

LISA C. McCLAIN
9TH DISTRICT, MICHIGAN

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October 31, 2024

The Honorable Jocelyn Benson
Michigan Secretary of State
403 W. Allegan Street
Lansing, MI, 48918

Dear Secretary Benson,

I write today with great concern over the recent reports that a student from China currently attending the University of Michigan allegedly voted illegally in our upcoming election.¹ Furthermore, I am equally concerned it is possible his illegal vote will count in the final result of our elections.

Faith in our elections is a bedrock principle of our country. This report raises serious questions about the guardrails your office has in place to ensure the security and integrity of our elections. In September, you testified to the House Administration Committee that your office already thoroughly verifies voter citizenship.² Given the severity of this reporting, this does not seem to be the case. With the imminence of the election, I am requesting your response to the following questions before you certify Michigan's election results:

1. How was this noncitizen able to register to vote?
2. Will you place additional guardrails to ensure noncitizens, including those attending Michigan colleges and universities, are not able to register and vote in a manner described in this reporting?
3. The Detroit News also reported that the noncitizen contacted the local clerk's office. If he did not do so, would there have been any way for it to be discovered that his vote had been cast illegally?
4. Is there any evidence that other noncitizens have voted in our elections?
5. Every vote matters. Even federal elections have been determined by a handful of votes. As such, a small number of illegal votes could taint the ultimate outcome of an election. In the future, what changes will you implement to revoke the ballot of someone who has voted illegally?

¹ Mauger, Craig, and Kim Kozlowski. "Chinese Student to Face Criminal Charges for Voting in Michigan. Ballot Will Apparently Count." *The Detroit News*, The Detroit News, 30 Oct. 2024

² Swenson, Ali. "Election Officials Ask for More Federal Money but Say Voting Is Secure in Their States." *AP News*, AP News, 11 Sept. 2024

You have been entrusted with the great responsibility to ensure our elections, and one of our most fundamental freedoms, the right to vote, is secure. The American people deserve transparency and the assurance that our elections have integrity and only legal votes are counted. I look forward to you providing the citizens of Michigan with this transparency.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lisa C. McClain". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Lisa McClain
Member of Congress