



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ELECTIONS

Susan J. Beals
Commissioner

May 11, 2023

Mr. Shane Hamlin, Executive Director
Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC)
1201 Connecticut Avenue, NW Suite 600
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Mr. Hamlin:

Virginia was a founding member of ERIC in 2012, joined by seven states committed to appropriately sharing data to improve voter list maintenance. Working with other states to share information that improves the accuracy of voter rolls remains an important goal for Virginia and the Department of Elections. With the recent departures of seven state members, we have reviewed the effectiveness of our continued participation with ERIC.

Based on this careful review, Virginia is terminating its relationship with ERIC for the following reasons:

- Increasing and uncertain costs resulting from the exit of ~20% of ERIC members;
- Incomplete participation of Virginia's bordering states and jurisdictions that compel independent data sharing relationships with non-ERIC members;
- Increasing concerns regarding stewardship, maintenance, privacy, and confidentiality of voter information;
- Controversy surrounding the historical sharing of data with outside organizations leveraged for political purposes;
- Inability to implement meaningful reform to the onerous and inconsistent enforcement of membership requirements in light of recent exits;
- Momentum around the creation of viable alternatives to inter-state data sharing compacts; and
- Virginia's ability to replicate favorable ERIC functionality internally and develop true autonomy for all list maintenance and data sharing practices.

In short, ERIC's mandate has expanded beyond that of its initial intent – to improve the accuracy of voter rolls. We will pursue other information arrangements with our neighboring states and look to other opportunities to partner with states in an apolitical fashion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan J. Beals".

Commissioner
Virginia Department of Elections