



NORTH CAROLINA

STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS

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VIA EMAIL

Mr. Joe Coletti
House Majority Oversight Staff Director
North Carolina General Assembly
16 West Jones Street
Raleigh, NC 27601

July 28, 2023

Dear Mr. Coletti,

As a follow up to my letter from Wednesday, July 26, please see responses below to the remaining questions from the House Oversight and Reform Committee.

(1) What steps has the State Board taken to improve access to and understanding of voter history and voter records data?

The State Board of Elections, back in 2020, added detailed language to its [Voter Registration Data](#) and [Voter History Data](#) webpages as part of an overhaul of the State Board website, NCSBE.gov. These additions were in response to requests and questions we were getting from the public about our data files. The information on the website outlines what is included in the data files, what is not included in the data files, the file layouts, and when the files are updated. We also drafted [FAQ: Voter History Data](#) to answer common questions about voter history files.

In addition, State Board staff answers hundreds of questions every year about our data files, and routinely provides special reports and analyses stemming from public queries.

The steps we have taken on the data front, combined with the robust data we provide publicly on our website, have led to the top score in the country – 97 out of 100 – on the [Voter Reference Foundation's Data Transparency Scorecard](#).

(2) What additional steps have been considered to incorporate user experience into data availability and presentation?

State Board staff answers hundreds of questions every year about our data files, and these questions lead to ideas about how we can improve data transparency and usability. Some of these ideas have been implemented, and some may be implemented in the future but depend largely on personnel and funding availability.

For example:

- The [Voter Registration Statistics](#) tool provides county-level demographic breakdowns of current voter registration numbers
- Since 2020, we have created election-specific [Voter Turnout](#) pages that provide demographic and voting method breakdowns so that the public does not have to be data experts or even download a file to easily get that type of information
- The [Local Voter Tool](#) and the [new elections map](#) are recent efforts to make it easy for the public to get information about when their local elections will be held and what contests will be on the ballot.

In terms of file sizes being too large, with 7.3 million registered voters, that is largely out of our control based on software limitations, but we do provide county-by-county databases in addition to statewide files. We also provide files on a one-off basis to individual requesters and will continue to do that as resources allow. The proposed modernization of the SEIMS system would allow us to generate many more data reports with fewer resources than we currently use.

Attached, please also find an analysis of same-day registration data for the years 2016, 2018, 2020, and 2022 as requested. If you would like to discuss this data further, or need additional information, please let us know.

Thank you again for reaching out on behalf of the House Oversight and Reform Committee. If I can be of any additional assistance, please let me know.

Sincerely,



Karen Brinson Bell
Executive Director
North Carolina State Board of Elections