

Frigo, Victoria (COE)

From: Ethics (COE)
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2013 2:36 PM
To: 'JDRLlewellyn@aol.com'
Cc: Frigo, Victoria (COE)
Subject: INQ - Jim Llewellyn (Absentee Ballot Request Forms)

Mr. Llewellyn:

I have looked into your question concerning the legality of a campaign providing a detachable absentee ballot request form which sent via a mailer to voters and is returned to the campaign for transmission to the Election Department. While your concerns over the security and reliability of such a procedure are understandable, it does not appear that there is any provision in state statutes or local ordinances that would clearly prohibit such a procedure. After reviewing this matter, I discussed it with both the County Elections Department and the County Attorney's Office, both of which concurred in this conclusion.

Joseph Centorino, Executive Director and General Counsel
Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust

From: JDRLlewellyn@aol.com [<mailto:JDRLlewellyn@aol.com>]
Sent: Saturday, March 23, 2013 2:31 PM
To: Ethics (COE)
Subject: Absentee Ballot Issue & Formal Request for Opinion

To Whom It May Concern:

Certainly we know that the absentee ballot system has been abused and is considerably ripe for fraud. I just received a mailer from a mayoral candidate here in Miami Springs that states "Vote by Mail". The campaign mailer for the candidate then provides a detachable Absentee Ballot Request form. The request form gives a P.O. Box to return which I believe is registered to the candidate's business. The candidate is incumbent Mayor Xavier Garcia. The P.O. Box 661413 Miami Springs, FI 33266 is registered to his company ZMG Media according to Sunbiz.

Is this legal? Is it ethical? Given all of the problems with absentee ballot abuse and fraud what is the position of the Ethics Commission? The election starts with early voting on March 29 and 30 with regular voting on April 2 so time is short to address this.

I am formally and respectfully requesting an official opinion from the Ethics Commission on this matter as soon as possible.

Thank you very much,

Jim Llewellyn

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