

**The State of Florida County Supervisors of Elections of:**

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

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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 Sartory Link, Brian E. Corley, Lori Edwards, Charles L. Overturf III, Vicky C. Oakes, Gertrude Walker, Lisa Lewis, Carol F. Rudd



SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS  
www.browardsoe.org

Broward Governmental Center • 115 South Andrews Avenue, Room 102 • Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301 • 954-712-1951

## MEDIA ADVISORY

04/08/2020

# DECEPTIVE MAILERS BEING SENT TO BROWARD HOMES SUPERVISOR ANTONACCI RAISES CONCERNS

**Ft. Lauderdale, Florida** – Broward County Supervisor of Elections, Peter Antonacci is calling attention 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.

These deceptive mailers – many of these are being sent to voters who are already properly registered with an “official-looking” mailer (in many cases already filled in with personal information) – are made to appear to be from a governmental entity (which they are not) and use a purposefully deceptive Tallahassee mail drop return address. This not only confuses voters and unnecessarily frightens them (seniors in particular) it is counter-productive to ongoing voter registration and vote-by-mail efforts being undertaken by elections offices, the political parties and other regulated, legitimate groups.

*“Sending postcards (as well as online overtures) and pre-filled-out mailers to 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,”* said Antonacci.

*“Each time these deceptive mailers are sent, our office is 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,”* he added.

Heretofore, many of the state’s Supervisors have addressed this issue individually, but in light of the present circumstance, the SOE fears that this latest round will lead to heightened and substantial voter confusion and fear.

Is this a serious problem?

Below is a small sampling of headlines arising out of recent mailers VPC/CVI sent around Florida:

[Private group sending wrong voter information to dead relatives, pets in Florida](#)

■ WPTV 6/28/19

Si desea una traducción de este documento sírvase solicitarlo por correo electrónico a: [elections@browardsoe.org](mailto:elections@browardsoe.org).  
Oficina: 954-357-7050



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[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

VPC/CVI just sent word that they plan to carpet bomb Floridians with more of the same in the coming days. In the midst of what our state and nation are experiencing with the ongoing pandemic, this has risen to a level of serious unacceptability.

We are asking you to be mindful of this activity and to do what you can to help us call attention to this scam which is causing real harm to Florida voters.

Sincerely,

Steven J. Vancore

Spokesperson for the Broward Supervisor of Elections

For further information, please contact:

Steven J. Vancore

(850) 528-4109

[svancore@vancorejones.com](mailto:svancore@vancorejones.com)

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LAW OFFICES  
**Damaris Y. Garcia, P.A.**  
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July 7, 2020

Director  
Voter Participation Center  
800 Ocala Rd., Suite 300 #356,  
Tallahassee, Fl 32304

Re: Sending Voter Registration Applications  
to non-citizens

Dear Director,

My name is Damaris Y. Garcia and I have been an immigration attorney for the past 28 years in the State of Florida. Last week, one of my clients showed me your letter with a State of Florida Voter Registration Application. I was horrified to see that my client's name and address was already typed into this application.

I understand that this is a crucial election, which has far-reaching impact for the future. I believe that every U.S. citizen not only has the right to vote, but should see it as an obligation. However, you are doing a disservice to individuals who are not citizens and do not understand that only U.S. citizens can actually vote in U.S. elections.

When I first moved to Palm Beach County, the Driver's License Bureau in this county was sending Voter Registration Applications to immigrants and non-citizens. The consequence of this act means that later on if an immigrant or a non-citizen has completed this form by mistake, in the future, they could lose the right to become a citizen. The Florida Driver's License Bureau was sending Voter Registration Cards like they were candy. Once enough Floridians realized that this was a mistake, the Florida Division of Driver's Licenses stopped this practice. The next issue that came up was that individuals from the Supervisor of Elections were going to high schools in Palm Beach County and providing the Voter Registration Applications to seniors without explaining in detail that if they completed the application in error and received a voter's registration card, it would be very difficult to obtain U.S. citizenship later on in their life.

Why is it so easy for the State of Florida to issue Voter Registration Cards when the Applicant does not have to provide any evidence of being a U.S. citizen such as a birth certificate from the U.S. or a U.S. passport? In the State of Florida, it is more difficult to obtain a driver's

license where you have to show your social security card, bills from your home, etc. The Voter's Registration Card gives one the ability to have a voice and vote, which I consider to be one of the most important rights that a U.S. citizen can possess.

Using the example of a senior in high school, incorrectly completing a voter's registration card and not understanding the consequences later on in applying for U.S. citizenship with USCIS. I have had to deal with several of these cases in my practice, because the individuals that go to these classrooms from the Supervisor of Elections do not understand immigration and the serious consequences in completing the application incorrectly.

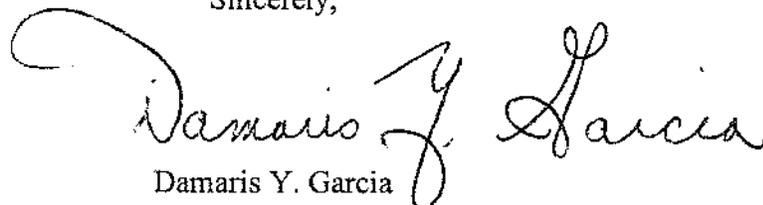
As an aside, when the problem with the seniors in high school occurred in my practice, I spoke to the senior attorney at the Supervisor of Elections in Tallahassee, FL and his belief was that you do not have to prove on paper that you are a U.S. citizen. He stated that it was enough to say that you were a citizen and sign the application. To me that is total insanity. Especially since the benefit you will receive is the right to vote.

Today, I am looking at the Voter Registration Application sent to my client who is not even a permanent resident and he is asking me what he should do with the application. I told him that I would write to your office and explain that your nonprofit organization needs to be extremely careful who you send the Voter Registration Applications to without knowing their immigration status.

I understand that when I receive a document from anyone, I read the whole document carefully, but there is a certain amount of the population in the U.S. that will not read the whole document and just by the fact that they are receiving this application to register to vote, believe they can vote. Yes, they have made a mistake, but so has your organization. One does not have to prove when you send the completed Voter's Registration Application that you are a citizen on paper and that is the problem, because they then receive the card.

Enclosed please find a copy of my Bar license to verify my identity. Should you have any comments or questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

  
Damaris Y. Garcia

DYG/mc

Cc: Broward County Supervisor of Elections

Enclosure

Priority Mail