

The State of Texas



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Rolando B. Pablos
Secretary of State

TO: ALL FOREIGN DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS IN TEXAS

FROM: TEXAS SECRETARY OF STATE ROLANDO PABLOS

DATE: OCTOBER 25, 2018

SUBJECT: ADVISORY ON VOTER REGISTRATION MAILERS SENT TO NON-U.S. CITIZENS

I am writing to express my office's deep concern for our immigrant community in Texas.

Our concern stems from actions apparently taken by the Texas Democratic Executive Committee to send voter registration forms to non-U.S. citizens in Texas. These forms are creating a tremendous amount of confusion and consternation, especially within our state's immigrant community.

The Texas Secretary of State's office has received numerous complaints regarding these voter registration applications because the forms were pre-marked "Yes" next to the question of whether or not the applicant is a U.S. citizen. The instructions on the form encourage the recipient to complete the rest of the form and to mail it in immediately. This form was in English and we have seen no evidence that instructions in Spanish or any other language were included with the form. In addition, we have seen no evidence that the recipients were given any option to unmark or deselect the citizenship question therein, or to advise them to disregard the instructions if they are NOT U.S. Citizens.

Given that the early voting period has already begun, we advise you alert immediately any of your non-U.S. citizen constituents who may have been misled into registering to vote. Please remind them that casting a ballot despite knowingly being ineligible to vote can result in a felony criminal change in the State of Texas (*see Texas Election Code, § 64.012*).

We are disturbed by the sheer volume of calls and complaints we have received from law-abiding, lawfully present non-U.S. citizens residing in Texas who have received these forms and were confused as to whether or not they were now eligible to vote in Texas. But, please know that our office is committed to protecting all Texans, citizens and non-citizens alike, from any unauthorized activity that may mislead them into breaking Texas elections laws.

While criminal complaints have already been filed in the Rio Grande Valley, we understand this issue is not limited to one specific region in Texas. At this time, it is unclear how many of these forms were circulated, so we want to be sure all consulates in Texas are apprised of the issue. Please share this information, including an advisory issued by my office, with your non-U.S.

citizen constituents so that they may be advised of the irresponsible activity that could potentially put their legal status in jeopardy.

Please contact my office if you need any additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'RBP', with a stylized, cursive flourish at the end.

Rolando B. Pablos
Texas Secretary of State