

Chairman Steil, Ranking Member Morelle, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I, Mary Kay Heling, am a current resident of Raleigh, NC in Wake County and an unaffiliated voter. I am a retired fitness instructor and previously served on the Board of Education in Nash County, NC. I am a US citizen and meet all the qualifications to vote in North Carolina. In 2016 I moved back to North Carolina and have lived at the same residence in Raleigh since. Upon moving back to North Carolina, I registered to vote on February 19 of that year and provided the last four digits of my Social Security number on my voter registration form. I have voted regularly since then without complications.

In 2024, I voted in-person in both the primary and general elections using my North Carolina driver's license. I also brought my voter registration card in case I needed it. My name was on the voter registration list. I never doubted that my vote was valid until shortly after the election when I received a post card from the campaign of Judge Griffin, who was running for a state supreme court seat, stating that I was on a list of allegedly "incomplete" voter registrations. After spending over an hour searching for my name on their site, I couldn't find my name, so I gave up and chalked it up to a mistake. Later, on another more searchable site I did locate my name. I was shocked and upset as I had been voting in Wake County since 2016 without issue and with proper identification.

After learning about this challenge, I visited the Wake County Board of Elections only to find out there was an issue with my Name/ Social Security number. I asked for a copy of my 2016 voter registration form. When they gave me a copy, it showed that I had correctly included my Social Security number. But I was still told my Social Security number was not on my voter registration record. Clerical error? Never once before this challenge was I notified there was an issue with my voter registration.

I submitted another voter registration form with my North Carolina driver's license number. Hopefully it is now correct in the system, but how can I be sure? If this happened to me, how does anyone know that their vote is safe? This whole process has been frustrating and time consuming.

Once the *Griffin* case was settled and my vote was validated, I breathed a sigh of relief thinking this fiasco was over. That relief didn't last long. I was made aware of the *US v NC State Board of Elections* case. It is my understanding that there is a list of over 200,000 allegedly "incomplete" voter registration records missing their North Carolina driver's license number or the last 4 digits of their Social Security number. I understand my name is on that list, despite the fact that I gave my Social Security number when I registered to vote in 2016, and I voted in 2024 using my driver's license as my ID. At no point in time has

anyone from the county or state ever given me notice that I must update my records or required me to present additional information.

I was raised in Wisconsin in a family that discussed politics and stressed the importance of voting. Voting wasn't just a privilege or right, it was a responsibility! My vote is important. It is my voice in how our city, county, state and nation is governed.

I am here to represent all of those North Carolinians whose voter registrations are at risk. Will all 200,000+ be successfully contacted or will they find out when they vote next that they will be given a provisional ballot? If contacted, will they be able to navigate a system that isn't always easy? Some may not have computer access or transportation to the Board of Elections. Others may get frustrated and give up. This has been a long and frustrating ordeal.

When you go to vote and your name is on the registration list, you show your valid ID, you should feel confident that your civic duty has been completed and your voice has been heard. There are voters like me who followed the rules and provided all the information election officials asked for when they registered to vote. Is it fair to make them go through this frustrating process?

This process is threatening the voice of North Carolina voters and fracturing confidence in the government. Please do not remove the voices of registered North Carolina voters.