

2/4/26 Statement to the Frederick County Board of Elections:

Good afternoon, my name is Tom Slater and I am a registered voter in Frederick County. I want to bring to your attention two recent items published in the NY Times.

One is a February 1, 2026 column by David French, a respected conservative commentator, entitled "This is Not a Drill" warning about the danger of the federal government obtaining election data from local or state elections boards, like recently occurred in Georgia, and suggesting that that data could be used by the Trump administration to suppress the vote by intimidating voters and unfairly removing legitimately registered voters from the voter lists.

This is more disturbing because of comments made by President Trump a day or two ago when he said: "If a state can't run an election, I think the people behind me should do something about it because, you know, if you think about it, the state is an agent of the federal government in elections. I don't know why the federal government doesn't do 'em anyway. The federal government should get involved. These are agents of the federal government to count the votes. If they can't count the votes legally and honestly, then somebody else should take over."

If this doesn't send chills down the spine of every volunteer involved in the systematic, careful, and accurate counting of votes in counties like Frederick, the election's board staff, and every local election official, I don't know what would.

The other item is a story from the January 14, 2026 edition of the Times that talks about the proposed Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (or SAVE) act which motivated President Trump to issue an Executive Order that invites state officials to upload voter data on a mass scale to the Department of Homeland Security. So far, some states have complied with the Executive Order, and initial data suggests that there is no widespread fraud. Out of 4.9 million voter registrations that have been checked so far, roughly .02 percent of the names processed have been referred for further investigation of non-citizenship.

I urge that this board resist any effort from the federal government to gain access to any voter records from Frederick County.