

March 25, 2019

To the Connecticut Government Administration and Elections Committee,

Thank you for your service to our state and thank you for holding a public hearing on HB 7392 - An Act Concerning Voter Privacy.

As legislators, you have the opportunity to act in the best interest of Connecticut's voters. Today, Connecticut is the only state in the nation that allows the commercial sale of voter registration data. Connecticut registered voter information including name, birth date (age), address, phone and voting party is available for sale and subsequently made public on the Internet by data brokers. This data is used:

- to discriminate by age and/or political party affiliation
- to target, harass, bully and dox
- to enable identity theft
- to enable fraud and solicitation
- to deter residents from registering to vote

When Connecticut citizens register, voters are not informed that their data is being sold by the state, nor are they being asked to provide explicit consent to allow the state to sell their data. The state of Connecticut needs to stop selling voter registration data and instead, act as an appropriate steward of personal information (PI) by guarding and protecting voter data.

HB 7392 should be amended to limit disclosure of "all" not "certain" voter registration information. In addition, it should stipulate the penalties associated with non-compliance. Privacy is a non-partisan issue. Privacy is a fundamental human and civil right which enables the rights of justice, equal protection and freedom of speech.

Today, the state of Connecticut assumes significant risk and liability in the sale of voter registration data. "Privacy risk" is defined as the adverse consequences to individuals and society arising from the "availability" and processing of personal data, below I have included the definition of Privacy Risk documented by the CDT - Center for Democracy & Technology.

As evidenced in the print screens below, according to the U.S. Elections Project, the New England states of Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Maine do not allow the public access to voter registration information. In addition, as evidenced in the print screen below, Connecticut Senator Richard Blumenthal applauded the success of the California Consumer Privacy Act and tweeted the need "to secure strong privacy protections for all Americans".

The Freedom of Information Act, passed before the inception of the Internet creates a toxic combination with today's abundance and access of personal data. Privacy must be protected, without it , our democracy will fail.

Thank you.

Hillary Long, Founder, CTVoterPrivacy.org

CDT's Definition of "Privacy Risk":

1. Direct or indirect financial loss or economic harm;
2. Physical harm;
3. Psychological harm, including anxiety, embarrassment, fear, and other demonstrable mental trauma;
4. Significant inconvenience or expenditure of time;
5. Adverse outcomes or decisions with respect to an individual's eligibility for rights, benefits or privileges in employment (including, but not limited to, hiring, firing, promotion, demotion, compensation), credit and insurance (including, but not limited to, denial of an application or obtaining less favorable terms), housing, education, professional certification, or the provision of health care and related services;
6. Stigmatization or reputational harm;
7. Disruption and intrusion from unwanted commercial communications or contacts;
8. Price discrimination;
9. Effects on an individual that are not reasonably foreseeable, contemplated by, or expected by the individual to whom the personal data relate, that are nevertheless reasonably foreseeable, contemplated by, or expected by the covered entity assessing privacy risk, that significantly:
 1. Alters that individual's experiences;
 2. Limits that individual's choices;
 3. Influences that individual's responses; or
 4. Predetermines results; or
10. Other adverse consequences that affect an individual's private life



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 [New Hampshire - Voter List Inform](#)

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New Hampshire



Availability

Entity	Can Use For
The Public	Cannot Use
State Residents	Cannot Use
Registered Voters	Cannot Use
Non-Profits	Cannot Use
Researchers	Cannot Use
Political Committees	Non-Commercial Purposes
Candidates	Non-Commercial Purposes

Available Data That Will Not Be Provided
No Codified Restrictions

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3/24/2019

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Massachussets



Availability

Entity	Can Use For
The Public	Cannot Use
State Residents	Cannot Use
Registered Voters	Cannot Use
Non-Profits	Non-Commercial Purposes
Researchers	Cannot Use
Political Committees	Non-Commercial Purposes
Candidates	Non-Commercial Purposes

Available Data That Will Not Be Provided
None Explicitly Codified

7:44 PM
3/24/2019

Browser tabs: Gmail - Free Storage and Email, CTVoterprivacy.org - Advocates, The Canvass | February 2016, Maine - Voter List Information

Address bar: voterlist.electproject.org/states/maine

Maine



Availability

Entity	Can Use For
The Public	Cannot Use
State Residents	Cannot Use
Registered Voters	Cannot Use
Non-Profits	Election Purposes (Incl. GOTV & Voter Reg)
Researchers	Election Purposes (Incl. GOTV & Voter Reg)
Political Committees	Non-Commercial Purposes
Candidates	Non-Commercial Purposes

Available Data That Will Not Be Provided

System tray: 7:47 PM, 3/24/2019

Browser tabs: Gmail - Free Storage and Email, Richard Blumenthal on Twitter

Address bar: https://twitter.com/SenBlumenthal/status/1105852663802089472

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The California Consumer Privacy Act is an extraordinary example of citizen activism against entrenched corporate opposition. Thank you, Mr. Mactaggart for your extraordinary work. Congress must now act to secure strong privacy protections for all Americans.



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