



Women's Voices.
Women Vote

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Page Gardner,
President

June 20, 2008

Hon. Chris Nelson
Elections, Secretary of State
500 East Capitol Ave
Pierre, SD 57501-5070

Dear Hon. Nelson:

As part of our effort to register nearly one million under-represented voters, Women's Voices. Women Vote (WVWV), and its project, the Voter Participation Center, will be mailing into South Dakota in early August 2008. Through our Voter Participation Center, WVWV reaches out to unmarried women and other under-represented women, including married African American and Latina women. Many of the techniques that we have developed to identify, inform, motivate and mobilize unmarried women can also be applied to other constituencies that do not fully participate in the political process. The majority of our efforts are aimed at unmarried women.

The mailing will have two components: mailings to individuals who we believe have not previously registered in your state, and mailings to individuals who have previously been registered in South Dakota, but who we believe have moved and hence are required to re-register to avoid provisional ballot issues or other complications. Enclosed are the materials that we plan to send for both those mailings in your state. We believe that they accurately reflect the laws of South Dakota, both for the specific instructions for filling out the registration application and the requirements for re-registration for those who have moved within South Dakota. We are sending these materials so that you can confirm that there are no legal problems with them, and so that you can plan for an expected increase in applications fairly soon after our mailings arrive in South Dakota.

In this endeavor, we have made every reasonable effort to try to send registration materials only to those individuals who are not properly registered to vote based on their current residence. Despite these efforts, we know that the lists that we have, like other similar lists (including even some official state voter lists), are not perfect. Consequently, we have written and designed our copy to make clear that some recipients may not need to register or re-register.

We plan to follow up with a call. In the mean time, if you have any questions, please contact Elly Drygas at 202-659-9570 or edrygas@wwwv.org. We are planning on going into production in early July and therefore need any alterations to be made by June 27th.

Thank you in advance for your assistance. We look forward to working with you in our shared goals of bringing more people into the democratic process. For your convenience, we are providing a fact sheet and some information on our activity in your state. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us directly.

Sincerely,

Page Gardner, President
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