

Subject:RE: Voter registration research request
Date:Thu, 29 Sep 2005 15:50:55 -0700
From:Reed, Sam (Office)
To:Nixon, Rep. Toby
CC:Hayward, Allen , Evans, Amy , Blinn, Katie
, Hamlin, Shane, Stefan Sharkansky
Lambert, Kathy

Dear Rep. Nixon,

Mr. Sharkansky's questions regard King County's reception of voter registrations – dates, completeness, and such. Since that is a local government matter and my office doesn't have records of that kind of information, we referred Mr. Sharkansky to King County. If he has a specific question about certain registrations that are in our registration records for initiative checking, we'd be glad to get that information. Those are separate records from the county's registrations, however.

Sincerely,
Sam Reed
Secretary of State

From: Nixon, Rep. Toby
Sent: Thursday, September 29, 2005 3:31 PM
To: Reed, Sam (Office)
Cc: Hayward, Allen; Evans, Amy; Blinn, Katie; Hamlin, Shane; Stefan Sharkansky; Lambert, Kathy
Subject: Voter registration research request

Dear Secretary Reed,

I have learned that Stefan Sharkansky has requested certain information from your office regarding more than 100 King County voter registration records. Mr. Sharkansky shared with me some of the information that led him to question the accuracy of the computer records for these voter registrations. I too am interested in a review of the original voter registration forms so that these questions may be settled. I note that while the records themselves are exempt from public disclosure, and that the records may not in your possession, you may have relevant database or other information that would allow confirmation of the accuracy of King County's records. I am attaching for your convenience a copy of the request that Mr. Sharkansky's sent to Trova Heffernan.

Please conduct the research that Mr. Sharkansky requested at the earliest opportunity and send me the results at the same time you release them to Mr. Sharkansky. Please let me when you expect this information to be available.

I appreciate your commitment to security, accuracy, integrity, and transparency of elections in Washington, and know you recognize the importance of thorough investigations to identify any possibly tampering or modification of registration records.

Best regards,

Toby Nixon
State Representative, 45th District
Ranking Member, House Committee on State Government Operations and Accountability

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

Subject:voter registration research

Date:Tue, 27 Sep 2005 13:51:43 -0700

From:Stefan Sharkansky _____

To:Heffernan, Trova _____

Trova,

Thanks for your time on the phone this afternoon. As I mentioned, I'm working on an assignment for The Stranger investigating some potential voter registration anomalies in King County. I'm interested in verifying the proper registration dates for 125 voters (I've attached a spreadsheet with voter ids and names). i.e. I would ideally examine the original voter registration forms to determine the actual dates when the forms were mailed and/or otherwise submitted. However, I recognize that these documents are exempt from public disclosure by state law. Therefore I ask the Secretary of State's office to perform the research on the original voter registration forms, and to report back to me the dates on which each of these voters should have been registered to vote based on the information on their forms had the King County staff correctly applied state law to the voters' submitted documents.

On some of these registrations there is a question whether the voter returned the form without providing all of the information required for the registration to be considered complete (per RCW 29A.08.110 as in effect in 2004, required being: name, residence address, date of birth, signature). I would also ask the Secretary of State's office to determine:

- a) on which of these registrations, if any, any of the required information is still missing
- b) if any of these voters provided some of the required information subsequent to their original submission of the registration, on which dates should those voters' registrations have been considered complete.

Note that I have flagged these voters with Priority 1 or 2. Priority 1 records are of most interest to me. Based on my analysis, I would be more inclined to believe that irregularities with the priority 2 records might have been the result of common data entry errors rather than other systemic errors. If the scope of the research needs to be limited because of time constraints, please research the priority 1 records first.

As I mentioned, I am requesting this information for a news article with a deadline at the end of this week. Please let me know if the Secretary of State's staff will be able to perform this review by the end of this week, or alternatively indicate the amount of time needed to complete the research.

Thank you very much
Stefan Sharkansky