

CALIFORNIANS AGAINST IDENTITY THEFT AND BALLOT FRAUD

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CONTACT: ROGER SALAZAR
(916) 444-8897

ATTORNEY GENERAL DISMISSES COMPLAINT AGAINST CALIFORNIANS AGAINST IDENTITY THEFT AND BALLOT FRAUD

Action follows FPPC dismissal of similar complaint

SACRAMENTO, CA -- The following is a statement from Roger Salazar, spokesman for Californians Against Identity Theft and Ballot Fraud, on the California State Attorney General's decision to deny a request for investigation of the committee filed by San Diego City Councilmember Carl DeMaio:

"This complaint against our committee has now been dismissed by the FPPC and the California State Attorney General," said Roger Salazar. "Hopefully this completes the political grandstanding at the expense of Californians Against Identity Theft and Ballot Fraud and we can now focus on the well documented abuses within the paid signature gathering process for initiatives – including ballot fraud, forgery, felons circulating and handling petitions, and yes, even identity theft of person's signatures, names and addresses."

- In the last election cycle, two petition gatherers in Oregon were indicted for Aggravated Identity Theft by the state Attorney General. ¹
- The Assembly Judiciary Committee issued a report calling the information provided on ballot petitions an "Identity theft starter kit."²
- In the experience of the California Secretary of State, many paid petition gatherers or "bounty hunters:" have criminal records. ³

"As we said before, abuses in the paid signature gathering business are no secret," Salazar added. "And we will continue with our ad campaign because we believe voters ought to know they should exercise great caution in providing their personal information to some of these shady characters."

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Attachment: Dismissal Letter from CA AG

¹ Press Release, Oregon State Department of Justice, 10/26/10

² Assembly Judiciary Committee, Special Voter Privacy Hearing, International Outsourcing of Voter Information: Risks to Our Privacy, 03/15/05, page 2.

³ Secretary of State Task Force on Voter Privacy, Final Report, 6/14/04, p. 13.