

League of Women Voters of Indiana, Indiana NAACP, et. al. v. Connie Lawson, et. al.

July 20, 2017

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On July 11, the Brennan Center and co-counsel filed a lawsuit on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Indiana, the Indiana NAACP, and Joselyn Whitticker seeking to prevent Indiana Secretary of State Connie Lawson from producing voter registration information to the Presidential Advisory Commission on Election Integrity in a manner that does not comply with State law. Indiana limits access to individualized voter registration data to certain entities and certain purposes; the Commission's investigation and public disclosure of data does not qualify. Secretary Lawson's sharing of data with the [Commission](#) could potentially harm millions of registered Indiana voters.

Background

On June 28, Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach – who serves as vice-chair of the Commission – requested names, address, birthdates, the last four digits of a voter's social security number if available, voter history, military status, and felony conviction history from states across the country. Kobach, who has a [long-time history](#) of supporting voter suppression efforts, stated that this information was requested to “fully analyze vulnerabilities and issues related to voter registration and voting.”

In [Secretary Lawson's public response](#) to the Commission's request on June 30, she stated that while state law prevents her from providing some personal information the Commission requested, she would provide voters' names, address, and congressional districts. Secretary Lawson made no mention of any written agreement between the Commission and Indiana's Election Division, a legal prerequisite to obtaining the data.

Currently, there have been seven federal [lawsuits filed challenging the action](#), including five in Washington D.C., one in [Florida](#), and one in [New York](#). In addition, lawsuits have been filed in state court in [New Hampshire](#) and [Idaho](#) as well. Twenty-one states and the District of Columbia [have declined](#) to provide any data, and others – like Lawson – have said they will provide publicly available data.

The organizational plaintiffs in the suit – The League of Women Voters of Indiana and the Indiana NAACP – are represented by the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law, Kirkland and Ellis LLP, and Trent A. McCain of McCain Law Offices, P.C.

Documents

- [Complaint](#)
- [Memo on Legal Risks of Sharing Data](#)
- [Press Release](#)
- [Fraud Commission](#)
- [Lawson's Statement](#)

RELATED PRESS RELEASES

[Civic Groups Sue Indiana Secretary of State, Say Release of Personal Voter Data Is Illegal Under State Law](#)

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