

TRIMBLE & ASSOCIATES, LTD.

Attorneys at Law

10201 Wayzata Boulevard
Suite 130
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55305

Telephone: 952-797-7477
Facsimile: 952-797-5858
Email: trimblelegals@earthlink.net

October 30, 2008

Mr. Mark Ritchie, Minnesota Secretary of State
180 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55155-1299

Re: Minnesota Majority

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

The undersigned represent Minnesota Majority, a nonpartisan, Minnesota nonprofit organization exempt from federal income taxation under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(4)(the "Organization").

We have reviewed your "news release" issued on October 29, 2008 entitled "Ritchie Alerts Public to Voter Intimidation Tactics in Minnesota" (the "Release"), as well as the Affidavit dated October 29, 2008 on Minnesota Secretary of State letterhead which is signed by Larry C. Johnson of St. Paul, Minnesota (the "Affidavit") relative to two telephone conversations between Mr. Johnson and Jean Sanford.

The Release and Affidavit raise allegations of very serious violations of state and federal laws by the Organization and its volunteer, Jean Sanford, which allegations do not appear to have been further researched or investigated by the Minnesota Secretary of State's Office. Frankly, we are shocked that your office would immediately issue a press release without first extending the courtesy to Ms. Sanford to discuss her side of the story.

Our office has spoken directly with Ms. Sanford on this matter, and Ms. Sanford has informed us that Mr. Johnson's Affidavit is false in many respects. We have attached for your review an Affidavit of Jean Sanford which explains Ms. Sanford's side of the story, as follows:

- Ms. Sanford never used her middle initial in this conversation and did not disclose her middle initial to Mr. Johnson at any time.
- Ms. Sanford has made less than 20 telephone calls on behalf of the Organization as a volunteer, in which she was researching potentially duplicative voter registrations.
- In each of her calls, Ms. Sanford identified herself as a volunteer calling on behalf of Minnesota Majority. **Ms. Sanford never (including in the call with Mr. Johnson) identified herself as calling on behalf of the Minnesota Secretary of State or even used the words "Secretary of State".**

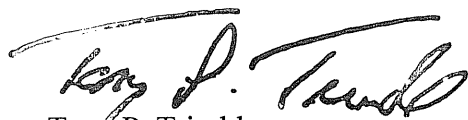
- Mr. Johnson asserts that Ms. Sanford “came across as being very kind, believable and naïve” but yet was “intimidating”. These tandem assertions strain credulity, particular since Mr. Johnson apparently did not appear to find the call “intimidating” until the next morning, when Mr. Johnson called Ms. Sanford at her home trying to “get in her good graces” and “claiming” to be a Republican. The Affidavit’s impression is that Mr. Johnson attempted to deceive Ms. Sanford the morning after their first telephone call; moreover, why would a person who felt “intimated” later telephone the person alleged to have been intimidating?

Based on the foregoing, Mr. Johnson’s Affidavit appears inconsistent at best, and manufactured at worst. In any event, Mr. Johnson’s Affidavit appears to contain little to no grounds upon which to base an investigation by either Minnesota or federal authorities into potential voter intimidation (by the Organization *or* Ms. Sanford individually), particularly in light of Ms. Sanford’s attached Affidavit. Again, we are shocked that the Secretary of State’s Office would issue a press release and participate in dissemination of Mr. Johnson’s inaccurate Affidavit before hearing the facts from all parties to this occurrence.

Your news release asserts that you have referred this matter for investigation to state or federal authorities. Based on the attached Affidavit of Jean Sanford, we believe such a referral to be baseless. We therefore request that you **immediately** provide our office with copies of your communications with the United States Attorney, Ramsey County Attorney, Minnesota Office of Administrative Hearings or any other regulatory/enforcement authority as to these very serious allegations so we may also correct the record with these authorities as well.

Please contact either of the undersigned with any questions or comments. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Tony P. Trimble
Matthew W. Haapoja
/mh

encl.

cc: Jeffrey J. Davis (w/encl.)