



## ACLU of Iowa, League of United Latin American Citizens File Request for Injunction To Stop New Voter Suppression Rules

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Wednesday, August 8, 2012**

**Contacts:**

Ben Stone, ACLU of Iowa Executive Director  
515-205-5277; [ben.stone@aclu-ia.org](mailto:ben.stone@aclu-ia.org)

Joseph Enriquez Henry,  
515-208-7312; [josephghenry@aol.com](mailto:josephghenry@aol.com)

Veronica Lorson Fowler, ACLU of Iowa Communications Director  
515-451-1777; [veronica.fowler@aclu-ia.org](mailto:veronica.fowler@aclu-ia.org)

Des Moines, Iowa -- The ACLU of Iowa and League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) of Iowa today filed a request for an injunction to halt the improper implementation of two voter suppression rules by Iowa Secretary of State Matt Schultz.

The first voter suppression rule allows Schultz to purge Iowa's voter registration list by comparing with it unspecified federal and state agency lists. Schultz has not specified which lists he is using. "The public has no way to be sure he's using accurate, up-to-date information to remove voters from Iowa's voter lists," said ACLU of Iowa Executive Director Ben Stone. "The potential for erroneous information is huge."

The second voter suppression rule would create a new, unreliable way for people to make voter fraud complaints to the Secretary of State's office. The new method would skirt Iowa law by removing a requirement that the person swear to the truth of their allegation, with criminal penalties for false reports.

The ACLU and LULAC also assert that under Iowa law, Schultz doesn't have the legal authority to implement these rules and by doing so, is in violation of the law.

"This illegal effort by the Secretary of State to purge Iowa's voter list threatens to deprive eligible registered Iowa voters of their constitutionally protected right to vote," said Stone. "We want to make sure that doesn't happen."

Also, the ACLU and LULAC are concerned about Schultz's timing and procedure. Schultz provided no public notice about implementation of these voter suppression rules. And he is doing so right before the general election in November. "Schultz implemented these rules unilaterally on July 20 without proper authority to do so and without giving any notice to the public."

Iowa LULAC State Director Joseph Enriquez Henry said, "To begin a purge of registered voters so close to the fall elections is unconscionable. We urge Mr. Schultz to cease his political activity and to keep politics out of the elected office that he holds."

Stone concurs: "We demand that the Secretary of State immediately rescind these rules and stop playing political games with the voting rights of eligible voters in Iowa."

Henry said he is concerned that the purge is most likely to erroneously identify Latinos in Iowa, especially new citizens or citizens with last names similar to registered non-citizens, who are not eligible to vote.

"Iowa's Secretary of State has taken it upon himself to conduct a witch hunt upon the minority community in Iowa, specifically targeting the 152,000 Latinos who live here," said Henry. "This summer we expect to identify and register 40,000 Latinos who are Iowa citizens. We are very worried that they will be wrongfully and erroneously purged."

Legal counsel for the case is Des Moines attorneys Dan Johnston and Joseph Glazebrook of Glazebrook and Moe, LLP, as well as Nancy Abudu and Laughlin McDonald of the national ACLU Voting Rights Project.

Johnston and Glazebrook prepared a joint statement on the case: "We are pleased to be able to assist with this case, which seeks to vindicate the rights of all Iowans. Secretary Schultz has not only engaged in an effort to restrict voting rights – he has done so outside the legislative process. This is something we cannot sit by and allow to happen."

\*\*\*

The League of United Latin American Citizens was founded 83 years ago. It is the largest national Latino and Hispanic civil rights and advocacy group in the United States. It works to improve opportunities for Hispanics and Latin Americans across a wide range of issues, including voter rights. Iowa LULAC is active through several councils in the state.

The ACLU of Iowa is a private, non-partisan organization that fights to advance civil liberties for all. It is the state affiliate of the national American Civil Liberties Union.

The ACLU prides itself in upholding everyone's civil liberties, no matter who they are or what they believe. We have worked to assure the rights of all Iowans – from atheists to devout Christians, from labor unions to businesspeople and more – to make sure the constitutional rights of all are preserved. For more information, please go to [www.alclu-ia.org](http://www.alclu-ia.org)

*Want to be removed from this press release contact list? Prefer it go to a different email? Or do you want to be added to our press release contact list? Please email [veronica.fowler@aclu-ia.org](mailto:veronica.fowler@aclu-ia.org).*

-- end --