December 14, 2018

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
Governor of California
State Capitol, First Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814
Diana.Dooley@gov.ca.gov

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor-Elect of California
Office of the Lieutenant Governor
State Capitol, Suite 1114
Sacramento, CA 95814
Rhys.Williams@ltg.ca.gov

Dear Governor Brown and Governor-Elect Newsom:

Today, my office received a letter from the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) accepting responsibility for the delayed transmission of the voter registration records of 589 individuals who had registered to vote prior to the close of registration for the November 6, 2018 General Election.

It is my top priority to protect the right for all eligible Californians to be able to register and vote. It is the responsibility of DMV to ensure that the data collected through Motor Voter is transmitted accurately and timely, as is required by law. This is now the fourth egregious error DMV has committed since the launch of Motor Voter earlier this year, and this latest error could have potentially disenfranchised eligible California citizens.

The Director of DMV has lost my confidence and trust. I urge you to promptly appoint new leadership at the DMV.

While the number of potentially affected individuals resulting from DMV’s error would not have changed the results of any contests certified by my office, I am committed to ensuring every eligible voter has their ballot counted properly.
Accordingly, my office will conduct a thorough review of each of the 589 records to:

- determine whether these eligible individuals attempted to cast a provisional ballot;
- determine whether or not any of the provisional ballots cast by these individuals were rejected;
- work with counties to take any appropriate steps to count affected ballots;
- and reach out to affected individuals.

If you have any questions or need any clarification to this request, please contact me directly at (916) 695-1644.

Sincerely,

ALEX PADILLA
California Secretary of State
December 14, 2018

Honorable Alex Padilla
Secretary of State
1500 11th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Secretary of State Padilla:

This letter provides additional information on Motor Voter records transmitted by the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to the Secretary of State’s Office on November 30th, 2018. Included in this transmission were records received via postal mail by the DMV after the voter registration cut-off date of October 22, 2018, but either had a postmark, or absent a legible postmark, were signed by DMV customers prior to the close of registration. This could be due to delayed mailing by the customer or delayed delivery by the post office.

I understand your office has analyzed these records and found that 329 records were for individuals who had not previously registered to vote and were attempting to be added to the voter rolls. Another 260 records were from individuals who had attempted to change their address on file with the Secretary of State to reflect a change in residence to a different California county.

The DMV had continued processing records received after the registration cut-off date, but did not transmit any records received via postal mail between October 30th and November 30th. The DMV recognizes the pause in transmittals was an error and affected the timing of the registration of the 589 individuals referenced above relative to the November election. The pause was due to a misunderstanding on the part of the department, for which we take responsibility.

While we understand that based on the small number and distribution by county of these registrations, no election results certified by the Secretary of State were affected, I want to assure you that the department takes this very seriously and will work with your office to identify any individual out of the 589 records who may have attempted to vote but whose vote may have been rejected and to have that person’s vote counted.

JEAN SHIOMOTO
Director