

STATE OF COLORADO
Department of State
1700 Broadway, Suite 200
Denver, CO 80290



Jena M. Griswold
Secretary of State
Judd Choate
Director, Elections Division

January 30, 2019

Secretary Scott Schwab
Office of the Kansas Secretary of State
534 S. Kansas Avenue, Ste. 1210
Topeka, KS 66603-3434

Re: *Colorado Ceases Participation in the Kansas Crosscheck, Effective Immediately*

Dear Secretary Schwab:

This letter is formal notice that Colorado is ending its membership in the Kansas Crosscheck, effective immediately.

The Colorado Department of State joined Crosscheck in 2008. From the beginning, Crosscheck has been riddled with problems, relating both to the quality of data and the security of voters' personal information. Crosscheck has also been used as a partisan tool.

Colorado has found list maintenance "matches" i) fail to meet NVRA minimum matching criteria, or ii) have already been identified through our office's participation in other programs, most notably the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC), and, iii) may lead to the removal of eligible citizens from voter rolls without a reasonable basis. The Secretary of State's job is to make sure that every eligible citizen has their voice heard; not prevent eligible citizens from voting.

Crosscheck's policies and practices have unnecessarily exposed Colorado's voters to potential identity theft by failing to protect personally identifiable information (PII). While the Colorado Department of State has securely sent to Crosscheck voter records containing PII using various encryption and hashing techniques, Crosscheck and other member jurisdictions have routinely shared Colorado voters' PII via unsecure email. This is in despite of Colorado's many requests that Crosscheck enforce the organization's signed agreement, which guarantees voter information be kept and distributed securely.

Crosscheck has also been used as a partisan tool, leading to an increase in voter disenfranchisement. We can no longer support this in the current political climate, where emotion seeks to trump reason. For these reasons Colorado is immediately withdrawing from Crosscheck. I encourage other states and jurisdictions to do the same.

Better list maintenance options exist. Colorado is a founding member of ERIC, which sends states quality list maintenance data on a near continuous basis and exceeds industry standards for data security. I encourage you to close Crosscheck, and join 26 states, plus the District of Columbia, in ERIC.

I hope your initial weeks as Secretary of State are going well, and look forward to working with you over the coming years.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jena Griswold". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jena Griswold
Colorado Secretary of State