



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of the Associate Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

September 30, 2026

VIA Email and U.S. Mail

David Becker
Executive Director & Founder
The Center for Election Innovation & Research, Inc. (CEIR)
1930 18th Street NW
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Washington, DC 20009

“Concerned that personal information collected by States in the licensing of motor vehicle drivers was being released—even sold—with resulting loss of privacy for many persons, Congress provided federal statutory protection. It enacted the Driver’s Privacy Protection Act of 1994[.]” *Maracich v. Spears*, 570 U.S. 48, 51–52 (2013). The Driver’s Privacy Protection Act (“DPPA”) makes it “unlawful for any person knowingly to obtain or disclose personal information, from a motor vehicle record, for any use not permitted under” the Act. 18 U.S.C. § 2722(a). And “[t]he DPPA’s provisions do not apply solely to States. The Act also regulates the resale and redisclosure of drivers’ personal information by private persons who have obtained that information from a state DMV.” *Reno v. Condon*, 528 U.S. 141, 146 (2000). Any person, organization or entity who knowingly violates the DPPA may be subject to a criminal fine. §§ 2723(a), 2725(2).

As you know, the Electronic Registration Information Center Inc. (“ERIC”) has entered into agreements with several states which require the member-states to send ERIC data including “voter files” and “all licensing or identification records from motor vehicles departments.” This data includes sensitive personal information such as the person’s name, address, driver’s license number, last four digits of Social Security number, date of birth, phone number, and e-mail address. This data is protected from disclosure under the DPPA. *See* 18 U.S.C. § 2721(a).

CEIR has acknowledged that it obtained, from ERIC, voter files and personally identifiable information, among other data. And ERIC has maintained the sharing of DPPA-protected personal information with CEIR falls under a statutory permissible use. But courts have construed exceptions to the DPPA’s protections narrowly.¹ Although using such information in furtherance

¹ *See e.g., Maracich*, 570 U.S. at 60; *Senne v. Vill. of Palatine, Ill.*, 695 F.3d 597, 606 (7th Cir. 2012).

of government functions or for certain research activities may be permitted, using protected information for certain partisan purposes is not permitted under the DPPA—regardless of whether a state consents.

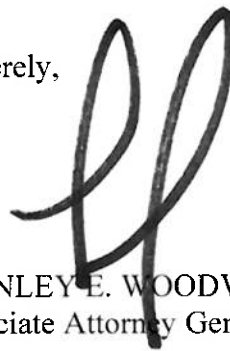
To ensure compliance with the DPPA, and in accordance with the Attorney General's statutory authority to enforce the Act, please send the Department of Justice the following materials:

1. A list, in a sortable and searchable format, detailing all instances of ERIC sharing information obtained by a state department of motor vehicles with CEIR. The list should include:
 - a. the specific purpose for which the information was shared and all resulting uses of the information;
 - b. the State whose information was shared; and
 - c. the date the information was shared.
2. All correspondence (e.g., letters, emails) between CEIR and ERIC.
3. All documents related to CEIR's possession of information obtained by a state department of motor vehicles.
4. All correspondence between CEIR and any state official regarding information obtained by a state department of motor vehicles.

The time period for the above requests is October 1, 2017, through the present. Please provide your response by **October 7, 2026**, via email to Stanley.Woodward@usdoj.gov.

If you have any questions about this letter, please contact this office at (202) 514-9500, or reach out to me directly. We hope you will agree to voluntarily comply with these requests, rather than forcing the United States to take further action.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S. Woodward', written over the printed name.

STANLEY E. WOODWARD, JR.
Associate Attorney General

Stanley.Woodward@usdoj.gov