

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO
EASTERN DIVISION

Project Vote, *et al.*

Plaintiffs,

vs.

J. Kenneth Blackwell, *et al.*,

Defendants.

AFFIDAVIT OF BRYAN C. WILLIAMS

STATE OF OHIO

SS:

COUNTY OF SUMMIT

I, BRYAN C. WILLIAMS, being first duly cautioned and sworn, depose and state that I am of full legal age, have personal knowledge of the facts stated herein and am competent to testify to the matters set forth.

FURTHER AFFIANT STATES:

1. I am the Director of the Summit County Board of Elections located at 470 Grant Street, Akron, Ohio 44311. I started services as the Director beginning in February 2004.
2. I was the Director of the Summit County Board of Elections during the 2004 general election.
3. As Director, I have the duty of overseeing and assisting in the day-to-day operations at the Summit County Board of Elections, which includes supervising the processing, preserving, and recording of voter registrations; preparing for and conducting all primary, general, and special elections; and processing, evaluating, and reporting election results.
4. In the three months preceding the 2004 October voter registration deadline for the general election, numerous groups independently conducted voter registration drives. However, because voter registration groups anonymously turned in the registrations it was difficult to track how many new registrations these groups filed with the board of elections.
5. Thousands of registration cards were filed anonymously with the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections and later forwarded to the Summit County Board of Elections. Many other registration cards were filed with the Summit County Board of Elections anonymously through the United States Mail.
6. As the Summit County Board of Elections processed the large number of new voter registrations, it was discovered that significant numbers of these registrations appeared to be fraudulent.

7. In 2004, it was my experience that the problem registration cards came from ACORN and Project Vote who used paid workers to collect voter registrations.
8. As a specific example, the Summit County Board of Elections received by mail approximately 30-40 voter registrations with irregularities beginning in July 2004.
9. Deputy Director John Schmidt and I conducted an investigation into these irregular voter registration cards.
10. The 30-40 irregular voter registrations had non-existent addresses and misspelled street names.
11. A true and accurate copy of the internal summary of our investigation is attached. Exhibit 1
12. As the investigative summary describes, Deputy Direct Schmidt and I were able to identify that the AFL-CIO in Cleveland mailed the irregular registrations in question.
13. In all, the Summit County Board of Elections received over a thousand voter registrations from the Cuyahoga County Board of Election, which had common defects including addresses that did not exist in Summit County, misspelled street names from numerous people purporting to live on the same street, similar hand writing, and zip codes that did not correspond with the street address.
14. The Summit County Board of Elections sent out voter registration ID cards prior to the 2004 general elections. The board received hundreds of new voter registration ID cards returned in the mail due to voter registrations being turned for various reasons including non-existent addresses.
15. When voter registrations ID cards are returned, the board then sends out new registration forms to ensure that if a person does live at the address they can register properly and returned mail is scanned for list maintenance and documentation. This process is time consuming and slows down the board's ability to process voter registrations.
16. At times leading up to the 2004 general election, the board staff worked seven days a week with three shifts in order to process registrations and prepare for the general election.
17. At the August 24, 2004 Summit County Board of Elections board meeting, I presented the pattern of bad voter registration cards to the board, and the board unanimously voted to refer these matter for prosecution.
18. In 2004, the Summit County Board of Elections referred more than 2,000 dubious registration cards to the Summit County Prosecutor's Office because the voter registrations were suspected of fraud.
19. The attempt to locate the source of the bogus registrations from the 2004 election has been difficult because the voter registrations were filed anonymously.
20. The Summit County Board of Elections is presently receiving new registration cards that are potentially fraudulent. We have referred about a dozen new suspected fraudulent voter registrations from ACORN to the prosecutor.
21. An investigation before the board is pending; however, if further investigation is required, the board will better be able to conduct an inquiry because the paid registrars' names and addresses are known due to the new election registration law. The new law gives the board of election and the sheriff a place to start the investigation into potential fraud.
22. In addition, the new law will enable ACORN and other organizations to fire the people who have turned in suspected fraudulent registrations.

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NAUGHT.


BRYAN C. WILLIAMS

Sworn to and subscribed in my presence this 28th, day of August, 2006, in the County
of Summit, City of AKRON, State of Ohio.


NOTARY PUBLIC

SHARON E. BOYKIN, Notary Public
Residence - Summit County
State Wide Jurisdiction, Ohio
My Commission Expires March 1, 2007

COPY

The Summit County Board of Elections received by mail approximately 30 - 40 voter registration cards for Summit County addresses that do not exist and included misspelled street names. The cards appeared to have similar hand writing. The first batch of cards were received in mid July, 2004.

We identified the envelope they were mailed from. John Schmidt and Bryan Williams drove to the 3250 Euclid Ave. in Cleveland to find out who resides at that address. John Schmidt and Bryan Williams drove to the Cleveland address and learned the business address is occupied by the AFL-CIO. We made this trip on August 11, 2004. We spoke with several representatives of the office who confirmed they were conducting a voter registration drive and had sent us the cards in question. They did not know who filed the cards with them. They collected registration cards from numerous sources and sent them to the appropriate county.

We received one additional mailing with another 25 or so cards from the AFL-CIO around August 1, 2004.

After that, we received over a thousand registration cards with similar defects filed at the Cuyahoga County board of elections and forwarded to us in Summit County. The common defects include:

- Addresses that don't exist in Summit County
- Misspelled street name from numerous people purporting to live on the same street
- Similar had writing
- Zip codes that don't correspond with the street address

After discovering a pattern of bad registration cards I presented the information available to the Board of Elections at their August 24, 2004 board meeting. The board voted unanimously to refer the matter to the prosecutor and the sheriff.

Bryan C. Williams, Director
October 12, 2004

John N. Schmidt, Deputy Director
October 12, 2004

