MISSISSIPPI LEGISLATIVE BLACK CAUCUS

Election Investigation

The Caucus's Position | November 22, 2026

The Mississippi Legislative Black Caucus is calling on the House and Senate Investigate State Offices Committees to conduct a joint investigation and public hearing into actions by Secretary of State Michael Watson's office before the November 3 election. Voters deserve to know what happened to their registrations, whether their ballots counted and who will answer for the failures.

Why this matters

Eligible voters arrived at the polls to find their names missing or their registrations marked inactive. More than 230,000 registrations were listed as inactive statewide before Election Day. The investigation must establish how many were wrongly classified and how many eligible voters lost the opportunity to have their votes counted.

Commercial address data supplied by Watson's office and warnings raised before Election Day require public scrutiny. State and county officials must explain their decisions and what they did to protect eligible voters.

What we are asking the committees to do

- **Follow the decisions and warnings.** Determine who approved the data, what Experian told the state, what verification was required, what counties were instructed to do and how Watson's office responded to reported errors.
- **Account for voters and ballots.** Report county totals for incorrect classifications, restored registrations, notices sent and affidavit ballots counted or rejected, with reasons. Examine whether Black voters were disproportionately affected.
- **Examine citizenship checks.** Review implementation of the Mississippi SHIELD Act, including how many people were flagged, received notices, responded or had their cases resolved, and whether eligible voters were prevented from voting.
- **Preserve records and hear from the public.** Secure contracts, data, notices and communications. Take public testimony from Secretary Watson, county election officials and affected voters.
- **Publish findings and recommend changes.** Establish what failed, who was responsible and what must change to protect eligible voters before the 2027 elections.

What happens next

The caucus has requested a written response from the committees outlining their intended action and a proposed hearing date. We are also gathering voters' experiences to help document barriers and inform policy changes.

Had a problem voting? Share your experience

If you had trouble voting, tell us what happened, even if the problem was eventually resolved.

Share Your Voting Experience at msblackcaucus.com

Protect Our Voice Hotline: (769) 289-0992 | Leave a voicemail.

Sources: MLBC investigation request, Nov. 12, 2026; MLBC press conference, Nov. 19; Mississippi Today, Nov. 6.