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From: Margit Johansson [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2015 3:49 PM
To: SoS Rulemaking
Subject: Comments of Revised Rules of July 24, 2015

Comments on Revised Draft of Election Rules of July 24, 2015

Margit Johansson
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Re “Amendments to Rule 16.2.1(c), concerning electronic transmission for military and overseas electors”:

The return of voted ballots by fax or email is a form of Internet voting, and as such is much less secure than return by mail --- as is discussed in such venues as VerifiedVoting.org. The decision to use this form of Internet voting is not a trivial one. The Secretary of State, responsible for the “purity of elections”, should provide information to a legitimate covered voter about the extent of the insecurity of email/fax Internet voting and establish guidelines for the timing of return of voted ballots, so that in as many instances as possible, returns can be achieved by mail in time to be counted. A voter should also be advised about specific actions to take when his/her blank ballot has not been received by a certain date.

The Secretary of State should establish communication with the military and postal authorities to know when and where mails are temporarily suspended, or are too infrequent to meet the needs of UOCAVA voters. Such places should be quite limited, and voters in such places should be warned of the difficulties.

Also, a close watch should be kept on UOCAVA registrations, to make sure they are from legitimate electors and that they come from an area which might have a problems with timely receipt of mails, given the provisions of the 2009 MOVE Act.

In short, legitimate UOCAVA covered voters should not use email/fax Internet voting in ignorance of the dangers, or without guidance. The Secretary's assigned role in maintaining the "purity of elections" requires nothing less.