



ROBIN CARNAHAN
SECRETARY OF STATE
STATE OF MISSOURI

JAMES C. KIRKPATRICK
STATE INFORMATION CENTER
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ELECTIONS DIVISION
(573) 751-2301

October 30, 2006

Scott Leiendecker, Director
Mary Wheeler-Jones, Director
300 N. Tucker Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63101

Dear Scott and Mary,

The Secretary of State's office received a copy of the letter your office sent to voter registration mail-in applicants whose voter registration applications were submitted to your office by a representative of ACORN sometime between July 31, 2006, and October 11, 2006.

Your letter requires that each applicant contact the Election Board so that their voter registration information is confirmed prior to completing the registration process. In addition, the letter is not clear as to whether the applicant must also sign and return the letter with his or her telephone number in order to complete the registration process.


These steps as outlined in your letter are additional registration requirements in violation of Missouri law. See Missouri Constitution Article VIII, Section 2 and Sections 115.133, RSMo.


Furthermore, Section 115.155.4, RSMo, specifically provides that if your office determines that an applicant is not entitled to register your office must, within seven business days after receiving the application, notify the applicant by mail and state the reason the applicant is not qualified to register to vote.

These additional requirements may also be in violation of federal election laws. See National Voter Registration Act, 42 U.S.C. §1973gg-6(a)1 and 6(a)2 and the Voting Rights Act, 42 U.S.C. §1971(a)(2)(B).

As a result, your office should process these voter registration applications pursuant to state and federal law. For your reference, we have enclosed another copy of the memo we sent to you regarding driver's license and last four digits of the Social Security numbers on voter registration forms.

Respectfully yours,


Betsy Byers
Co-Director of Elections


Kay Dinolfo
Co-Director of Elections