

Highlights from the Idaho Secretary of State's Office

July 28, 2025

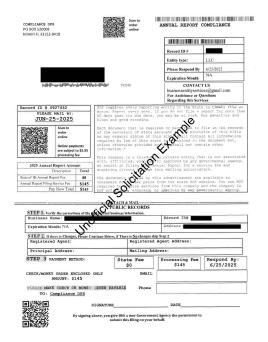
Don't Be Misled by Third-Party Business Filing Solicitations

If you're a business owner in Idaho, chances are you've seen them: urgent letters in the mail that look like government notices, warning of impending deadlines and offering to file business compliance documents for a hefty fee.

These mailings may look official at first glance, but they do not come from the Idaho Secretary of State's Office.

In fact, they are solicitations that largely come from third-party, out-of-state companies. They use official-sounding names and time-sensitive language to pressure small businesses into unnecessary payments. Some list drop-box addresses in Idaho to appear local, but they are not affiliated with any government agency. Unfortunately, these solicitations tend to show up around the time of your annual report deadlines, making the timing all the more misleading.

Let me be clear. In most cases, Idaho businesses do *not* need to utilize a third party to file reports with my office. Business owners can obtain required forms directly from our office and file at a much lower cost at our website, <u>sos.idaho.gov</u>.





Above: Examples of business filing solicitations

How to tell what's official and what's not:

Check the contact information and website address. Official mailings will include our office's address, contact information, and website. Only government websites end in .gov. Our official site is sos.idaho.gov.



Look for familiar logos. Communications from our office include the Idaho state seal and the name of our office.





Read the fine print. Many of these mailings include disclaimers buried in small text, noting they are not affiliated with any government agency. These small details can reveal a lot.

Trust your instincts. If something feels off - maybe it conveys a harsh tone or the company name is unfamiliar - pause and double-check.

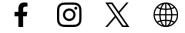
Idaho is proud to be one of the most business-friendly states in the country. That includes protecting our small businesses from misleading tactics like these. If you ever have a question about a filing, need a document, or just want to double-check something you've received, don't hesitate to reach out. Our team is here to serve you.

Phil McGrane



ABOUT SECRETARY PHIL McGRANE

Phil McGrane was elected Idaho's twenty-eighth Secretary of State and took office on January 2, 2023. McGrane served as elected Clerk of Ada County from 2019-2022. McGrane holds a bachelor's degree in philosophy, a juris doctorate, and a Master of Public Administration. As a fourth-generation Idahoan, Phil has dedicated his career to making elections in the state of Idaho accessible, secure and transparent.





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Our mailing address is:
Idaho Secretary of State 700 W Jefferson St Boise, ID 83720-0001 USA