



NEW JERSEY GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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July 22, 2026

The Honorable Jennifer Davenport
Attorney General
State of New Jersey
28 Market Street
Trenton, NJ 08611

Dear Attorney General Davenport,

I write to you regarding Governor Mikie Sherrill's announcement yesterday that 6,600 ineligible individuals were registered to vote through a "glitch in the MVC system," with nearly 400 of those individuals having voted in elections between 2023 and today.

While I, like many others, await the findings of the independent investigation being conducted by an outside law firm into the circumstances surrounding this incident, the purpose of this letter is a result of a comment made by the Governor at her press conference on July 21, 2026.

In response to a question about charging those who voted illegally, Governor Sherrill said, *"It would be really the utmost hypocrisy for the state to charge them..."*

As I'm sure you are aware, the New Jersey Criminal Justice Act of 1970 is the foundation for criminal justice in our state. N.J.S.A. 52:17B-98 declares that the policy of the State of New Jersey is to provide *"for the general supervision of criminal justice by the Attorney General as chief law enforcement officer of the State, in order to secure the benefits of a uniform and efficient enforcement of the criminal law and the administration of criminal justice throughout the State."*

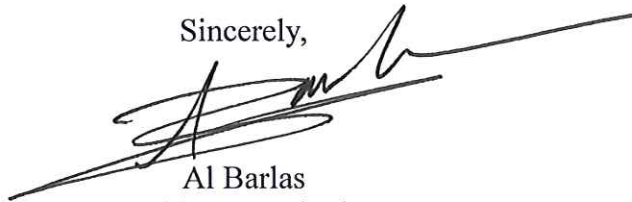
Perhaps this is the reason why, when creating the position of Lieutenant Governor, the Legislature and the voters of the state, through their ratification of a constitutional amendment, specifically stated in Article V, Section 1.10b, *"the Governor shall not appoint the Lieutenant Governor to serve as Attorney General."*

Additionally, former Attorney General Gurbir Grewal, on October 8, 2020, issued "*Attorney General Administrative Executive Directive No. 2020-10*" entitled "Directive Codifying Protocols for Communications within the Office of the Governor and the Legislature." In this directive, AG Grewal states on page 3, "*Decisions about criminal prosecutions and investigations are—and must be—made free of political or partisan considerations.*"

The directive further defines "prohibited communication" to include "*Any investigative step taken or contemplated...*" and "*Any prosecutorial step taken or contemplated, including decisions regarding charging...*"

Your reputation and our interactions have proven that you bring a high level of professionalism and dedication to public service and the law to the Office of the Attorney General. It is my hope that whatever decision is made by your office in this matter is made through the prism of our State's chief law enforcement officer and not based on public comments made by the Governor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Al Barlas', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Al Barlas
Assemblyman, District 40