

July 15, 2014

City of St. Joseph Tennessee  
Joan Nelson  
City Manager  
409 North Main Street  
St. Joseph, Tennessee 38481

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Dear Ms. Nelson:

You have asked for advice regarding the purging of the local election rolls. As we understand, there is evidence that some non-resident voters are improperly registered to vote in St. Joseph city elections. In formulating this response, MTAS Legal Consultant Melissa Ashburn was consulted.

It is recommended that you have your city attorney send a certified letter to the county election commission advising the commission there are no non-resident property owner voting rights in St. Joseph's charter. The letter should further state that the registration of these people to vote in city elections violates the law and demand that these nonresidents be removed from the election rolls. A copy of the letter should also be sent to the state election commission.

It is also advisable to communicate with your state representative and state senator to see what they or their staff can do to assist to remedy this problem.

Finally, documenting the unlawful practice of allowing non-residents to register for city elections should occur immediately by sending the recommended letter to the election commission. Once these letters start circulating, we are hopeful that actions will commence by the election commission to resolve the matter. If not, your only recourse is to file suit against the county election commission, seeking an injunction ordering them to remove these people from the election rolls.

Please let us know if you have further questions regarding this matter.

Very truly yours,



Jeffrey J. Broughton  
Municipal Management Consultant

Cc: Melissa Ashburn