

# **CALIFORNIANS AGAINST IDENTITY THEFT AND BALLOT FRAUD**

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## **STATEMENT FROM CALIFORNIANS AGAINST IDENTITY THEFT AND BALLOT FRAUD ON FPPC DISMISSAL OF COMPLAINT**

SACRAMENTO, CA -- The following is a statement from Roger Salazar, spokesman for Californians Against Identity Theft and Ballot Fraud, on the recent dismissal of an FPPC complaint filed against the committee by a San Diego City Councilmember:

“As we said from the outset, the complaint was utterly without merit and was dismissed almost instantaneously. It was clearly a gross example of ill-advised political grandstanding from a mayoral candidate trying to get free publicity.

“Californians Against Identity Theft and Ballot Fraud has every right to broadcast our views about the well documented abuses within the paid signature gathering process for initiatives – including 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. <sup>1</sup>
- The Assembly Judiciary Committee issued a report calling the information provided on ballot petitions an “Identity theft starter kit.”<sup>2</sup>
- In the experience of the California Secretary of State, many paid petition gatherers or “bounty hunters:” have criminal records. <sup>3</sup>
- Political committees have in the past relied upon offshore companies to electronically verify gathered signatures.<sup>4</sup>

“Abuses in the paid signature gathering business are well documented and we believe voters ought to exercise great caution in providing their personal information to some of these shady characters.”

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*Californians Against Identity Theft and Ballot Fraud, FPPC# 1340282*

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

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

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

<sup>4</sup> “Citizens to Save California Farms a Little Menial Work Out to India,” by David Lazarus, San Francisco Chronicle, 03/08/05.