

Autauga County Commission Meeting

September 15, 2026

READABLE SPEAKER TRANSCRIPT

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00:00:01 Wil Sanchez

My name is Wil Sanchez and I'm here representing an Alabama grassroots citizen group concerned about election integrity.

00:00:08 Wil Sanchez

First of all, I want to say thank you for the opportunity to address you tonight and present the following critical findings.

00:00:13 Wil Sanchez

And on significant vulnerabilities in Alabama's election administration, issues that directly impact voter integrity and legal compliance in our county.

00:00:21 Wil Sanchez

The election landscape has shifted dramatically at both the state and federal levels since the last time I addressed this body.

00:00:26 Wil Sanchez

Today, federal executive actions have placed renewed emphasis on securing mail-in voting, mitigating electronic voting equipment vulnerabilities, and identifying non-citizens on state voter rolls, which is an area where Alabama was specifically highlighted.

00:00:40 Wil Sanchez

My team and I have spent countless hours over the past seven months analyzing thousands of data entries in our county's voter rolls.

00:00:47 Wil Sanchez

Our findings lead up to 4 distinct conclusions.

00:00:50 Wil Sanchez

One, our voting system is fundamentally compromised.

00:00:53 Wil Sanchez

Two, we are out of compliance with state law.

00:00:56 Wil Sanchez

Three, we're out of compliance with federal law.

00:00:58 Wil Sanchez

And 4, taxpayer dollars are being wasted on an ineffective, non-transparent system.

00:01:02 Wil Sanchez

As you will see, local control over our elections has been compromised.

00:01:06 Wil Sanchez

Currently, there is no meaningful post-election audit capability to verify accurate results nor an independent auditing mechanism for our voter rolls.

00:01:14 Wil Sanchez

While our county registrars work diligently within their constraint, local officials maintain only minimal control over all roll maintenance.

00:01:22 Wil Sanchez

The vast majority of data inputs such as automatic driver's license registrations and badge voter updates are managed centrally at the state level.

00:01:30 Wil Sanchez

Furthermore, these inputs to the rolls take place out of state.

00:01:33 Wil Sanchez

Local registrars do not maintain fiscal custody of these voter rolls.

00:01:37 Wil Sanchez

In fact, neither does the state of Alabama.

00:01:39 Wil Sanchez

Our voted data is hosted on an out-of-state server in Omaha, Nebraska managed by Election Systems and Software, ESNS, an out-of-state vendor that stores, maintains, and controls the rolls.

00:01:49 Wil Sanchez

Their server location will be verified by IP address 6620620120.

00:01:54 Wil Sanchez

And that's the slide that you have.

00:01:56 Wil Sanchez

The centralized setup fails to support county registrars in fulfilling their statutory mandate to maintain clean, accurate rolls.

00:02:02 Wil Sanchez

The current system provides no adequate tools to identify deceased voters, long-term inactive voters, registered sex offenders, non-citizens, or individuals who have relocated.

00:02:12 Wil Sanchez

Combining these issues is a severe lack of public transparency made worse by HB 67, which passed last year, which traded outrageous fees like \$38,000 for less voter roll transparency.

00:02:24 Wil Sanchez

Section 8 of the National Border Registration Act, NBRA, expertly guarantees the public's right to inspect voter registration records and shielding this data erodes public trust and conflicts with federal transparency mandates.

00:02:37 Wil Sanchez

As A representative of the Hispanic community in this county, I am concerned about my vote and those of my children

00:02:42 Wil Sanchez

being nullified by bills who are not legally supposed to be in the voter rolls.

00:02:45 Wil Sanchez

Today, I urge you to assume your legal custodial role of the county voter rolls and restore local control, transparency, and legal compliance, and that is within your authority as the county commission.

00:02:56 Wil Sanchez

We will now discuss a sample of findings and submit them at the end.

00:02:58 Wil Sanchez

Thank you.

00:03:01 Chairman Jay Thompson

Um.

00:03:02 Wil Sanchez

Yes.

00:03:03 Chairman Jay Thompson

Looking through this **UNCLEAR TRANSCRIPTION** to have. You have just one voter that was uh, uh, noncitizen

00:03:10 Wil Sanchez

Yes, correct.

00:03:11 Wil Sanchez

There was one that was published by DHS and that was released also on the news for Autauga County.

00:03:15 Wil Sanchez

Unfortunately have- we don't have access as citizens to the whatever mechanism they use, but there was one confirmed that was in Autauga County who didn't vote was still in the roles.

00:03:23 Chairman Jay Thompson

Did they give that person's name?

00:03:25 Wil Sanchez

No, unfortunately they didn't.

00:03:26 Wil Sanchez

But I mean, I do have some contacts maybe at the state, at the secretary's office, maybe I could probably find something or you might be able to, as a citizen, I may be kind of limited, or maybe the probate judge may be able to also.

00:03:37 Chairman Jay Thompson

Another probate judge would love to know.

00:03:39 Wil Sanchez

Correct

00:03:40 Chairman Jay Thompson

you know, such things happen.

00:03:41 Wil Sanchez

No, I agree.

00:03:42 Wil Sanchez

At the same time, the pro-judge has limited power.

00:03:44 Wil Sanchez

His role is more to establish the election, but not really to maintain the voter rolls.

00:03:47 Wil Sanchez

The Secretary of State?

00:03:49 Wil Sanchez

They do, and we do have concerns.

00:03:52 Wil Sanchez

Thank you.

00:03:52 Chairman Jay Thompson

Ted Halley

00:03:57 Chairman Jay Thompson

How are you tonight.

00:04:06 Ted Halley

Thank you, gentlemen, for the opportunity to speak tonight.

00:04:09 Ted Halley

Hello, Chairman Thompson.

00:04:11 Ted Halley

Hello, John Thrailkill.

00:04:12 Ted Halley

I'm on your district, and thank you for the opportunity to share what we concerned citizens have found.

00:04:20 Ted Halley

We're not here to blame or poke anybody in the eye.

00:04:23 Ted Halley

We understand our voting officials do the best they can with the tools, but they're constrained.

00:04:30 Ted Halley

As we have, you heard my friends (what Will) say that they have tools, but they don't always work or do what they say they will do.

00:04:39 Ted Halley

Anyway, so that means that we have voter rolls that have a lot of stuff on there that shouldn't be there.

00:04:45 Ted Halley

And specifically, I've spent hundreds of hours looking through this, driving through the county, putting eyeballs on places and see it's not really real.

00:04:55 Ted Halley

And yes, it is.

00:04:56 Ted Halley

So we found active, inactive voters, deceased voters, unauthorized location voters, non-citizens, convicted sex felons,

00:05:08 Ted Halley

and out of district voters.

00:05:10 Ted Halley

I will first address what we call active/inactive voters.

00:05:14 Ted Halley

Are you wondering what is this?

00:05:17 Ted Halley

This is someone by law that should be inactive, but due to the systems we have, sets them back active.

00:05:24 Ted Halley

And just since...

00:05:25 Chairman Jay Thompson

That's somebody that hadn't voted in quite a few years.

00:05:29 Ted Halley

Just hold on.

00:05:31 Ted Halley

We identified 1,566 voters

00:05:37 Ted Halley

who are listed as active since 2014 that have never voted.

00:05:43 Ted Halley

We have a lot more.

00:05:44 Ted Halley

That's just, we're just using 2014 as a benchmark.

00:05:48 Ted Halley

And that violates Alabama Code 1749, which says after four years they're marked inactive.

00:05:55 Ted Halley

That's not happening.

00:05:57 Ted Halley

Second, we have dead people on our voting rolls.

00:06:00 Ted Halley

As an aside, I do want to say the state has done a lot better job of pulling them off.

00:06:05 Ted Halley

but I'm going to give a couple examples of just recent history.

00:06:09 Ted Halley

I will just use the last three or four numbers of the voter IDs so we don't keep people on protect identities.

00:06:19 Ted Halley

Voter 287 died in 1998.

00:06:22 Ted Halley

They were marked as active on our rolls until 2020, and they were not removed until after 2020, 22 years after they died.

00:06:36 Ted Halley

Voter 440 died in 2010.

00:06:39 Ted Halley

They were labeled as active until 2024.

00:06:43 Ted Halley

And in 2025, relabeled as inactive at 125 years old.

00:06:51 Ted Halley

They were finally removed this year.

00:06:54 Ted Halley

We have voter 3154 that lists their address as our post office, which is not allowed.

00:07:01 Ted Halley

They registered once.

00:07:03 Ted Halley

only voted once in 2016.

00:07:05 Ted Halley

Fortunately, they are inactive, but they are on our rolls.

00:07:10 Ted Halley

We have voter 0404 who registered in 2018 from a business that never voted and they're active.

00:07:20 Ted Halley

The law says you have to vote from your domicile and that's not your business.

00:07:24 Ted Halley

They don't live there.

00:07:25 Ted Halley

I saw it.

00:07:28 Ted Halley

Voter 789

00:07:30 Ted Halley

has a residence voting address listed as a vacant lot.

00:07:37 Ted Halley

I went by there myself, I looked at it, Google Earth, it is vacant.

00:07:42 Ted Halley

They voted in 2008, they are active until 2020, and in 22 they are marked as inactive 14 years after they last voted.

00:07:51 Ted Halley

Still on the roll.

00:07:53 Ted Halley

Why does this matter?

00:07:54 Ted Halley

Because active voter rolls are essential

00:07:58 Ted Halley

foundation of free, fair, and transparent elections.

00:08:02 Ted Halley

When registration lists contain inaccurate data, public confidence has eroded.

00:08:08 Ted Halley

Mine is, a founding principle of our country spoke these historic words.

00:08:13 Ted Halley

The price of freedom is eternal vigilance.

00:08:16 Ted Halley

And that's what we're doing.

00:08:18 Ted Halley

This is why we're here today.

00:08:20 Ted Halley

We respectfully ask that you, the Commission, to examine these issues

00:08:25 Ted Halley

and ensure that Autauga County's procedures fully comply with state and federal requirements.

00:08:31 Ted Halley

Thank you very much for your time.

00:08:32 Chairman Jay Thompson

Mrs. Lori

00:08:38 Lori Herring

Hi, my name is Lori Herring and I live in Commissioner Bill Tatum's District 3.

00:08:45 Lori Herring

Thank you for the opportunity to speak.

00:08:47 Lori Herring

I am deeply concerned about the lack of local control over voter rolls.

00:08:51 Lori Herring

Specifically, we are seeing issues with out-of-district voting, out-of-date records, and presence of individuals who should not be registered, including non-citizens and sex offenders.

00:09:01 Lori Herring

According to the Code of Alabama, section 1736, quote, registrars are

00:09:07 Lori Herring

judicial officers and shall act judiciously in all manners pertaining to the registration of applicants.

00:09:14 Lori Herring

They have the legal authority to make judgments on voter eligibility.

00:09:19 Lori Herring

However, the current centralized systems provided by ES&S effectively strips registrars of this authority, pushing them into non-compliance with state and federal laws

00:09:30 Lori Herring

Before registrars can perform any maintenance, they must log into an out-of-state ES&S server remotely.

00:09:39 Lori Herring

This software is their only access point and we have reports that when some counties remove unqualified voters, those updates are occasionally reversed by the system itself.

00:09:49 Lori Herring

It's not their fault.

00:09:51 Lori Herring

Furthermore, county registrars lack direct access to cross-state criminal databases.

00:09:57 Lori Herring

As a result, our hardworking conscientious registrars have been reduced to basic data entry workers through no fault of their own.

00:10:04 Lori Herring

They are simply no longer in control of our voter rolls.

00:10:08 Lori Herring

We know non-citizens have made it onto our rolls.

00:10:11 Lori Herring

August of 2024, an Alabama Secretary of State press release reported finding 3,251 non-citizens on our voter rolls.

00:10:21 Lori Herring

January 2026, the Secretary of State office reported that 186 non-citizens were illegally registered across 38 counties, including one in Autauga County, and noted that 25 of them were actually voting.

00:10:38 Lori Herring

In 2026, July, the Department of Homeland Security enabled Alabama to identify another 465 non-citizens who were illegally registered.

00:10:51 Lori Herring

These numbers aren't locally verifiable and the citizens are forced to just blindly trust the system.

00:10:58 Lori Herring

Beyond non-citizens, our local research into voter rolls have uncovered 33 convicted sex offenders who have been active since at least 2020 and should not have been on the rolls at all because Alabama laws on moral turpitude have several active voting histories and they are not allowed to cast votes.

00:11:21 Lori Herring

Voter number 0700 was convicted of sexual abuse of a minor over 12 and he voted in 11 elections.

00:11:30 Lori Herring

Convicted 6448 was convicted of felony second degree sexual abuse and voted in 2024 and six other elections.

00:11:40 Lori Herring

Voter number 4339 convicted of aggravated sexual abuse of a minor voted in 2020 and one other election.

00:11:48 Chairman Jay Thompson

Can I ask you a question?

00:11:49 Lori Herring

Sure.

00:11:51 Chairman Jay Thompson

Isn't there a crime from the vote?

00:11:53 Lori Herring

Yeah.

00:11:53 Chairman Jay Thompson

So, who is **UNCLEAR TRANSCRIPTION**?

00:11:59 Lori Herring

Good question.

00:12:01 Lori Herring

We're not catching them, so...

00:12:03 Chairman Jay Thompson

I'm sorry

00:12:04 Lori Herring

That's OK.

00:12:04 Lori Herring

That's OK good-

00:12:06 Chairman Jay Thompson

A crime **UNCLEAR TRANSCRIPTION**.

00:12:09 Lori Herring

I mean, that's part of our issue is we're not being given the tools to do that.

00:12:16 Chairman Jay Thompson

Since I got you off track, I'll let you get- I'm going to give you time to get back on track.

00:12:20 Chairman Jay Thompson

ES&S.

00:12:21 Lori Herring

ES&S.

00:12:21 Chairman Jay Thompson

That's run through the state. Correct?

00:12:23 Lori Herring

Right.

00:12:28 Chairman Jay Thompson

So, who's responsibility of the state

00:12:32 Chairman Jay Thompson

Is it to take them off?

00:12:34 Lori Herring

It's the county registrar's responsibility, but there are other actors who have access to that.

00:12:43 Lori Herring

between us and our-

00:12:46 Chairman Jay Thompson

So when the registrars are sending the list, they have these people **UNCLEAR TRANSCRIPTION.**

00:12:50 Chairman Jay Thompson

UNCLEAR TRANSCRIPTION taken off **UNCLEAR TRANSCRIPTION**

00:12:53 Lori Herring

It's not getting through to the server on the other end, or else it's being reversed somewhere along the way.

00:12:59 Lori Herring

And also, they don't have access to cross-state criminal convictions.

00:13:05 Lori Herring

So they might have been convicted in another state, moved to Alabama.

00:13:09 Lori Herring

When they get the driver's license, it's automatically put on there as a voter registration

00:13:13 Lori Herring

and we just don't have a way to catch them.

00:13:17 Chairman Jay Thompson

Even if they're from another state and they fill out the form, they committed a crime without the **UNCLEAR TRANSCRIPTION.**

00:13:23 Lori Herring

Right.

00:13:24 Lori Herring

As a mother and grandmother I find it reprehensible for these convicted sex child offenders who have not only ruined the lives of children but they have harmed society by nullifying my vote and those of other legitimate voters.

00:13:40 Lori Herring

We are finding significant numbers of people voting from locations outside their assigned districts.

00:13:47 Lori Herring

As we researched the 40,000 plus voter files in Autauga County, we found out of precinct voters who had voted in multiple elections and votes cast for four elections from different precincts.

00:14:02 Lori Herring

Also on 0548 casting ballots in nine elections while living elsewhere.

00:14:09 Lori Herring

We need you, our county commission, to take action.

00:14:12 Lori Herring

Please use your influence and platform to help restore local oversight, ensure the absolute accuracy of our county roles, and protect the integrity of every legal vote in Autauga County.

00:14:24 Lori Herring

Thank you for your time and your service.

00:14:30 Sarah Sanchez

Sarah Sanchez, I live in District 3, and I just wanted to thank you for your time tonight and thank my fellow citizens, Wil, Ted, and Lori, for laying out the undeniable facts in these comments and at previous meetings.

00:14:42 Sarah Sanchez

We presented clear data-driven picture of the vulnerabilities in Autaugus County's election administration.

00:14:48 Sarah Sanchez

Wil revealed how our data is centralized and managed on an out-of-state server in Nebraska, stripping local control of our rolls and violating public transparency.

00:14:58 Sarah Sanchez

Ted exposed decades old inactive files, deceased voters remaining active for up to 22 years, and individuals registered from unauthorized locations to include PO boxes and empty lots.

00:15:09 Sarah Sanchez

Lori brought to light alarming nullification of legal votes by non-citizens, sex offenders, people living out of precincts that slip through centralized loopholes.

00:15:17 Sarah Sanchez

So what about our legal reality and our path forward?

00:15:20 Sarah Sanchez

Under Section 8 of the National Voter Registration Act in Alabama law, the ultimate responsibility for accurate legal voter registration lists right here at home with our county.

00:15:31 Sarah Sanchez

Our local registrars are judicial officers by statutory definition, yet they are unable to fully steward their responsibility while being tethered to an external vendor system.

00:15:41 Sarah Sanchez

We're not here to place blame on our hardworking local officials at all.

00:15:45 Sarah Sanchez

We are here to call on this commission to exercise its authority.

00:15:49 Sarah Sanchez

You hold the fiduciary responsibility, the public platform, and the legal standing to demand better.

00:15:54 Sarah Sanchez

We urge the Autauga County Commission to take immediate decisive action.

00:15:59 Sarah Sanchez

Our first recommendation would be to assert custodial oversight, reclaim local custody of our voter rolls rather than depending entirely on out-of-state vendors.

00:16:09 Sarah Sanchez

We would suggest, #2, that we mandate rigorous auditing.

00:16:13 Sarah Sanchez

Establish an independent, transparent, local auditing mechanism to scrub deceased voters

00:16:18 Sarah Sanchez

long-term inactive files, and ineligible addresses.

00:16:22 Sarah Sanchez

And 3, we recommend to protect legal voters, ensuring that every single vote cast in Autauga County belongs to a verified legal citizen residing in their correct precinct.

00:16:33 Sarah Sanchez

The data has been gathered, the vulnerabilities have been documented, and the legal framework is clear.

00:16:38 Sarah Sanchez

The only thing missing is the political will to act.

00:16:41 Sarah Sanchez

We need you to take action and work together here in Autauga County to restore local oversight and auditability of our voter rolls.

00:16:48 Sarah Sanchez

We come to you because you get to make the decision on how the taxpayer money is spent and you are accountable to your constituents.

00:16:54 Sarah Sanchez

And as Will said earlier, we're not here to point fingers to replace the blame.

00:16:58 Sarah Sanchez

This is a problem that's going to take a lot of people and a lot of levels of government to work on and to hopefully not use as a tool to, you know, we know how things get sometimes in politics.

00:17:13 Sarah Sanchez

This isn't to give someone a hot potato and

00:17:16 Sarah Sanchez

have the whole thing land on them.

00:17:18 Sarah Sanchez

We're here to work together and to do what's right for our county and our fellow citizens.

00:17:22 Sarah Sanchez

So thank you for your time.

00:17:24 Chairman Jay Thompson

Do you mind, I mean, you touched on the registers.

00:17:27 Chairman Jay Thompson

Do you mind letting the crowd know like who appoints these registers?

00:17:31 Sarah Sanchez

The registrars.

00:17:31 Chairman Jay Thompson

The registrars, yeah.

00:17:32 Sarah Sanchez

The county registrars.

00:17:33 Chairman Jay Thompson

Yes, ma'am.

00:17:34 Sarah Sanchez

I honestly don't know all the details of that.

00:17:36 Sarah Sanchez

I just...

00:17:38 Sarah Sanchez

We're working as a team here, and we have to divide up our...

00:17:41 Wil Sanchez

It's the Secretary of Agriculture and the Commissioner and the State Auditor, and I think the Secretary of State, and the Secretary of State, I believe.

00:17:53 Chairman Jay Thompson

Yeah, so I just wanted everyone to know those were appointed positions, and that's a lot of people don't know that.

00:18:00 Sarah Sanchez

That wasn't, that wasn't on my.

00:18:04 Chairman Jay Thompson

UNCLEAR TRANSCRIPTION