



PRESS STATEMENT

Federal Court Rejects DOJ Attempt to Obtain Maryland's Sensitive Voter Data

Court ruling protects Maryland voters' personal information from federal overreach

<https://www.aclu-md.org/press-releases/federal-court-rejects-doj-attempt-to-obtain-marylands-sensitive-voter-data/>

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Annapolis, MD – A federal court today [rejected](#) the U.S. Department of Justice's attempt to force Maryland election officials to turn over the state's unredacted voter registration file, protecting the sensitive personal information of millions of Maryland voters. The ruling is the ninth rejection by courts of the DOJ's nationwide campaign to obtain states' voter registration databases, including voters' dates of birth, residential addresses, driver's license numbers, and partial Social Security numbers. The court found that federal law does not authorize the government's sweeping demand for Maryland's confidential voter data.

The case, [United States v. DeMarinis](#), arose after the DOJ sued Maryland in December 2025 seeking access to the state's complete voter file. The lawsuit was part of a broader effort by the DOJ to obtain similar records from states across the country despite significant privacy concerns and the absence of clear congressional authorization for such a database. Maryland voters, Common Cause, and Out for Justice, Inc, intervened in the case, represented by the American Civil Liberties Union and ACLU of Maryland, to defend voters' privacy rights and challenge the federal government's unprecedented request.

"Martin Luther King Jr. once said the greatest march an American can take in a democracy is a march to the ballot box. Today's decision reaffirms that this march is essential, and that no administration can place obstacles in the path of those who choose to take it," **said Carl Snowden, a voter intervenor and convener of the Caucus of African American Leaders.**

“Today’s ruling is a massive victory for voter privacy and a rejection of federal overreach. The decision ensures voters are protected from an unauthorized national database that would have been a goldmine for hackers and a tool for intimidation. Our elections remain safe, secure, and in the hands of Marylanders where they belong,” **said Joanne Antoine, Common Cause’s Maryland Executive Director.**

The remaining counsel and plaintiff organizations released the following joint statement:

“This is a victory for every Marylander who wants to participate in democracy without fear. The DOJ sought access to some of the most sensitive information Maryland voters possess while refusing to explain why it needed that data or what it planned to do with it, in an effort to intimidate eligible voters and build an unprecedented and unlawful national voter database. We will continue fighting efforts by the federal government to weaponize voter data that threatens voter privacy, chills participation, and undermines trust in our democracy.”

Read the court’s order dismissing the DOJ’s lawsuit here:

<https://assets.aclu.org/live/uploads/2026/06/91-DeMarinis-Dismissal-Order.pdf>

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