

King County Elections

From: Sims, Ron
Sent: Saturday, October 21, 2006 3:00 PM
To: Egan, Bobbie
Subject: ACORN late registrations - Media update on Saturday morning

Thanks. You're doing a fantastic job. I really admire you.

Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Handheld

----- Original Message -----

From: Egan, Bobbie
To: Sims, Ron
Sent: Sat Oct 21 14:57:21 2006
Subject: RE: ACORN late registrations - Media update on Saturday morning

Their registrations were mailed in a time period that did not allow for transport to our office by the Saturday, Oct.7 deadline. Although I would not say this publicly, it is my opinion the organization should have made more effort to get those forms to use like driving them to us which would have taken 30 minutes versus compromising the timely delivery. But they argue the law is written poorly and that is up for debate perhaps in court.

-----Original Message-----

From: Sims, Ron
Sent: Saturday, October 21, 2006 1:44 PM
To: Egan, Bobbie
Subject: ACORN late registrations - Media update on Saturday morning

I absolutely agree with you. But, what did ACORN do wrong? What comments did you make that did not end up in the story.

Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Handheld

----- Original Message -----

From: Egan, Bobbie
To: Sims, Ron
Sent: Sat Oct 21 13:40:27 2006
Subject: RE: ACORN late registrations - Media update on Saturday morning

I'm probably overly sensitive in how the article came out based on the type of questions I've rec'd by TV reporters today. Everyone has told me the article isn't so bad but I would have preferred to see all my comments included in the story and placing blame on ACORN for sitting on the registrations some of which dated back to 9/23. People need to be vigilant when registering to vote outside a grocery store or at a fair to make sure their forms are mailed timely so that we can process them. I suppose I was looking for a piece that placed heavier blame on this group for not taking more care to make sure the forms were delivered on time.

-----Original Message-----

From: Sims, Ron
Sent: Saturday, October 21, 2006 1:07 PM
To: Egan, Bobbie
Subject: ACORN late registrations - Media update on Saturday morning

Bobbie - what did Keith leave out of this morning's article? - ron

-----Original Message-----

From: Egan, Bobbie

Sent: Sat 10/21/2006 12:18 PM

To: Huff Menees, Sherril; Jones, Natasha; Duncan, Carolyn; Coppersmith, Megan; Bouffiou, Sean; Sims, Ron; Tanaka, Paul; Whalen, Caroline; Quinn, De'Sean; Bayne, Ryan; Triplett, Kurt; Whitney, Sheryl; Strouse, Michael

Subject: ACORN late registrations - Media update on Saturday morning

Just did an interview with Q-13 about the late registrations ACORN turned in two days past the deadline. I think it went really well, though they had to run to cover a fatal accident in Woodinville. KING 5 will be here b/w 1- 2 p.m. This is about the slanted Seattle Times story in today's paper regarding the 1,100 registration forms they turned in two days after the state deadline. I also did an interview with Derrick Wong/KUOW this morning.

Below are some of my talking points:

We rec'd a box on Oct.9, two days past the deadline and were horrified to open it and learn approximately 1,100 people were disenfranchised because a group sat on these forms for too long. Some of the registrations were completed on Sept.23rd and they should have been turned in well in advance of the Oct.7 deadline. We work with commercial groups all the time to make sure they understand these important state deadlines so we are surprised they got them to use two days late.

The fact is, when something like this happens, it gives all the other groups working hard to register voters a bad name.

State law ties our hands on this. The law states "late registrations are late registrations."

Any time people entrust their voter registration forms to commercial companies, they run the risk that there will not be a timely delivery of the material. The law does not prevent groups, but we certainly don't encourage it.

Our message to the public today is that the clock is ticking but it is not too late to register to vote for the Nov.7 General if you're a new Washington resident and still want to vote next month. We'll be open Monday from 8:30 to 6 p.m. to register new residents to Washington.