



## SOCIAL SECURITY

The Commissioner

October 3, 2008

The Honorable Karen Handel  
Secretary of State  
214 State Capitol  
Atlanta, GA 30334

Dear Ms. Handel:

Under the Help America Vote Act of 2002, we have an agreement with your State to assist in verifying newly-registered voters. Consistent with this statute, part of this agreement requires us to verify the last 4 digits of the Social Security numbers of individuals who do not have an acceptable State-issued identification, such as a valid driver's license.

Since October 1, 2007, however, we have received nearly two million requests for verification from your State. Such a volume appears to be much greater than one would expect, given that States of comparable or larger populations have a significantly lower number of verification requests.

I ask that you look into this matter to ensure that your election officials are verifying only those newly-registered voters who do not have suitable State-issued identification. If your State's election officials are requesting verifications not covered by the verification agreement, we ask that you bring your procedures into conformance with your legal obligations.

If you or your staff has any questions, please contact Pete Monaghan at (410) 966-9972.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

/s/

Michael J. Astrue