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PRESS RELEASE

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Attorney General Brown Issues Cease and Desist Letter to Voting Information/Voter Participation Center for Alleged Violations of Maryland and United States Election Laws
Letters to Marylanders Threaten to Publicly Expose Registered Voters Who Do Not Vote

BALTIMORE, MD (October 31, 2024) – Today, Attorney General Anthony G. Brown issued a cease and desist letter [SEE LINK BELOW] to the Center for Voter Information/Voter Participation Center (CVI/VPC), located in Washington, D.C., ordering the organization to immediately stop sending letters to Maryland voters that threaten to publicly expose those registered voters who do not vote in this year’s election, to refrain from sending threatening communications in the future, and to agree not to follow through on threats to embarrass non-voters by publishing that information to their neighbors.

“Voting is among the most important rights that Marylanders have. Any action that intimidates prospective voters, especially on the eve of such a consequential election, will not be tolerated,” **said Attorney General Brown**. “Let me be clear: these unnerving letters are unacceptable, and Maryland voters should know that their decision to vote this Election Day is entirely theirs to make.”

The Office of the Attorney General (OAG) and the State Board of Elections (SBE) received several complaints about letters sent by the CVI/VPC, claiming to be “Voting Report Cards.” The letters identified whether the recipients voted in each of the last four elections and compared the recipients’ voting histories to the voting records of two of their neighbors who live on the same street. In the letters, the names and street numbers of the neighbors are redacted.

The letters state, in part:

“We’re sending this mailing to you and to your neighbors to share who does and does not vote in an effort to promote election participation. While we have hidden the name and street number of your neighbors to protect privacy, these are true voting records.”

Letter -

https://www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/News%20Documents/10312024_Cease%20and%20Desist_MDOAG_Signed.pdf

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