

NEWS FROM SCDCA

South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS ISSUES WARNING ABOUT VOTER REGISTRATION SCAM

Columbia, SC.....With only days left to register to vote, the South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs (SCDCA) urges all eligible South Carolinians to complete their registration in time, but to be wary of possible scams.

The deadline for registering to vote in the November 4th General Election is **Saturday, October 4, 2008**. Consumers should consider the following before completing their registration at any place other than their local Election Commission. Scammers will stop at nothing to steal personal information, and voter registration provides another opportunity to do just that.

Scammers are always looking for sensitive information. Consumers may receive e-mails that offer simple online registration or ask for registration confirmation or corrections. Some consumers may even receive a phone call from someone claiming to be from the election commission or a similar government agency. *These are scams*. After providing sensitive information, consumers unknowingly release a malicious virus onto their computer. Not only is their personal information now public knowledge, but the scammer now has access to the consumers' financial accounts, online transactions, and identity! Finally, the consumer may think they have registered to vote only to show up at the polls and realize their vote will not count.

About the South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs:

Established by the Consumer Protection code in 1974, The South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs represents the interests of South Carolina Consumers.

Our mission is to protect consumers from inequities in the marketplace through advocacy, mediation, enforcement and education.

For more information, visit www.sccoconsumer.gov.

Legitimate voter registration forms will NEVER require you to provide financial information of any kind. South Carolina residents will be required to provide their social security number and proof of residency in order to register. Citizens who wish to register to vote should register in person at their county board of voter registration; or they may download a form, complete it, and mail it to their county board of voter registration. All registration forms must be completed and sent via mail or delivered in person. Consumers should personally deliver or mail their registration forms. Do NOT rely on a third party to handle this important step for you. Consumers who receive e-mails or phone calls from persons claiming to be from the election commission should immediately delete the e-mail or hang up the phone!

Consumers can protect their information by choosing to register on their own and not responding to suspicious offers. For more details on how to register, or to download the proper registration form, consumers can visit the South Carolina State Election Commission at <http://www.scvotes.org>.

For more information, contact the Public Information Division at 803.734.4190, toll free in SC at 1.800.922.1594, or online at www.sccoconsumer.gov.

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