



**For Immediate Release**

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**Oklahoma State Conference NAACP**

**Opposes State Board of Elections Voter Purge**

Oklahoma City – Today Oklahoma State Conference National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), is calling on the State Board of Elections to immediately suspend its plans to purge 134,000 registered voters from the voting rolls. These actions by the State Board of Elections is a threat to voting rights stated, Anthony R. Douglas, President, Oklahoma State NAACP, Former Member National Board of Director, NAACP.

“This Voter Purge is based on a shaky foundation and will greatly harm unaware voters of this threat to their democratic right to vote.” Allegedly, the State Board sent mailers to voters to confirm their current address or update their registrations. In addition, Oklahoma State Conference, NAACP is demanding that the Board reveal the racial, ethnic, gender, county, and income information of those on the list to be purged. Data collected throughout the nation shows that African Americans, Latinos, Native Americans, low-income, students, voters with disabilities are disproportionately harmed by these “use it or lose it” voter purging processes.

Earlier this year, the State Board purged over 88,000 voters. “It is well known by the State Board of Elections that these mailers promote voter disenfranchisement, as expert studies have found that more than 60% of all voters receiving these mailers mistake them for junk mail, are confused or otherwise do not respond. We find it troubling and inexcusable that the State Board of Elections has not attempted to outreach to the public to alert voters that their voting rights are threatened, and they need to take action.” Said, President Douglas.

Although, in 2018, the Supreme Court upheld the general mailer process, however, it is still in each state’s discretion as to what process they will use to update voter information. Oklahoma decision to use a flawed process without publicly informing voters is problematic. We are calling on the Board of Elections to clarify the standards it is using for this Purge.

Transformative Justice Coalition President and National Voting Rights expert, Barbara R. Arnwine, stated that “This Oklahoma Voter Purging is an ugly form of Voter Suppression! The crime of these mailer-based voter purges has nationally affected millions of voters-often voters of color. What we have discovered, is that voters only learn of the loss of their “Rights to Vote”, when they go to the polls to vote. We urge all Oklahomans to protect our democracy by opposing this purge!” “Oklahoma can do better, the citizens of this state deserve better!” said, Anthony R.

Douglas, President, Oklahoma State NAACP, Former Member National Board of Director, NAACP.

Since its' inception NAACP has always strived to have a strong working relationship with voters of every background. Our thrust is fighting for human and civil rights for people of all ethnic backgrounds, sexes, races, religions and creeds and to ensure everyone has a right to "VOTE".