EXHIBIT 4

Indianapolis Star, "Democrats Fear GOP Will Turn Away Foreclosed Voters," October 3, 2008
Democrats fear GOP will turn away foreclosed voters

GOP won't rule out using residency change to challenge a ballot

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Kim Stewart wasn't going to let the foreclosure of her family's residence prevent her from voting.

The Northeastside woman went to a voter registration drive last week and called Marion County's 327-VOTE hotline to confirm that her paperwork was in order.

"I even double-checked and called to make sure I wouldn't have a problem voting," Stewart said.

Democratic Party and county election officials want to make sure that the high number of foreclosures in Marion County won't mean that people such as Stewart, already down on their luck, lose their vote, too.

Democrats are concerned that Republican officials in Marion County and elsewhere might use home foreclosure lists as a way to challenge the residency of voters at the polls. The campaign of presidential candidate Barack Obama filed a lawsuit to keep the Michigan GOP from doing just that.

County GOP Chairman Tom John said foreclosure opens the door to a residency challenge, but he said his party has no plans to pursue such challenges. However, he wouldn't rule it out.

"We might end up challenging on that," he said. "It's entirely possible. I think it would be a solid basis for asking someone to vote provisionally."

Election officials disagreed.

Marion County Clerk Beth White said she does not believe foreclosure is a valid reason for a challenge.

"A notice of foreclosure is not legal proof that someone doesn't live in their home," White said. "I think this tactic can be used to embarrass or intimidate voters or slow down the process."

She said poll workers are being trained on registration law and how to keep voting lines moving even if there are challenges.

Provisional votes are ballots cast by people who don't have proper ID or whose names aren't in poll books. Such ballots are counted after the election, during the vote certification process, and are subject to review for validity by the local election board.

But even a provisional ballot might not be necessary for someone whose home has been foreclosed.

Indiana and most other states have a so-called "fail-safe" provision that allows residents to return to their old precinct to vote as long as they still live in the same county and congressional district. Those voters can fill out an affidavit and cast a regular ballot.
On the other hand, people who have moved to a new country or congressional district must have updated their registration forms to vote.

White, who is in charge of running elections, said Stewart, 45, did the right thing by checking on her registration. Voters have until Monday to register or fill out forms for a change in address or name.

Ed Treacy, chairman of the county Democratic Party, said using foreclosures for challenges would "be in line with the historical Republican action of trying to repress the vote."

"They'd be kicking people who are down, and I'm sure they'll do it selectively" in heavily Democratic precincts, Treacy said. "Harassing voters will backfire because it will fire up our voters."

He said he plans to have teams of Democratic attorneys ready to push back false challenges.

John said his main goal is to ensure the integrity of the election.

"Our position is that every person entitled to vote should be encouraged to vote," John said. "Anybody whose home is already in foreclosure isn't actually living in the home and might not be a valid voter."