

The State of Florida County Supervisors of Elections of:

Baker	Escambia	Lee	Orange
Bay	Flagler	Leon	Palm Beach
Bradford	Gadsden	Marion	Pasco
Broward	Glades	Martin	Polk
Charlotte	Hendry	Miami/Dade	Putnam
Clay	Hernando	Monroe	St. Johns
Collier	Indian River	Nassau	St. Lucie
Columbia	Jackson	Okaloosa	Volusia
Duval	Lake		

April 7, 2020

Laurel M. Lee
Florida Secretary of State
R.A. Gray Building
500 South Bronough Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Secretary Lee:

On behalf of the Supervisors of Elections listed below, we respectfully ask you to exercise the authority of your office to call attention to a deceptive enterprise that is causing confusion, disruption and fear among voters in our state. Further, we believe that your enlisting the power of Attorney General Moody's office may greatly enhance efforts to help Florida voters.

We of course are referring to the insidious efforts of a shadow group, misleadingly calling themselves, the Voter Participation Center (VPC) or the Center for Voter Information (CVI) which operates through the front of a Philadelphia-based law firm, BlankRome.

We suspect that you are familiar with and are hopefully as distressed as Supervisors about the VPC/CVI scam mailers periodically hectoring Floridians. These mailers not only unnecessarily frighten voters (seniors in particular) but are counter-productive to ongoing voter registration and vote-by-mail efforts being undertaken by Supervisors of Elections, the political parties and regulated, legitimate groups.

Sending postcards (as well as online overtures) and pre-filled out mailers Floridians whose family members are deceased, to minors, to pets or to (as we find all too common) voters who are already properly registered, erodes the public's faith in the good voter registration work already occurring around Florida and even undermines democracy itself. Each time, following these mass mailers, our offices are inundated with terrified voters who are concerned that their personal information has been compromised or wrongly shared and they are especially upset when – as it happens all-too-frequently – the data used by this shadow group is wrong and thereby causes further alarm.

Heretofore, Supervisors have addressed this issue individually, but in light of the present circumstance, we fear that this latest round will lead to substantial voter confusion and therefore are asking your assistance.

If we cannot stop or legally hinder these interlopers – whoever they are in reality – from scaring voters or disrupting legitimate efforts already underway in our state, we ask that you, in the capacity of your office, take a firm public stand condemning their malign activity.

Is this a serious problem?

Below is a small sampling of headlines arising out of recent mailers VPC/CVI sent around Florida – many of these to voters who are already properly registered with an “official-looking” mailer (in many cases already filled in with personal information). A legitimizing but purposefully deceptive Tallahassee mail drop return address confuses voters all the more. The following highlights the breadth of the problem:

- [Private group sending wrong voter information to dead relatives, pets in Florida](#)
WPTV 6/28/19
- [Election mailing causing confusion; CVI responds](#)
Iwantthenews.com 3/26/20
- [Brevard supervisor of elections issues alert to residents about voter mailings coming from DC groups](#)
Florida Today 1/17/20
- [Across Florida, voter registration mailers go to dead relatives, pets](#)
Tallahassee Democrat 6/29/19
- [Voter registration mailer creates confusion for voters and phone calls for officials](#)
Tallahassee Democrat 6/14/19
- [Letters sent to Southwest Florida residents falsely claim they're not registered to vote](#)
NBC2 1/27/20
- [Nonprofits' attempts to register voters cause confusion in Central Florida](#)
Click Orlando 6/21/19

As you can see, this practice is disruptive, misleading and harmful. And, VPC/CVI just sent word that they plan to carpet bomb Floridians with more voter registration deception this month. In the midst of what our state and nation are experiencing in the ongoing pandemic, this has risen to a level of serious unacceptability.

We are doing our part by notifying local media, using our social media platforms and websites to alert voters, but as local officials our reach does not compare to your own.

We ask that you to do what you can to help us call attention to this scam which is causing real harm to Florida voters.

Sincerely,

Nita D. Crawford, Mark Andersen, Terry L. Vaughan, Peter Antonacci, Paul A. Stamoulis, Chris H. Chambliss, Jennifer J. Edwards, Elizabeth P. Horne, Mike Hogan, David Stafford, Kaiti Lenhart, Shirley Green Knight, Aletris Farnam, Brenda K. Hoots, Shirley Anderson, Leslie R. Swan, Sylvia D. Stephens, D. Alan Hays, Tommy Doyle, Mark S. Earley, Wesley Wilcox, Vicki Davis, Christina White, R. Joyce Griffin, Vicki Peterson Cannon, Paul Lux, Bill Cowles, Wendy Saratory Link, Brian E. Corley, Lori Edwards, Charles L. Overturf III, Vicky C. Oakes, Gertrude Walker, Lisa Lewis