March 8, 2011

PRESS RELEASE

Today, Secretary of State, Scott Gessler announced that his office performed a data comparison and identified 11,805 individuals who were non-citizens at the time they obtained their drivers license. Subsequently they registered to vote. In the white paper, it states that they are *nearly* certain that 106 individuals are improperly registered to vote.

Response:

We take this allegation very seriously, Mesa County will follow up and attempt to obtain the data Secretary Gessler is basing his findings on. I immediately requested a list of said voters. I have been initially denied my request by the Secretary of State's office.

It seems premature to make this kind of statement without having fully investigated the issue. It would take the involvement of County Clerks to review voter records and contact our voters to determine whether or not they have become citizens and are or are not properly registered.

County Clerks are statutorily required to facilitate the voter registration and election process. I take pride in my office and our work. It troubles me that the Clerks were not consulted in this data comparison.

Currently, there is a process on the books that allows a person to challenge the validity of a voter registration. That process is handled by the Clerk and I would certainly like to have the opportunity to obtain the names of the alleged non-citizens.

Comments and questions may be directed to: Sheila Reiner, Clerk & Recorder (970) 244-1714 or sheila.reiner@mesacounty.us

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