

Kentucky To Remove Up To 250,000 Inactive Voters As Part Of Agreement With JW

By Tom Fitton



JUDICIAL WATCH

Another fabulous Judicial Watch victory for voter integrity, this time in Kentucky. We were informed recently that in June Kentucky mailed address-confirmation notices to 250,000 voters who are believed to have moved, thanks to a consent judgment agreed to by the Commonwealth. These registrations are probably outdated and will be canceled if the voters fail to vote in future elections or to confirm their current addresses.

Our victory in Kentucky is in addition to the (see cover story) Judicial Watch victory in California, where up to 1.5 million inactive names are set to be removed from voter registration rolls in Los Angeles County.

In the consent judgment,

Kentucky acknowledges that the state is not in compliance with the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA): “[T]he practices currently in place in Kentucky do not comply with the NVRA’s requirement that states conduct a general voter registration list maintenance program that makes a reasonable effort to remove ineligible persons from the voter rolls due to a change in residence outside of the jurisdiction ...”

The address-confirmation notices were sent to about 7% of the names currently on Kentucky’s voter rolls.

As part of the consent judgment, the Kentucky State Board of Elections is to proceed with a canvass mailing “to identify registrants through mail returned as undeliverable who may have unreported moves since 2009.” Voters who do not respond to the notices sent by Kentucky and who do not vote in the next two federal elections must be removed from the voting rolls. Despite the consent judgment’s being signed a year ago, Democrat Kentucky Secretary of State Alison

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Lundergan Grimes’ office has been accused of improperly delaying the processing of previous mailings through 2018, delaying the final cleanup of Kentucky’s voting rolls by at least two years.

The consent judgment results from one of our lawsuits under the NVRA (*Judicial Watch, Inc. and the United States of America v. Alison Lundergan Grimes, et al.* (No. 3:17-cv-00094)). In June 2018, with Judicial Watch’s agreement, the Justice Department moved to intervene in the lawsuit against Kentucky. During the course of the litigation, the U.S. Supreme Court held in *Husted* that the removal of old voter registrations is mandatory under the NVRA, something the Kentucky State Board of Elections had failed to do.

Our lawsuit against Kentucky alleged that 48 counties had more registered voters than citizens over the age of 18. The suit noted that Kentucky was one of only three states in which the statewide active registration rate is greater than 100% of the age-eligible citizen population.

Thanks to your generous support of Judicial Watch, Kentucky is taking action to begin the removal of up to 250,000 voters from its



SHUTTERSTOCK

Voters lining up at polling place

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lists of registered voters, which will help ensure cleaner elections in the Bluegrass State. This is another major victory for cleaner elections, especially following our agreement with Los Angeles County to begin the process of removing as many as 1.5 million inactive voters. Dirty voting rolls can mean dirty elections, so it is essential that dead and long-gone voters be removed from voter registration lists.

Your Judicial Watch is the national leader in enforcing the provisions of the NVRA. In June, we announced that Los Angeles County had sent notices to 1.5 million inactive voters on its voter rolls pursuant to our settlement agreement. Prior to the California settlement agreement, we estimated that national census data and voter-roll information showed there were 3.5 million more names on various county voter rolls nationwide than there were citizens of voting age. This settlement could cut this number in half.

In addition, the California secretary of state has alerted other California counties to clean up their voter registration lists to comply with the NVRA. Our lawsuit that forced the cleanup of California's voter rolls, which resulted in the settlement agreement (*Judicial Watch, Inc., et al. v. Dean C. Logan, et al.* (No. 2:17-cv-08948)), uncovered the fact that neither the State of California nor Los Angeles County had been properly removing inactive voters from the voter-registration rolls for the past 20 years.

The California agreement is only the third statewide settlement achieved by private plaintiffs under the NVRA — and your Judicial Watch was the plaintiff in each of those cases. The third statewide settlement was with Ohio in 2014.

We also filed a successful NVRA lawsuit against Indiana, causing it to voluntarily clean up its voting rolls, and we have an ongoing lawsuit with the State of Maryland.

We are immensely proud of the great work our Judicial Watch staff is doing on voter integrity and other efforts to defend the rule of law, root out government corruption and bring transparency to government operations. Your Judicial Watch staff also is immeasurably grateful to the strong backing we receive from you, our supporters. Thank you. 

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