

Testimony HB67 Rep Kiel-Voter Roll Bill Senate 2.10.26

Good afternoon Chairman and members. I'm Becky Gerritson, Executive Director for Eagle Forum of AL.

Under current law, the Secretary of State already has full authority to reduce the cost of Alabama's voter rolls making HB67 unnecessary; while we appreciate the lower price, it remains out of reach for most citizens and is still higher than most states.

My greater concern, however, is that the bill's language would prohibit voter-verification organizations from publishing voter data.

Voter verification and public research organizations use voter rolls to review accuracy, identify errors, and publish findings. However, vague language in the bill could prevent the publishing of lists and of findings.

In the engrossed version there are 3 ways a person or entity could get in trouble under this bill:

- The first 2 ways:, "It shall be unlawful to sell or publish any portion of a voter list."
- Then it goes on to say, "**or** use the voter data or information by the Secretary of State under this section for commercial purposes."
- That arrangement of wording indicates that **selling or publishing** is not necessarily tied to commercial use.

Under this bill, publishing an Alabama voter list by voter integrity organizations which is currently allowed will be illegal.

I was told this is because someone might download the list from a voter-verification website and use it for commercial purposes.

We have a Solution

- We urge this committee to add a simple amendment **to strike the words "or publish" on line 99.**
- or you could add "**voter verification and public research organizations**" to the exemptions under the commercial use provisions in the bill.

It **must** be clarified that voter integrity organizations may continue their current lawful use of voter registration lists.

What good is a cheaper list if it can't be verified?

Please do not pass this out of committee without one of these amendments.