EXHIBIT B
Analysis of State Databases Reveals Nearly 700,000 Registered Voters Lack Valid Driver's License or State-Issued Georgia ID

Sec. Cox: Data Reveals Huge Numbers of Voters May Lack ID Required to Vote, Provides Further Evidence of Flaws in the State's Photo ID Requirement

ATLANTA... Secretary of State Cathy Cox reported today that a new database match between the state's file of registered voters and the Department of Driver Services' (DDS) data file of persons issued valid driver's licenses or Georgia ID Cards shows that nearly 700,000 Georgians lack the type of identification most commonly used to vote under the state's new photo ID provision.

The records of nearly five million registered voters in the state's voter registration database were matched against the DDS database of Georgians who currently hold a valid driver's license or Georgia ID Card (issued to non-drivers). The match found some 676,246 registered voters who either had no record of a driver's license or ID issued to them, or who have had their license revoked, suspended, cancelled, denied or surrendered.

"This new data provides powerful new evidence that supports the objections I've raised against the photo ID requirement from the outset -- that huge numbers of Georgians are in jeopardy of being shut out of the voting process and having their voices silenced," said Secretary Cox. "Since a photo ID requirement was first proposed in the General Assembly more than five years ago, I have consistently fought against it because it has the potential to disenfranchise our state's poor, elderly and disabled population. When a photo ID bill passed the Georgia Senate in 2001 I worked hard to kill it in the House. When it was proposed during the 2005 General Assembly session I testified against it in committee, urged legislators to defeat it on the floor, called upon the Governor to veto it once it passed, and made the case to the Department of Justice that it should not receive pre-clearance. I was later called to testify in federal court, where I enumerated my concerns about this law, one of the most restrictive in the nation.

"Now we learn that nearly 700,000 registered Georgia voters lack a driver's license or Georgia ID card. While some of these registrants may possess a passport or other acceptable government-issued identification, we can be certain that a very large number of voters do not currently possess the documentation they will need to vote in person. This is why I have consistently opposed such a restrictive ID requirement -- because of the barriers it erects for too many voters in our state -- especially the elderly, the poor and disabled," Secretary Cox added.

Secretary Cox, who serves as the state's chief elections official, ordered the data match so that the Elections Division could quantify the size of the population that lacks driver's licenses or Georgia ID cards. The data analysis will allow agency staff to better target voter education and outreach efforts to registrants who currently lack valid photo IDs.
number of measures to keep the statewide voter file current and free from improper registrations. Data matches are performed monthly against death certificate data provided by the state's Vital Records department to promptly remove deceased voters from the rolls. The collection of social security numbers from registrants helps ensure that voters are not registered more than once, and steps are taken to make certain that applications with fraudulent numbers are not added to the database. The file is also frequently matched against the U. S. Postal Service's National Change of Address (NCOA) database to help keep registrant addresses as current as possible. Steps are also taken each month to insure that newly convicted felons are removed from the voter rolls.

The new data analysis of voter registrations and DDS records was performed by comparing the records of 4,983,443 active and inactive registered voters to the records of those who have been issued driver's licenses or Georgia ID cards. Some 606,031 registered voters were found to have no records at all within the DDS license and ID database. An additional 70,215 voters had licenses that had been revoked, suspended, canceled or surrendered. That brings the total number of registered voters lacking the most common form of ID to 676,246.

Criteria for the analysis were a match between last name, date of birth and social security number (slightly more than 50,000 voter records that do not include SSNs were excluded from the match — many of these registrants are elderly and entered the system before SSNs were collected. It is unknown how many of these registrants may also lack licenses or Georgia ID cards).

Following an order by a U. S. District Court striking down the 2005 photo ID requirement, earlier this year the General Assembly amended the law to provide for the issuance of free IDs for voting to those who met certain criteria. However, the legislature only provided $550,000, dedicated to the State Election Board, to administer the new free ID program. It also allocated an additional $250,000 to educate and inform voters about the new requirements.

"Given the magnitude of the number of registered voters who currently lack state-issued IDs, it's clear that the funding to reach out to effected voters is inadequate," said Secretary Cox. "But the real problem lies in a law that is far too restrictive, and is likely to have the effect of shutting thousands and thousands of eligible citizens out of the electoral process," she said.

http://www.sos.state.ga.us/pressrel/061906.htm