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Citizens Group Demands State Comply with Public Records Request on Voter Registration Process

BOSTON – A citizen advocacy group has filed a lawsuit against the Massachusetts Department of Transportation charging that the agency is not releasing public information related to non-citizens registering to vote.

The Committee for Massachusetts Voter Identification Ballot Question, which was unsuccessful in getting a Voter ID question on the 2023 ballot, has requested information from MassDOT on its processes and procedures to vet applicants for voter registration status. The group requested documents describing the entire process that determines whether an applicant is a ‘qualified person’ who satisfies all the requirements to vote in Massachusetts. The requirements include:

- US citizen
- Massachusetts resident
- At least 16 years old
- Not temporarily or permanently or disqualified from voting
- Not incarcerated for a felony conviction

The group filed its public records request on June 6 and MassDOT acknowledged receipt. Since then, the state agency has not responded to follow-up requests for status or provided the requested documents.

The lawsuit demands that the state declare the requested documents public records and comply with the group’s request.

The lawsuit is The Committee for Massachusetts Voter Identification Ballot Question v. Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Transportation, Case No. 2484CV02355, filed on September 5, 2024 in Massachusetts Superior Court for Suffolk County.