



**Congress of the United States**  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-2209

October 31, 2024

The Honorable Jocelyn Benson  
Michigan Secretary of State  
430 W. Allegan St.  
Richard H. Austin Building – 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Lansing MI, 48918

Dear Secretary Benson:

We write to you regarding the recent announcement<sup>1</sup> of charges against a citizen of the People's Republic of China for registering to vote and casting a ballot in the 2024 general election. According to a media report<sup>2</sup>, the noncitizen's ballot is expected to be counted in the official vote count. The fact that a noncitizen was allowed to register to vote, vote, and have that ballot be counted is unacceptable. Given the presidential election is five days away, we are seeking immediate explanations and resolutions to the situation.

Your failure in this situation has hurt the public's trust in the sanctity of Michigan elections. Your department failed to prevent this illegal vote from being cast and will reportedly count it in the results next week. House Republicans have raised concerns about noncitizens voting in elections and earlier this year the House of Representatives passed H.R. 8281 – *SAVE Act* with a bipartisan 221-198 vote.<sup>3</sup> The *SAVE Act* would require individuals to provide proof of citizenship when registering to vote in federal elections, and it is shameful our colleagues in the Senate refused to pass this commonsense legislation.

Unfortunately, this incident is not the only recent indictment of Chinese nationals who are University of Michigan students. Earlier this month, five Chinese nationals were charged after spying on Michigan National Guard assets at Camp Grayling.<sup>4</sup> The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) is using every tool at its disposal to influence the people of the United States.

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<sup>1</sup> Benson, J., & Savit, E. (2024, October 30). *Joint statement of Secretary Benson and Washtenaw County prosecutor Savit on charges filed in Noncitizen Voting Case*. SOM - State of Michigan.

<sup>2</sup> Mauger, C., & Kozlowski, K. (2024, October 30). *Chinese student to face criminal charges for voting in Michigan ballot will apparently count*. Detroit News.

<sup>3</sup> Roll Call 345, Bill Number: H. R. 8281, 118th Congress, 2nd session. (2024, July 10). *Office of the Clerk, U.S. House of Representatives*.

<sup>4</sup> Cable News Network. (2024, October 2). *5 Chinese nationals charged with covering up midnight visit to Michigan military site*. CNN.

To prevent this from happening again, you must answer the following questions immediately to reassure Michiganders that our elections are secure and free of CCP interference.

1. When was your office made aware that this noncitizen registered to vote and cast a ballot?
2. What documents did this person present that allowed him to register to vote? Did he show proof of citizenship? If not, why was he allowed to register to vote without showing proof of citizenship?
3. Can you confirm the media report that that this noncitizen's ballot will be counted in the official vote count? If so, why is that the case, and what is your department doing to rectify this process so noncitizens' votes can be withdrawn from the count if a similar situation occurs again?
4. What exactly are you and your department doing to ensure another noncitizen is not able to register to vote?
5. Now that a noncitizen has been able to register to vote and cast a ballot on your watch, will you endorse H.R. 8281 – the *SAVE Act* that requires individuals to provide proof of citizenship when registering to vote in federal elections? The House of Representatives passed this bill with a bipartisan 221-198 vote.
6. Can you confirm that this is the only instance that a noncitizen has registered to vote or cast a ballot in Michigan in a federal election in 2024? Please provide the documentation that confirms this is the only instance or the documentation proving other noncitizens have registered and voted.
7. If a CCP-affiliated company brings Chinese nationals to Michigan, is your department going to allow them to register to vote and cast a ballot? How exactly would you prevent these noncitizens from voting? Do you believe taxpayer dollars should go to CCP-affiliated companies?
8. Do you believe non-citizens should be able to vote in elections at any level?

Thank you for your immediate attention to this deeply concerning incident.

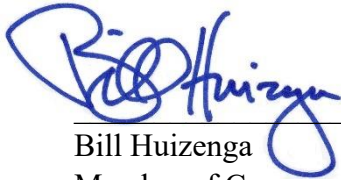
Sincerely,



John Moolenaar  
Member of Congress

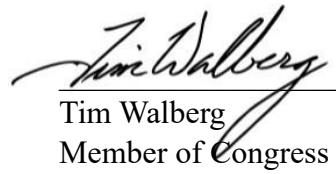


Jack Bergman  
Member of Congress



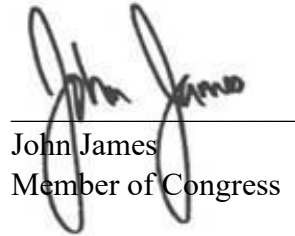
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Bill Huizenga  
Member of Congress



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Tim Walberg  
Member of Congress



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John James  
Member of Congress