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State Auditor

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May 19, 2009

Mr. Gary O. Bartlett, Executive Director
North Carolina State Board of Elections
506 North Harrington Street.
PO Box 27255
Raleigh, North Carolina 27611-7255

Dear Mr. Bartlett:

We have completed a strategic review of the North Carolina State Board of Elections voter registration database and the voter history database. The results of our review are contained in this management letter. The review was conducted pursuant to *North Carolina General Statute §147-64.6*.

North Carolina General Statutes require the State Auditor to make audit reports available to the public. This management letter will receive the same distribution as audit reports.

Please contact me if you have any questions about this management letter. We express our sincere appreciation to you and your staff for the cooperation extended to us during our strategic review.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Beth A. Wood".

Beth A. Wood, CPA
STATE AUDITOR

BACKGROUND AND REVIEW RESULTS

The State Board of Elections is the state agency charged with overall responsibility for administration of the elections process and campaign finance disclosure in North Carolina. The Governor of North Carolina appoints the five members of the Board. *North Carolina General Statute 163-82.14* states that “the State Board of Elections shall adopt a uniform program that makes a reasonable effort to remove the names of ineligible voters from the official lists of eligible voters and to update the addresses and other necessary data of persons who remain on the official lists of eligible voters.” *North Carolina General Statute 163-82.11(a)* states that “the State Board of Elections shall develop and implement a statewide computerized voter registration system to facilitate voter registration and to provide a central database containing voter registration information for each county. The system shall serve as the single system for storing and managing the official list of registered voters in the State.”

To conduct our strategic review, we obtained the voter registration database and the voter history database from the North Carolina State Board of Elections as of June 6, 2007. We compared the information on the voter databases to information obtained from the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and the Social Security Administration as of June 2007 to identify possible problems in the voter registration databases.

There were 5,049,649 active voters in the voter registration database at the time of our review. We compared information in the various databases to determine if the data exceptions were indicative of a significant number of ineligible voters. We performed the following comparisons:

- We compared the DMV drivers license file to the Social Security Administration file to identify a list of drivers licenses obtained with invalid social security numbers. We then compared the list to the State Board of Elections voter registration database to determine if registered voters had drivers licenses obtained with invalid social security numbers.
- We compared the State Board of Elections voter registration database to the DMV drivers license database to identify mismatched license numbers.
- We compared the DMV drivers license database to the Social Security Administration’s file of deceased individuals to create a file of deceased persons with drivers licenses. We then compared this file to the State Board of Elections voter registration database to determine if deceased registered voters’ registration status was listed as active.
- We then compared the file of potentially deceased registered voters generated in the paragraph above to the voter history database to determine if votes had been cast in a general election under deceased voters’ names.
- We scanned the State Board of Elections voter registration database to determine if there were any voters that may have voted in a general election before the age of 18.

BACKGROUND AND REVIEW RESULTS (CONCLUDED)

Based on our comparisons, we concluded that the State Board of Elections has complied with its legal requirement to make “a reasonable effort to remove the names of ineligible voters from the official lists of eligible voters and to update the addresses and other necessary data of persons who remain on the official lists of eligible voters.” The comparisons identified only an insignificant number of potential invalid voters, and our follow-up procedures on a portion of the potential exceptions identified no actual invalid voters or votes.