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Possible Voter Registration Fraud

By NBC4i Staff

A scan of a form titled "APPLICATION FOR ABSENT VOTER'S BALLOT". The form includes instructions: "This form cannot be used to change your name or voting residence", "PRINT OR TYPE", and "All required fields must be completed". A section titled "Identification Requirements:" states: "You must provide EITHER your Ohio driver's license OR the last 4 digits of your social security number OR you must enclose a copy of a current and valid photo identification, military identification, or a current (within the last 12 months) utility bills, bank statements, government check, paycheck or other government document (other than a voter registration notification mailed by a board of elections) that shows your current name and current address." Below this, there are fields for "Last 4 digits of Social Security Number" and "OR Ohio Driver's License Number".

COLUMBUS, Ohio -- A raid on an office of the Ohio Jobs and Growth Committee in Cincinnati turned up questionable absentee ballot applications.

An employee for the pro-casino group is accused of committing fraud.

He was fired on Saturday.

"There is no incentive for anybody to turn in additional applications. They're paid hourly, they're not paid by the ballot so we're somewhat baffled as to why anybody would want to do this in the first place," said Bob Tenenbaum, the spokesperson for the Ohio Jobs and Growth Committee.

Authorities in Franklin County had been questioning the authenticity of seven similar applications.

Michael Stinziano, the director of the Franklin County board of elections, said similarities between the two cases have authorities investigating whether they are related.

He explained that the handwriting and signatures are similar, and all of the questionable applications

were submitted on the Secretary of State's form rather than local county forms.

The Ohio Jobs and Growth Committee is now tightening controls over applications.

"We are checking every application that we receive directly now before we submit it to the board of elections," Tenenbaum explained.

But Sandy Theis, the spokesperson for the opposition group TruthPAC, says she wants to see more security measures in place.

"We're starting to pick up string that this might be happening in other counties. And I think the way they got on the ballot is really questionable so somebody needs to take a look at this and find out who is behind this," she said.

According to the Stinziano, extra safeguards against fraud went into affect in 2006. All applications are run through multiple people and they are verified electronically to make sure information like signatures match.

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