



Secretary of the Commonwealth
Attn: Michelle K. Tassinari
Director and Legal Counsel, Elections Division
McCormack Building
One Ashburton Place, Room 1705
Boston, MA 02108

October 23, 2018

Dear Secretary Galvin:

Voting is one of the most sacred rights we hold as American citizens. The free and frequent exercise of that right is key to a healthy democracy, and should be encouraged, commended, and protected at every opportunity.

Massachusetts Fiscal Alliance (MassFiscal), the state's largest non-partisan, non-profit advocacy organization, mailed a first-class letter to voters who voted in the September primary. We received the voter data after filing a Freedom of Information Request from each clerk's office to obtain the data. The voters from the municipalities of Lawrence, Haverhill, Brockton, Framingham, Methuen, Lowell, Milford, and Franklin received MassFiscal's letter. In all, 63,246 letters were mailed.

Of the 63,246 that were mailed, 571 were returned to our office with more coming in each day. The breakdown per municipality may be found below. As you may know, not all voters update their address with the United State Postal Service (USPS). For the voters who do, they have 12 months of mail forwarding as part of their service. State law requires that once a voter moves, they have six months to re-register with their updated address. Although we received hundreds of letters back, which all indicate serious problems with their voter registration, 124 letters returned to MassFiscal indicated that the "forwarding time expired." This means the voter has not been with that address for over 12 months yet still voted in the September Primary.

TOWN	RETURNS	VOTED	%	FTE
Lawrence	284	10,861	2.61%	33
Haverhill	92	9,183	1.00%	23
Brockton	61	6,805	0.90%	17

Framingham	36	8,900	0.40%	6
Methuen	27	7,145	0.38%	12
Lowell	54	13,727	0.39%	29
Milford	9	2,678	0.34%	3
Franklin	8	3,947	0.20%	1
TOTALS	571	63,246	0.90%	124

Even more troubling, however, is the sizable rate of return for the City of Lawrence. 2.61% of registered voters were unable to be contacted through the postal service at their registered addresses. This number is almost triple the rate of return of other similarly sized cities.

MassFiscal is aware the general election is scheduled for two weeks from today which is why we feel the urgency to do everything in our power to ensure voter integrity is preserved. MassFiscal is prepared to work with the Secretary of State William Galvin's office, and the city clerks from each town to ensure voter fraud is prevented in November's election. MassFiscal flagged each voter with a questionable status with the original voter data obtained from the city clerks. With early voting starting, it is imperative that your office and others ensure that only appropriate voters vote in the upcoming election.

Sincerely,



Carl Copeland
Interim Executive Director

CC: City clerk from the municipalities of Lawrence, Haverhill, Brockton, Framingham, Methuen, Lowell, Milford, and Franklin.