
NEWS RELEASE

**Louisiana
Department of State**



**Tom Schedler
Secretary of State**

**P.O. Box 94125
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9125
www.sos.la.gov**



**Kyle Ardoin
First Assistant Secretary of State
225.922.2880
admin@sos.la.gov**

July 16, 2012

**SECRETARY SCHEDLER, REGISTRARS CAUTION VOTERS
REGARDING MAILING FROM THE VOTER PARTICIPATION CENTER**

Secretary of State Tom Schedler and local registrars of voters are cautioning voters across the state to be aware of a voter registration mailing from the Voter Participation Center. The Secretary of State's Office alone has logged hundreds of complaints via telephone and email regarding the ongoing mailings.

Secretary Schedler has responded to VPC's mailing via postal mail and asked them to take responsibility for their actions. VPC should not only be concerned with registering citizens to vote, but the organization must be concerned with and take appropriate actions to maintain integrity in the election process.

"We do not believe that VPC performed proper due diligence in purchasing the list used for the mailing," Secretary Schedler said. "If the mailing had included current information, we would not have had the numerous complaints that were filed with our office. Not only did the list contain dead people, but it also contained minors and felons which opens the door to voter fraud."

The complaints logged by the Secretary of State's Office specifically include pre-filled applications with nicknames; recipients who thought someone was trying to change their name; deceased applicants' names on mailings (in some cases since the 1960s and 1970s); misspelled applicants' names; recipients concerned with identity theft; minor children in receipt of applications; recipients questioning the legitimacy of the pre-filled applications; recipients already registered; addressee on mailing did not live at address; and addressee on mailing lives and is registered in another state.

Local registrars of voters also logged complaints including the aforementioned information in addition to signatures not matching signatures on file in the Registrar of Voters Office and applications mailed to convicted felons.

For more information about the Secretary of State's Elections Division, visit www.GeauxVote.com or call 225.922.0900.

STATE OF LOUISIANA
SECRETARY OF STATE

TOM SCHEDLER
SECRETARY OF STATE

P.O. Box 94125
BATON ROUGE, LA 70804-9125
225.922.2880
WWW.SOS.LA.GOV



July 13, 2012

Alicia C. O'Brien
Dickstein Shapiro LLP
1825 Eye St. Northwest
Washington, D.C. 20006

Page S. Gardner
President and Chief Executive Officer
The Voter Participation Center
1640 Rhode Island Ave. Northwest
Suite 825
Washington, D.C. 20036

RE: Voter Participation Center Voter Registration Mailing in Louisiana

Dear Ms. O'Brien and Ms. Gardner,

We are writing to inform you of the numerous complaints that our office and the local registrars of voters across the State of Louisiana are receiving as a result of your recent voter registration mailing. Our office alone has logged more than 217 complaint calls and 16 email complaints. While that may not seem like a lot to VPC compared to the number of mailings that VPC sent out in Louisiana, it takes time for these citizens to call or email a complaint and therefore, we are certain that there are many, many more who simply did not take the time or did not know who to contact about this mailing.

The complaints logged from individuals include the following specifics:

- application was pre-filled with a nickname;
- recipient thought someone was trying to change their name;
- applicants name on mailing is deceased (in some cases since the 1960s and 1970s);
- applicants name on mailing was misspelled;
- recipients were concerned with identity theft;
- minor children received applications;
- recipients questioned whether or not the pre-filled applications were legitimate;
- recipients were already registered;
- addressee on mailing did not live at address;



- addressee on mailing lives and is registered in another state;
- addressee on mailing is not a U.S. citizen;
- recipients thought the secretary of state or the registrar of voters was changing their voter registration information;
- applications contained insufficient information; and
- recipients were confused by mailing.

The complaints logged from local registrars of voters include the aforementioned in addition to the following specifics:

- signatures did not match signatures on file in the Registrar of Voters Office;
- applications were mailed to convicted felons; and
- increased the number of complaint calls to Registrars of Voters Offices.

We do not believe that VPC could have performed proper due diligence in purchasing the list used for the mailing. If the mailing had included current information, we would not have had the numerous complaints that were filed with our office. Not only did the list contain dead people, but it also contained minors and felons which opens up the door to voter fraud.

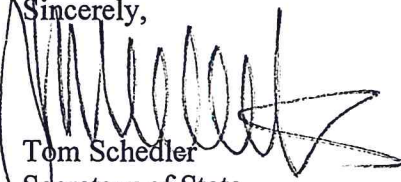
The VPC website professes that your organization relies upon “the diligence of local election officials to review the applications if and when they are turned in” and that VPC “relies upon the integrity of the individuals receiving the forms.” What diligence, if any, did VPC perform in making sure that the mailing list purchased was accurate and did not contain dead people, minors, felons, non-citizens and/or duplications?

VPC must take responsibility for their actions. Not only should VPC be concerned about registering people to vote, but the organization must be concerned with and take appropriate actions to maintain integrity in our election process. The actions of VPC show little respect for it or the people of Louisiana.

In this day and time with the real concerns of identity theft and fraud, it is incumbent upon VPC to be responsible and conduct due diligence in purchasing any list before any statewide mail voter registration drive is performed in Louisiana again. It is incredulous that people were included on your mailing lists that have been deceased for 30 to 40 years!

On a positive note, Louisiana ranks fourth in the country at 84 percent registration for those eligible to be registered to vote. This is almost a 20 percent increase from the 2000 Census, and we are proud of our efforts to offer voter registration in person and by mail throughout Louisiana as well as through electronic means with our online system since 2009. I would appreciate the opportunity of discussing this matter with you before any future mailings are made in our state. Please direct all correspondence to Commissioner of Elections Angie Rogers at 225.922.0900.

Sincerely,



Tom Schedler
Secretary of State