

Recent Reports about Women's Voices, Women Vote

(compiled by Institute for Southern Studies)

**Daily Town Talk (Alexandria, Louisiana)
April 2, 2008 Wednesday**

NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION EFFORT LEADS TO SOME CONFUSION

BYLINE: Robert Morgan, Pg. 6A

Rapides Parish Registrar of Voters Joannell Wilson said her office has been the target of some "nasty" calls as a result of confusion over an out-of-state group sending voter registration forms to parish residents.

A nonprofit organization based in Boston, Mass., has been sending national registration forms to people who have been filling them out and forwarding them to the Registrar's Office, she said. "It's been going on for a couple of months, but it's not us," Wilson said.

These national registration forms have been a source of irritation for her staff for two reasons: most people are annoyed when they get a second form, primarily because they are already registered to vote; and people who depend solely on the form as proof of registration are not registered to vote.

"We've gotten several nasty calls saying, 'What are you all doing?'" Wilson said.

The Voter Participation Center, the Boston-based nonprofit group, is not affiliated with the Secretary of State's Office which oversees Louisiana elections, she said.

The national registration form they have sent to Rapides Parish residents is not complete, she said.

"In most cases the people are already registered. We use the forms for updating the files. We look to see if there is a change of address or party affiliation," Wilson said.

When the form indicates there has been a change, the Registrar's Office makes changes to the voter's file and issues a new registration card with the change, she said.

Problems arise when the voter gets a "second notice" urging them to get registered, she said. That's when voters want to know why they're being asked to register again.

She said the national form lacks information required by Louisiana law.

"We treat it as an application to register. We send them a card asking for the additional information the state requires," she said.

Those people who respond to the requests for more information are issued a voter registration card, she said.

But she emphasized, "They're not going to vote until they get a card back from us." The voter registration card is required by election officials for verification of eligibility.

Wilson said, however, her biggest concern is those people who have registered and continue to get forms from The Voter Participation Center.

"They need to get ready because they're going to get a third form," she said.

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**St. Petersburg Times (Florida)
March 21, 2008 Friday North Edition**

VOTER PACKAGES CRITICIZED

By Chuin-Wei Yap, Times Staff Writer, Pg. 1

Mailings from a group telling women to register to vote have caught flak from the Pasco Supervisor of Elections.

The voter registration packages come from the Voter Participation Center (www.voterparticipationcenter.org), a 5-year-old project by a nonprofit based in Washington, D.C., called Women's Voices, Women Vote. The mailings come with a prepaid envelope addressed to the state Division of Elections in Tallahassee.

Pasco's elections supervisor, Brian Corley, said his staff has received 518 of these packages, dutifully filled out by voters and sent to Tallahassee, which forwarded the packages to him.

But he's been getting complaints from other voters who don't understand why they are being asked to fill out the forms. "A lot are already registered voters," Corley said Thursday. "We all want people to vote - it's a wonderful thing. But the part that troubles me is when they tell people to return the packages to comply with state law. It makes people think this is something official. This is disingenuous."

The wording on the package reads: "To comply with state voting requirements, please return the enclosed application."

Voters do not have to return it, Corley said. For those who need to get registered, filling out the forms is one way. But part of Corley's discomfort is that those who are already properly registered are also filling them out.

Women's Voices, Women Vote is a nonpartisan organization on a mission to encourage unmarried women to vote, said spokeswoman Sarah Johnson. She said she understands Corley's concerns, but that the mailing was merely encouraging single women to register. Single women are less likely to vote than married women, according to the organization.

Johnson said Women's Voices, Women Vote compiles its mailing list by using a computer system that compares commercially acquired lists, such as magazine subscribers, with Florida's voter database. It also sifts through U.S. Postal Service address changes to see who moved and might need to reregister. The system then targets unmarried women who appear to be unregistered, and mailings are sent urging them to register.

The nonprofit does not receive the replies, Johnson said. "We don't ever get their returns," she said. "Their personal information is as safe as if they had registered directly with the state of Florida."

Florida is one of 22 states where the Voter Participation Center operates, Johnson said. The states are chosen based on the number of unmarried women and their inclination to vote, she said.

The latest mailings were part of 688,000 sent two weeks ago in Florida. In January, the organization sent 966,000 such mailings statewide. Obviously, there are glitches in the Voter Participation Center's computer system.

"Some of these complaints we've been getting are that the packages were addressed to deceased people and 9-year-old girls," Corley said.

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The Tampa Tribune Published: March 21, 2008

MAILINGS CONFUSE VOTERS

By Kevin Wiatrowski

A well-meaning voter registration campaign by an out-of-state women's organization is causing confusion among Pasco County voters and turmoil as far away as Tallahassee.

Since February, a nonprofit group called the Voter Participation Center has blanketed Florida with more than 1.5 million mailers urging residents to register to vote. The mailers include an envelope addressed to the secretary of state's office, which oversees elections.

The problem, say Pasco elections officials, is that many people are returning the mailers even though they are already registered to vote. As a result, the secretary of state's office has been inundated with paperwork, which it is sending back to voters' home counties.

"It's creating a lot of unnecessary work on our part, a lot of unnecessary panic on behalf of the voters," said Tammy Bentley, senior deputy supervisor of elections for Pasco.

"I'm sorry to hear that," said Sarah Johnson, communications director for "Women's Voices. Women Vote." - the Voter Participation Center's parent group. "We certainly don't want to create any more work for the already overworked elections officials," Johnson said Thursday.

Johnson's group is a Washington-based nonprofit organization that aims to get unmarried women to be more active in civic life. The registration form being mailed is a generic document approved by the federal Help America Vote Act, which was passed in the wake of the tumultuous 2000 presidential election.

The Florida mailing is part of a 22-state campaign to register new voters, Johnson said.

She said her group notified the secretary of state's office in advance of the mailing.

Sterling Ivey, spokesman for Florida Secretary of State Kurt Browning, said the office has been getting between 3,000 and 4,000 voter registrations a day since the registration drive began. The office usually processes 1,500 applications per month, Ivey said.

Bentley said the mailings have created confusion and anger among some recipients because of mistakes in names or other identifiers. Some people have reported getting documents mailed to their pets or dead relatives, she said.

Johnson said her group's mailing list is drawn from a variety of commercial sources.

Bentley urged anyone receiving the mailing to contact the county elections office if they want to check their voter status. "If you have any doubts, call us," she said.

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VOTER MAILING DECEPTIVE

BYLINE: Julia Zaher, Pg. GB01

GRAND BLANC - If you registered to vote in the past and have voted in recent years, there's no need to re-register. Some voters are being confused by mailings from the Voter Participation Center. The mailings have a Boston return address - a clue that this is not an official mailing from the state of Michigan or local municipalities.

The outside of the mailed brochure says, "Important Voter Registration Information Inside." It contains a voter registration application.

"It's telling people to send this to the state of Michigan so everybody's worried they've been canceled," Grand Blanc Clerk Bethany Smith said. "We haven't canceled anyone."

Smith said voters aren't usually removed from voting rolls unless they haven't voted in many years. The mailing, she said, is a tactic political parties and others use to get people who aren't registered to do so.

Most people in Michigan registered to vote when they obtained a driver's license or personal state identification.

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The Daily Southerner (Tarboro, North Carolina)
February 29, 2008 Friday

VOTER REGISTRATION CARDS POUR IN: FILING FOR UPCOMING PRIMARY AND GENERAL ELECTIONS ENDS TODAY

BYLINE: Sherry Brunson, The Daily Southerner

Feb. 29--Noon today is the deadline for residents to file as candidates for elected office. Most candidates, including all the incumbents, filed early, so the Edgecombe County Board of Elections office didn't see anyone file all week, but they still have been busy.

Hundreds of voter's registration cards have been sent to their office, offering challenges to officials to make sure everyone is entered into the computer database.

"We received more than 100 cards Wednesday, and other days, as well," said Ethel Bryant, who has worked in the office for more than 14 years. "Rocky Mount said they received more than 300. We thought most people in our

area were registered and have been surprised to receive so many new registration cards."

The voter's registration cards have been sent out by the Voter Participation Center, an arm of Women's Voices, Women's Vote, a non-profit organization, based in Washington, D.C., whose goal is to help single women, those polled least-likely to vote, to register.

"We found there were 570,000 unmarried women in North Carolina, who are not registered to vote," said Sarah Johnson, communications director. "These are women of all ages, widowed, divorced and those who have never been married. These women, who make up approximately 26 percent of the voter base, are usually extremely busy and under-represented. Our goal is to help them by sending them an application to register to vote, which would make it easier then, to vote on Election Day. "We are non-partisan, so we don't care who they vote for, just so they vote."

Bryant agreed the method seems to be working. "They send out the voter's applications in a pre-packaged envelope with postage paid," she said. "Many are female and from rural areas, where it is harder to run out and get a stamp to post a letter. Since it doesn't need a stamp, they are able to drop it right in the mail."

Johnson said although most of the mailings are to single women, some are to men. She said the Voter Participation Center uses a commercial vendor, which collects public data, from the U.S. Postal Service new residence list, the U.S. Census, Yellow Pages, White Pages and magazine subscriptions, to determine who receives the application. The applications were sent out the first week of February.

"It is exciting that there has been such a response," Johnson added. "Before we began the mailing, we contacted (North Carolina) Secretary of State (Elaine) Marshall with the information as to who we are and why we are sending the applications out, so she would be aware of what is going on."

Although thrilled with more voter participation, Bryant acknowledged the extra rush of registration cards has kept the office busy. "We have to scan in each application separately," she said. "That way we have the signature of everyone who registers to vote. Then in the future, we can pull up their signatures on the computer, if we need to."

Johnson said Women's Voices, Women's Vote has researched the single women vote issue extensively. A comprehensive report with their findings is on their Web site at www.wvov.org.

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**The Courier-Journal (Louisville, Kentucky)
February 27, 2008 Wednesday BC Edition**

**ALERT ISSUED ON VOTER FORM
REGISTRATION**

BYLINE: Brandy Warren, Pg. 5H

The Bullitt County Clerk's Office is advising residents to use caution regarding a voter-registration form sent out by the Voter Participation Center.

The mailings are a project of Women's Voices Women Vote, a nonprofit in Washington, D.C. The group has sent out more than 147,000 voter-registration packets to Kentucky residents this month.

County Clerk Kevin Mooney said a handful of residents have complained that forms included an incorrect or old address, and others have received the packet but are already registered to vote.

"Our primary concern is that people who have good voter registration might do something to invalidate that," Mooney said.

He cited one woman who lives in Bullitt and received the packet at a work address in Louisville.

Mooney said he fears a person could fill out the packet, not change the preprinted address on the form, and attempt to register in Louisville. If that person tried to vote at their local precinct in Bullitt they would not be able to .

"We just want to head some people off before a mistake is made."

Women's Voices Women Vote, which is not affiliated with any particular candidate, is dedicated to increasing the number of unmarried women who are registered to vote. It also targets people who have moved.

Sarah Johnson, communications director for Women's Voices Women Vote, said it tries its best to get correct addresses for nonregistered voters, "but sometimes anomalies can happen."

She said the group compares a list of registered voters across the state with a purchased consumer data list. The list includes information from public sources like telephone books, real-estate deeds and other records. The two lists are compared to identify non-voters.

She advised people who receive the packets to call the group or visit www.voterparticipationcenter.org if they have a packet with the wrong address. Residents should also call if they receive the packet and are already registered to vote. Their names can be removed from the mailing list.

If residents choose to fill out the packet, voter-registration forms are mailed to a P.O. Box in Frankfort. Johnson said a person hired by the group picks up the forms and delivers them to the state board of elections.

The information on the voter-registration forms may include addresses, birth dates and Social Security numbers.

"We never open these (envelopes) up," Johnson said.

Les Fugate, deputy secretary of state for Kentucky, said residents began raising concerns about the mailers during the last general election, saying they included incorrect addresses and other confusing information.

"They're well-intentioned. But this has not been executed well."

Fugate said the secretary of state's office has told people they are taking a risk when they fill out the forms. He said one major concern is that there's no way to guarantee the forms will actually make it to the secretary of state's office.

He said people who want to register should visit their county clerk's office or the state's Web site, www.elect.ky.gov/registrationinfo.

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**Lansing State Journal (Michigan)
February 19, 2008 Tuesday**

**ILL-CONCEIVED VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVES
CONFUSE RECIPIENTS**

BYLINE: John Schneider Pg. 1B

Todd Hubert's mother, Jean Hubert, has been dead for 18 years.

Because this isn't Chicago, he was puzzled when Michigan's Bureau of Elections tried to sign her up to vote.

“I would think,” Hubert wrote in an e-mail to me, “that the state of Michigan would know who was dead and who was alive.”

It’s easy to understand Hubert’s confusion. The letter, mailed to Jean at her former Eaton Rapids address, included a voter registration form, along with a postage-paid envelope addressed properly to the Michigan Department of State, Bureau of Elections.

But department spokesman Ken Silfven said the mailing was not from the state. And it wasn’t the first time, he added, that such mailings have caused confusion among voters.

“Just last fall,” Silfven wrote in an e-mail to me, “we had a similar issue with a national group ... (sending) out voter registration forms with our return address.”

Many of the mailings had wrong names and addresses, Silfven said. Some were addressed to family pets.

Also, the mailings left some registered voters with the impression they had to register again.

“As you can imagine, our already swamped Bureau of Elections (and our communications office) ended up fielding tons of calls from confused voters.”

Acknowledging registering voters is a “laudable goal,” Silfven said ill-conceived registration campaigns can turn voters off.

After inspecting the mailing to his deceased mother more closely, Hubert discovered it was from the Voter Participation Center - a project, I learned from the Internet, of a larger group called “Women’s Voices. Women Vote.”

That, according to the group’s Web site is a “nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to increasing the voice of unmarried Americans by encouraging them to register, vote and participate in our democracy and civic life.”

Why the focus on unmarried people?

Because, the mission statement says, “they represent the fastest growing demographic in America, yet they are under-represented in national elections and in our public policy debates.”

On Monday, I reached Sarah Johnson, spokeswoman for the Washington D.C.-based group. She seemed confused by the confusion.

Before the mailing, Johnson said, somebody from her group notified election officials in the targeted states. In fact, the group sent out a news release saying the mailings would go out to 380,000 unmarried women in Michigan alone.

The release cited U.S. Census data showing unmarried women represent more than 26 percent of the eligible voting age population.

Providing envelopes addressed directly to the Bureau of Elections, Johnson said, ensures the privacy of the registrant.

As for the mailing going to a dead woman, well, that was simply the result of bad data.

What do you think? Call John Schneider at 377-1175, send a fax to 377-1298 or e-mail jschneid@lsj.com

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**Wisconsin State Journal (Madison, Wisconsin)
February 19, 2008 Tuesday**

SOME WHO THOUGHT THEY REGISTERED TO VOTE DID NOT

BYLINE: State Journal staff Pg. A5

Hundreds of Wisconsin voters who think they registered in advance will have register at the polls today, state elections officials said.

That’s because the group Women’s Voices. Women Vote, of Washington, D.C., submitted a large number of voter registrations after the deadline for mail-in registrations, said Kevin Kennedy, director of the state Government Accountability Board, which oversees elections.

Accountability Board spokesman Kyle Richmond said mail-in registrations to the state had to be postmarked by Jan. 30 to be counted.

The group also used the Web site www.voterparticipationcenter.org, Richmond said.

Voters who tried to register through the group will be able to register at their polling place by bringing a proof of address and their driver’s license number or, if they do not have a driver’s license, their state identification card or final four digits of their Social Security number.

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**LATE FORMS MEAN VOTERS MUST REGISTER
AT POLLING PLACE**

MADISON, WI. - The Wisconsin State Elections Board issued the following news release:

The Wisconsin Elections Division has received hundreds of voter registration forms mailed after the January 30 deadline for the February 19 primary election. By law late forms cannot be processed to place voters' names in the poll books.

One group in particular - Women's Voices. Women Vote, of Washington, D.C. - apparently ignored or disregarded state deadlines in seeking to register voters just before the Presidential Preference Primary Election on Tuesday. This group mailed a large number of registrations to Wisconsin well after the state's registration deadline.

"It's unfortunate that such groups do not inform voters of our deadlines," said Kevin Kennedy, director of the state Government Accountability Board. "Voters have the expectation that they will be properly registered when they fill out a form. This action misleads them, and causes extra challenges for poll workers in Wisconsin on Tuesday."

Elections Division Administrator Nat Robinson advised that voters whose mail-in registrations are late will have to register again in order to vote on Tuesday.

"For Wisconsinites who intended to register by mail, the form had to have been postmarked twenty days before the election," Robinson said. "Otherwise they must register in the clerk's office or at the polling place on Election Day."

"We have received a large number of registrations that will not be in the state database by Tuesday morning," Robinson added. "Fortunately, those people who arrive at their polling places assuming they are already registered can still register just before voting."

Wisconsin provides three ways for residents to register: Mail-in registration, in-person registration, and Election Day registration. While mail-in registration allows voters not to carry documents to the polling place or clerk's office, it is subject to the 20-day deadline.

To register at the polling place, Wisconsin residents must provide a current document which proves residency (such as a utility bill, paycheck or student ID), and their driver's license number. Those without a driver's license number

can use their state identification card number or last four digits of their Social Security number.

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The Virginian-Pilot February 9, 2008

**VIRGINIA VOTER REGISTRATION EFFORT
PROVES LEGIT AFTER FEARS OF SCAM**

By Steve Stone

A day after State Police warned about what appeared to be someone trying to scam Virginia voters, authorities said Friday that all is well.

The voter registration drive is legitimate.

State Police, working with the State Board of Elections, began an investigation after more than a dozen reports from residents across the state saying they had received unsolicited phone calls Wednesday and Thursday about registering to vote.

They were told to expect a mailing with registration information and that they should complete and send in, said Corinne Geller, a State Police spokeswoman.

"The messages did not specify who or where the packets were coming from," Geller said.

Nancy Rodrigues, secretary of the State Board of Elections, said her agency was unaware of any such effort, raising worries someone was trying to get people's personal information. That prompted the public warning.

By Friday, however, investigators obtained some of the packets and tracked them to the source.

Women's Voices Women Vote, a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization based in Washington, made the calls and sent the mailings, Geller said.

The group said it is part of an "unprecedented" effort to register women. Trouble was, it was largely unheard of. The calls to potential voters started even before the effort was announced. The organization said it is targeting more than 228,000 unmarried women in Virginia and 22 other states.

Sarah Johnson, communications director for the organization, said Friday that not including information about the source of the voter registration effort was "absolutely an accidental omission."

She said the group was changing its nationwide phone alerts to make clear who is coordinating the effort.

Johnson said that of all the states where the effort is under way, Virginia was the only one where there had been reports of problems.

"I think it would be a shame if it hampered the effort in Virginia," Johnson said, because the point is for single women to "make their voices heard in our democracy."

In 2008, "for the first time in history, a majority of households are headed by an unmarried person, and the number of women who are single, separated divorced or widowed is equal to the number of married women," Page Gardner, president of the organization, said in a statement.

In Virginia alone, 228,441 citizens are expected to receive the voter registration forms in the mail, the organization said.

"The voter registration application contained in the packet is a legitimate voter registration form commonly accepted by the State Board of Elections," Geller said Friday. Included in the mailings are prepaid envelopes addressed to the State Board of Elections.

"Those individuals who may have completed this form and sent it in, do not have to worry," Rodrigues said. "The personal information provided in the application is safe."

She said state elections officials will forward any forms received from the effort to the appropriate local registrar's office for processing.

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**The Associated Press State & Local Wire
November 26, 2007 Monday 9:33 PM GMT**

GROUP DEFENDS VOTER REGISTRATION PROCESS THAT ANGERED SOME VOTERS

BYLINE: By Kathy Barks Hoffman, AP

LANSING MI - An independent group that angered some Michigan voters by sending voter registration forms to their pets or to wrong addresses apologized Monday for the mistakes.

But the president of Women's Voices. Women Vote also said the group is doing a lot of good by reaching out to the hundreds of thousands of unmarried Michigan women who aren't registered to vote.

"We are trying to help the 20 million women (nationally) who did not participate in the last election participate this time. That's our goal," group President Page Gardner told The Associated Press on Monday in a telephone call. "Their lives are so stressed. So we try to make it easier for them to register and vote."

Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land said the Washington, D.C.-based group may have good intentions, but has created a lot of voter confusion. Women who have gotten voter registration applications with incorrect information often have written sarcastic comments on the forms before sending them in to Land's office.

"This is my dog, not a human!" one woman scrawled across the application form.

Land said part of the problem was that the women's voter group compared a variety of sources including magazine subscription lists to figure out which women weren't already included in the state's Qualified Voter File.

"The mailing list used by the group is of questionable quality, fraught with errors, inaccuracies and out-of-date information," she said last week.

But Gardner said her group did nothing wrong. She said it relied on a variety of publicly available lists to compile names of unregistered, unmarried female voters, including magazine subscription lists, information from warranty cards, phone books and other consumer data.

"Are there inaccuracies in any list? Yes, especially when someone sets up a magazine subscription in their pet's name," Gardner said. "At the end of the day, we're trying to help someone (register). ... Are we successful? Absolutely."

She said her group has mailed voter registration applications to hundreds of thousands of unmarried Michigan women in recent years, getting 10,496 to register in 2004 and 2006.

According to group spokeswoman Sarah Johnson, more than 526,000 unmarried women in Michigan weren't registered voters in 2006. Of those who were registered, more than 355,000 didn't vote. WVWV sent more than 278,000 voter registration forms to Michigan women that year.

So far, around 5,000 of the group's registration forms sent out this year have come into the Bureau of Elections and are being passed along to local clerks. Many duplicate voter registration records that already exist or are

addressed to the wrong people, said secretary of state spokesman Kelly Chesney.

She noted that residents can check their voter registration status by visiting the online Michigan Voter Information Center or contacting their local clerk's office.

Gardner said the group would like to work with Land to make sure more unmarried women vote. The country now has 53 million unmarried women, a number that matches the number of married women. Yet they vote far less than other voter groups.

"We wish that we had had a conversation with the secretary of state. We'd love to have a partnership," Gardner said. "I'm sure she'd be thrilled so many women are registering."

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US States News November 22, 2007 Thursday 2:18 AM EST

OFFICIALS WARN OF DECEPTIVE VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVE

KINGMAN, Ariz. - Mohave County issued the following meeting news release:

State and county officials are warning residents against deceptive voter registration materials they may find in their mailboxes.

On November 13, Arizona Secretary of State Jan Brewer alerted the media against material being sent to voters by a group called "Women's Voices, Women Vote" out of Washington D.C.

Brewer's release stated that voters are being sent registration applications "along with a note indicating that 'voter registration laws require you to submit the attached application,' and that it must be filled out and returned to 'comply with legal requirements.'"

Brewer has serious concerns about such a mailing as it "deceptive because they indicate that the law requires the recipient to return the application regardless of whether the recipient is already registered to vote or even eligible to register." She pointed out the postage paid information improperly implies the Secretary of State's office is involved in the effort and is paying for the return postage.

Sec. Brewer sent a letter to the "Women's Voices, Women Vote" president, Page Gardner, telling her to "cease and desist sending this letter to Arizona residents."

"We hadn't heard about this mailing until people started calling our office," Mohave County Voter Registration Administrative Supervisor Kim Stewart said Tuesday, Nov. 20. "We received angry calls from people who were already registered questioning the mailing as a waste of tax dollars. I hear there were some women who received voice messages on their phones telling them that if they didn't fill out the forms they wouldn't get their Social Security benefits.

"We have nothing to do with this deceptive mailing or those unethical calls," she said. "We want our residents to know that the easy way to check their voter registration status is to just call us. And always double check anything that comes in the mail before filling out personal information.

"We called Sec. Brewer and, at that time, she hadn't heard anything about the problem," Stewart said. "Then she started receiving the forms. And, as an example of how non-official the mailings are, Phoenix is misspelled on the forms.

"We have received a couple of hundred of these forms filled out," she said. "More than 99 percent of the people who sent them in were already registered. It's a waste of residents' time and ours, as well. This clogs our system because, even though they were already registered, we, by law, have to enter the information into our computer system." Stewart said the "Women's Voices, Women Vote" group may have something to do with a specific candidate. A little investigating has shown that one of the founders of that organization has been involved in campaigning. The organization has nothing to do with the legitimate "League of Women Voters."

"People are still receiving these deceptive mailings as we speak," she said, "and I suggest people cut them up and throw them away."

Stewart said Mohave County residents can call her office at (928) 753-0767 to check on their voter registration status.

"Anyone who wants to register for the first time or change their address or party affiliation can get an official state registration form from us or they can just go to www.servicearizona.com and register online," she said. "Information is secure with us. Candidates can get lists of registered voters from us without personal information. They will receive names, addresses, phone numbers and party affiliation only. We don't share driver's license numbers, Social Security numbers, birthdays, signatures or any other personal information with anyone."

Stewart pointed out that the next election is the Presidential Preference Election on February 5.

“Anyone who wants to vote in that election who isn’t already registered must do so by January 7,” she said. “Only Democrats and Republicans will be able to vote in that election. Others, such as Libertarians and Reform Party members, will not have any candidates in that election. And, unlike the September Primary Election, Independents and non-declared voters will not be able to vote. During primary elections, they are able to choose another party’s ballot, but the February Presidential Preference Election is only for Democrats and Republicans. Anyone who isn’t registered in one of those parties will not be able to vote in the preference election.”

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**Sun-Sentinel (Fort Lauderdale, Florida)
November 15, 2007 Thursday
Broward Metro Edition**

ADVOCACY GROUP ENLISTING VOTERS ALREADY ON THE ROLLS

BYLINE: Anthony Man, Political Writer Pg. 2B

An unusually large share of the voter registration applications generated by an out-of-state advocacy group are coming into Florida elections offices - from people already registered to vote.

The applications were spurred by the organization Women’s Voices. Women Vote.

In many cases, the people who send in the applications received from the group are already registered, said Mary Cooney, public service director at the Broward Supervisor of Elections Office.

Sterling Ivey, spokesman for the Florida Secretary of State’s Office, said the same thing is happening at the state Division of Elections.

“The majority of them are already registered,” he said.

It’s not a problem for the re-registering voters, Ivey said. If people are already registered, the new applications aren’t used and they aren’t affected by the attempt to re-register.

Sarah Johnson, a spokeswoman at the Women’s Voices. Women Vote office in Washington, D.C., said Wednesday the organization developed its list from Postal Service address changes and a commercial mailing company.

The group’s Web site said it is planning registration programs in 25 states with the hope of registering and encouraging single women to vote in November 2008.

It describes itself as a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization created to encourage unmarried women to participate in their government and in our democracy.

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**US States News
November 15, 2007 Thursday 5:29 AM EST**

STATEWIDE VOTER REGISTRATION MAILING BYPASSED DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Denver - The Colorado Secretary of State issued the following press release:

A recent mailing by Women’s Voices, Women Vote (WVWV) has drawn fire and caused confusion among some Colorado electors. The group mailed voter registration applications throughout the state along with a pre-addressed envelope made out to the Secretary of State’s office.

While Secretary of State Mike Coffman fully supports increasing voter registration, concern stemmed from a potentially misleading statement contained on the applications which reads “Notice: The deadline for voter registration is approaching. To comply with legal requirements, please return the enclosed application.” Although the statement may be technically correct, Secretary Coffman is concerned that electors may feel that legally, they must return the application, particularly since voters may incorrectly believe the mailing originated from the Secretary of State’s office.

“We first found out about the mailing when my office received thousands of voter registration forms the past three days,” said Secretary of State Mike Coffman. “Many of these forms had written comments questioning why they needed to register again or telling us the person has been deceased for years.”

Typically, out-of-state groups and mail houses work with the Secretary of State’s office to identify unique voter registration laws and purchase current voter contact information. For instance, WVWV would have learned that registering voters is performed by the county clerk and recorders, not the Secretary of State’s office.

Currently, departmental staff is organizing the completed registration forms to be sent back to the appropriate county clerk and recorders.

“As we get closer to the 2008 elections, these types of mailings will most certainly increase,” said Coffman. “It’s important for voters to know how to confirm their registration status.”

To verify voter registration status, residents can visit the Secretary of State’s web site and enter their first and last names, zip code and date of birth or can contact their local county clerk and recorder.

A call to WVVV Executive Director Joe Goode was not returned.

Contact: Rich Coolidge, 303/860-6903.

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**States News Service
November 13, 2007 Tuesday**

**SEC. BREWER CAUTIONS VOTERS ABOUT
DECEPTIVE VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVE**

The following information was released by Arizona Secretary of State:

Secretary of State Jan Brewer today cautioned voters to be aware of a misleading and deceptive voter registration mailing being sent to Arizona residents by a group called ‘Women’s Voices. Women Vote’ based out of Washington D.C.

In a strongly worded letter to the group, Sec. Brewer noted that her office and the county recorders’ offices have been inundated with complaints about the group’s recent voter registration drive in Arizona in which voters are sent a registration application along with a note indicating that ‘[v]oter registration laws require you to submit the attached application’, and that it must be filled out and returned to ‘comply with legal requirements.’

‘I have serious concerns about this misleading and deceptive mailing and have asked the group to immediately stop sending these letters to Arizona residents,’ said Secretary of State Brewer, ‘These mailings are misleading and deceptive because they indicate that the law requires the recipient to return the application regardless of whether the recipient is already registered to voter or even eligible to register.’

In addition, Sec. Brewer pointed out that the postage paid information is also misleading because it implies that the Secretary of State’s office is involved in the effort and is paying for the return postage (‘postage will be paid by addressee’), neither of which is true.

‘The fact of the matter is the law does not require anyone to register to vote in Arizona . That is an individual choice,’ noted Secretary Brewer. ‘Moreover, many individuals are ineligible to vote. Thus, this mailing may cause someone to register who is not eligible, which is a class 6 felony. Based on the complaints received, it appears this mailing will also cause many individuals to submit the form even though they are already registered to vote.’

Secretary Brewer also noted that the group’s website incorrectly lists the deadline for registering to vote in Arizona as ‘30 days before an election.’ The deadline in Arizona is 29 days before each election.

Brewer added, ‘I urge Arizona residents wishing to register to vote to visit my website at www.azsos.gov. My website offers voters several registration options, including registering online through our EZ Voter system.’ ‘Voters should be wary of deceptive voter registration mailings like those being disseminated by this particular group out of Washington , D.C. ‘