



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS

455 NORTH REXFORD DRIVE • BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA 90210

John Mirisch, Mayor

February 1, 2017

California Secretary of State Alex Padilla
Administration Office
1500 11th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Voter Registration and Fraud

Dear Secretary Padilla:

Voter registration and fraud is an extremely urgent matter for Beverly Hills. In our 2013 municipal election, one City Council member won their seat by a mere seven votes. With such a small population, and low voter turnout for a municipal election, any amount of voter fraud can have a profound impact on the composition of our City Council. Due to our upcoming election on March 7, 2017, and the pervasive voter fraud issue within Beverly Hills, our City requires immediate action from the Secretary of State's Office to investigate and prevent further voter fraud within Beverly Hills.

Our City is aware that people who are not eligible to vote in Beverly Hills have registered to vote here. For instance, for the November 7, 2016 general election, our City Clerk's Office was notified that there were potentially 516 people registered to vote in Beverly Hills who were not residents. This information was transmitted to the Los Angeles Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk's office for verification. According to Los Angeles Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk's office, 492 of these voters were registered to four postal addresses in Beverly Hills. These four postal addresses are associated with commercial businesses where individuals can rent post office boxes.

All 492 voters had their accounts immediately suspended by the Los Angeles Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk's office. These individuals were sent letters asking them to re-register to vote at valid residential addresses. Of those accounts, 62 registered voters returned vote by mail ballots. Of these 62 ballots, two voters had returned their vote by mail before their account was suspended and therefore their vote was counted in the election, 21 voters re-registered with new addresses, and 39 returned vote by mail ballots but their ballots were not counted. This type of voter registration and potential fraud cannot be allowed to continue, especially here in Beverly Hills where those two votes could be the deciding factor in the March 7th Municipal Election.

The City of Beverly Hills and its citizens have taken an active role in trying to prevent voter fraud. As mentioned above, we do review the list of registered voters prior to an election to attempt to discern if there is any noticeable evidence of voter registration fraud. Additionally, our City Council has conducted two meetings to determine a course of action for preventing future fraud.

On January 10, 2017, your Chief Council Steven J. Reyes attended the City of Beverly Hills City Council Study Session to speak about voter registration and voter fraud. As a whole, our entire City Council was disappointed with Mr. Reyes' lack of information.

At the January 24, 2017 City Council meeting, City staff were directed by the City Council to develop a campaign encouraging residents that if they suspect voter fraud to report it immediately. The campaign is currently under development and will be released prior to the upcoming election. The City believes this initiative will be more effective if there is confidence that the Secretary of State's office will take this matter seriously.

Our City requires your office to be proactive in our community in preventing voter fraud. We are requesting your office ensure each voter is legally entitled to vote in our upcoming March 7, 2017 municipal election and recommend prosecution for those who are not. The current honor system of people signing the affirmation on the voter registration form is not good enough to protect the public from people voting fraudulently in an election and influencing the outcome.

We await your reply and corrective course of action.

Sincerely,



John Mirisch,
Mayor, City of Beverly Hills