Who Received the 241,000 Letters Sent by the North Carolina State Board of Elections Regarding "Unvalidated Identification Numbers"?

Background

On February 3, 2026, the North Carolina State Board of Elections announced that it would be sending letters to 241,000 North Carolina voters who it states do not have a validated driver's license number or last four digits of a social security number in their voter record.

Since the mass mailing, SCSJ has received numerous reports of voters who have received these letters being confused about whether they are still registered to vote, and about whether they must take the requested action of correcting or updating the information in the voter registration file to remain on the voter rolls. This is likely a consequence of the letter not stating whether this request for information impacts any voter's status as a registered voter or their ability to vote.

In an online FAQ, the State Board of Elections has clarified that receiving this letter does not affect any voter's ability to vote, and that any active registered voter is still able to cast a regular ballot regardless of whether they take the recommended action. In other words, this letter does not mean there is a problem with a voter's record, nor does it change how that voter could cast a ballot or whether that ballot would count.

Voters with questions about this letter are encouraged to contact their local CBOE. Voters can also call the non-partisan election protection hotline 1 888 OUR VOTE (888 687 8683) if they have additional questions or are having trouble reaching their local CBOE.

So, who received these letters in North Carolina?

Below is a breakdown, based upon matching the list with the current NC voter file.[1]

Overall, voters receiving these letters skewed older and female, and were almost twice as likely to have been registered to vote in North Carolina for 25 years or more. This is likely because voters were not required to provide the last four digits of their Social Security number or driver's license before January 1, 2004, when these requirements as set forth in the Help America Vote Act of 2002 came into effect, and because women are more likely to have changed their name and thus have a mis-match between their voter registration name and their name at birth.

[1] The list of 241,000 voters was received from the State Board of Elections via a partner's public records request. Voters' county and voter registration number were matched with the current voter registration file, located at https://s3.amazonaws.com/dl.ncsbe.gov/data/ncvoter_Statewide.zip. Approximately 213 voters could not be matched. Percentages are rounded to nearest whole except where they are less than 1%.

Voter Demographics

Age At Year End	Total	Percent
18 - 25	22,283	9%
26 - 40	26,382	11%
41 - 65	84,761	35%
Over 66	107,787	45%

Gender	Total	Percent
Female	116,508	48%
Male	89,333	37%
Undesignated	35,372	15%

Race	Total	Percent
White	134,437	56%
Black	53,663	22%
Undesignated	42,662	18%
Other	4,163	2%
Native American	3,298	1%
Asian	1,593	<1%
Two or More Races	1,308	<1%
Pacific Islander	89	<1%

Ethnicity	Total	Percent
Hispanic	9,031	4%
Non-Hispanic	174,448	72%
Undesignated	57,734	24%

Voter Registration Characteristics

Registered Party	Total	Percent
Democrat	89,724	37%
Unaffiliated	76,621	32%
Republican	74,505	31%
Libertarian	306	<1%
Green	57	<1%

Years Registered	Total	Percent
0 – 5 years	51,194	21%
6 – 10 years	16,231	7%
11 – 15 years	3,497	1%
16 – 20 years	2,339	<1%
21 – 25 years	12,021	5%
26 - 30 years	36,947	15%
31 – 35 years	28,223	12%
35 – 40 years	23,182	10%
41 – 45 years	20,962	9%
46 – 50 years	19,179	8%
51 – 55 years	11,948	5%
56 – 60 years	11,622	5%
> 60 years	3,667	2%
No Data	201	<1%

Registration Pre/Post HAVA[2] requirement to provide ID numbers (1/1/2004)	Total	Percent
Pre-HAVA	167,058	69%
Post-HAVA	73,954	31%
No Data	201	<1%

[2] Section 303(a) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 required states to request a voter registration applicant's driver's license or last four digits of their social security number starting January 1, 2004. 52 U.S.C. § 21083(a).