting all voter list maintenance including cancellation of duplicate records. In 2024 alone, 1,191 duplicate records were cancelled. This is meticulous work to ensure that potential duplicates are, in fact, duplicates, that the correct record is marked for cancellation, and that all relevant data for the voter is kept in the remaining record. To ensure uniformity across the state and correct action is taken on the correct records, duplicates are resolved by state Elections Division staff, rather than municipal clerks, who only have access to the records in their town – which may not be the duplicate record or may include information that needs to be retained on a different record.

The investigation into the 551 potential duplicate records found that:

- 2 of these paired records are not the same voter. For example:
 - In Augusta, there were two voters with the same first name, last name, and middle initial and year of birth, but different dates of birth, driver license/state ID numbers, and signatures on their voter registration cards.
 - In Saint Agatha and North Berwick, there were two voters with the same first and last name and year of birth, but different middle initials and dates of birth.
- 126 of these duplicate records had already been resolved by the Elections Division before the June 26 press release. For example:
 - In Gardiner, there were two records for the same voter. The duplicate registration record was cancelled by Elections Division staff on March 6, 2025.
 - In Cornish, there were two records for the same voter. The duplicate registration record was cancelled by the Elections Division staff on February 27, 2025.
- 423 of these duplicate records required resolution by the Elections Division. For example:
 - In South Paris, there are two records for the same voter. The duplicate registration record will be cancelled by Elections Division staff.

- In Naples, there are two records for the same voter. The duplicate registration record will be cancelled by Elections Division staff.

To protect the privacy of the voters, we are not detailing our findings by voter, but we are happy to meet in person to discuss any follow up questions you may have. We recognize that you may have been unaware of the level of detail that goes into voter list maintenance by the nonpartisan staff of the Elections Division, and we would be happy to educate you and members of your organization about the checks and balances in our process.

Should you have questions about election administration here in Maine in the future, I encourage you to reach out to me or my office. I and my team have always answered the phone whenever party leadership and staff has reached out in the past, and we will continue to do so in the future. If you would like to speak with me directly, my office number is 207-626-8400. Please do not hesitate to reach out now or in the future.

Sincerely,



Shenna Bellows
Secretary of State