



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF LOUISIANA
SAFEGUARDING DEMOCRACY®

July 4, 2017

Dear Editor,

The League of Women Voters of Louisiana supports Secretary of State Tom Schedler's decision to not comply with the request for voter information from the Presidential Advisory Commission on Election Integrity. This was the right decision based on several reasons. In particular, he is correct that this is an overreach by the federal government.

The U.S. Constitution explicitly granted the individual states the authority to conduct elections to prevent consolidation of power in a centralized government and to prevent widespread tampering with election results. Given the atmosphere of distrust by the current federal administration concerning elections, the motives for requesting such detailed information about citizens in relationship to voting are questionable.

In this age of electronic storage of information we have experienced sophisticated hacking into systems that had been considered "safe." If our national security systems are at risk, information about individual voters and our state voting systems is at even greater risk.

The League of Women Voters of Louisiana has chapters and members throughout the state. Our primary mission since women obtained the vote in 1920 has been to encourage informed and active participation in government by citizens. The League knows that Secretary Schedler's office is focused on growing voter participation. Louisiana has various safeguards against fraudulent voting and elections. The federal government does not have the experience or expertise in conducting elections and addressing problems that has been developed by the states for nearly 250 years.

The League thanks Secretary Schedler for his diligence in this matter.

Respectfully yours,

Carol DeVille, President
League of Women Voters of Louisiana